
TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

January 21, 2021

Nancy Abeles, CAC Chair

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met 10 times in 2020 to fulfill their mission *to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, and to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues*. This report summarizes CAC discussions and activities over the course of the year.

In 2020, the CAC met in person once. At that meeting Chair Russell outlined her vision for the year ahead, focusing on Equity, Climate, and Safety. One month later, the CAC was the first committee at COG to move online-only in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Over the course of the year, the committee was briefed on and provided input into a number of topics including: Regional Travel Survey, Transportation Climate Initiative, Transit Oriented Communities, and Visualize 2045.

COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2020 the CAC contributed to three products approved by the TPB.

- **The Safety Resolution:** Throughout 2019 and into 2020, the CAC met regularly with the TPB's safety planner to learn about studies underway and provide input. In Resolution R3-2021, the TPB approved a suite of safety recommendations, many of which reflect input provided by the CAC. In their 2019 annual report, the CAC wrote "The CAC believes that every life is important, and that any death related to transportation is unacceptable." The committee continues to believe this to be true and encourages the TPB to continue work to make traveling in the region safer, both on the roads and in transit.
- **The TPB Participation Plan:** The CAC provided substantial input into the TPB Participation Plan (2020 update), through both committee discussion and submitted comments. Some CAC recommendations for expanding public engagement resulted from increased awareness of increased transportation challenges faced by low-income populations and Equity Emphasis communities.
- **Restructure of the CAC Membership and Committee Procedural Update:** CAC discussions echoed several TPB commendations and concerns. The CAC concurred that changes were warranted to wrap in fuller perspectives for better feedback, improve group procedure, and to learn more about transportation issues in communities throughout the region. Contributory to CAC suggestions was the move to online meetings. Technology made attendance easier from afar, and, in concert with presentations and facilitated discussion, allowed members greater internal discussions, ability to articulate wider ranging reactions, and an increased opportunity to pose questions to presenters, staff, or each other.

The committee also discussed ongoing TPB research and activities such as:

- **The 10 Year Travel Survey:** The group was interested in what the survey revealed about travel characteristics as related to land use and relation to the Core or subregions, as well as to household demographics. The group wanted continued information on what and how pandemic-related behavior changes might carry over post-pandemic to ease congestion.

- **Telecommuting:** As the pandemic unfolded, group requested updates about how Telecommuting and other transportation behavior changes in manner, volume, and pattern affected the region, and about how any improvements to circulation or congestion might be sustained as pandemic restrictions ease.

2020 CAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 COMMITTEE

- Encourage the CAC chair and the TPB chair to meet regularly. A strong relationship between the two chairs helps keep the board invested in the CAC and the committee engaged with the board. Additionally, members should seek to build relationships with all three TPB officers and TPB members from their home jurisdictions.
- Consider sending CAC members to other TPB committee and or task force meetings to stay informed and help contextualize discussions during those committee meetings.
- Provide more staff support and sharable information materials to help committee members who want to engage their communities.
- The committee would like more input from fellow members about the jurisdictions and about transportations issues relevant to those jurisdictions.
- The committee feels there is a lack of commitment from the TPB members regarding the Aspirational Initiatives or implementation of those aspirations that their jurisdictions fund and undertake. The committee encourages the Board to measure progress among its member jurisdictions towards realizing the Aspirational Initiatives.

TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR 2021

The extraordinary events of 2020 forced some usual TPB activities to adapt and brought greater awareness of focus topics like equity that required deeper consideration and TPB commitment. The outgoing CAC would like its successor to continue following all aspects of safety; of multi-modal access including shared or non-motorized modes with greater connectivity among modes; and new technologies or methods for collecting data for these and other topics. The group also anticipate new transportation topics for consideration to emerge during 2021, as the region recovers from the pandemic, from Federal administrative transition, and as TPB aspirations spur change in the evolving new normal.

2020 CAC MEMBERSHIP

MARYLAND

Nancy Abeles, chair
 Ronit Dancis
 Audrey Nwaze
 Veronica Lowe
 Jeremy Martin
 Chris Smariga
 Ricky Tejada
 Emmet Tydings

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Tony Giancola
 Katherine Kortum
 Elisa Walton
 Theodore Wilhite (resigned)

VIRGINIA

Rob Jackson
 Kalai Kandasamy
 Jacqueline Manapsal
 Daniel Papiernik
 Jeffrey Parnes
 Lorena Rios