

## **ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

May 11, 2017

*Charles Allen, Chairman, TPB First Vice Chairman*

The Access for All Advisory Committee met on May 11, 2017 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below, including a list of participants on the last page. The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **TPB SOLICITATION FOR ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANT APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITY PROJECTS**

Ms. Klancher from the TPB staff briefed the AFA on the TPB's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan ("Coordinated Plan") and the selection process for the Federal Transit Administration's (FTAs) Enhanced Mobility program for individuals with disabilities and older adults; COG is the designated recipient for this program in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area.

- Part of the AFA's purpose is to provide guidance on the Coordinated Plan and priority projects for the solicitation of the Enhanced Mobility grant applications.
- The next solicitation for these grant applications will occur from August to November 2017 and approximately \$4.6 million will be available for matching grant funds.
- Ms. Winchell-Mendy, the grants manager on the TPB staff, presented the 12 priority projects for Enhanced Mobility funding outlined in the Coordinated Plan.
- AFA members were asked to rank the priority projects for the upcoming solicitation. AFA members have until May 25 to submit their rankings to TPB staff.

### **AFA INPUT AND PRIORITIES FOR THE TPB'S LONG-RANGE PLAN TASK FORCE**

Ms. Zeller of the TPB staff provided an overview of the Long-Range Plan Task Force purpose and mission, and presented the topic areas from the list of potential initiatives to be prioritized by the Task Force.

Mr. Ezike, the AFA representative serving on the Task Force, asked the committee to provide feedback on the most important items the AFA would like to support from the existing list of initiatives. Chairman Allen facilitated the conversation which resulted in the following AFA priorities for the Task Force:

- Reduce transit fares for limited-income riders;
- Improve existing public transportation by increasing Metrorail capacity and other improvements;
- Provide new transit infrastructure and services to maximize the use public transportation, including Purple Line extensions, bus service, light rail in DC and increase the availability wheelchair-accessible taxis in the region;
- Target these transportation improvements and encourage job growth on the eastern side of the region to address the East-West divide; and

- Use the Equity Emphasis Areas and incentivize TOD and affordable housing development
- AFA comments about other initiatives under consideration by the Long-Range Plan Task Force include:
  - Building more bike paths should be coupled with an education campaign to promote the “rules of the road” given safety concerns of pedestrians crossing streets near bike lanes.
  - The potential of VMT taxes to disproportionately impact end users.
  - The political viability of adding another Potomac Bridge Crossing but some members did express the need for another multi-modal crossing.
  - The lack of a regional accessible taxi system.

### **PRESENTATION ON 2018 LONG-RANGE PLAN OUTREACH PLANS**

Mr. Hampton of the TPB staff shared with the committee plans for TPB outreach using an online survey tool, Metroquest, to get public feedback on issues to be considered during the development of the 2018 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

- AFA members asked if the survey would include specific questions on travel needs for people with disabilities, workforce and reverse commute public transit options, and if the survey could be taken more than once by the same person. A WMATA staff person asked about coordinating this survey with the Office of Fair Practices questionnaire.
- AFA members also offered to help TPB staff reach homeless populations, people who have limited computer literacy, older adults and people with disabilities who may not be comfortable or able to use the online survey platform.

### **UPDATE FROM WMATA: TITLE VI NON- DISCRIMINATION PLAN, LANGUAGE ACCESS AND OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY- BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

Ms. Reed, a Senior Workforce Diversity and Compliance Officer with WMATA, gave an overview of WMATA’s Office of Fair Practice and introduced her colleagues, Ms. Castillo and Ms. Remy. Ms. Remy said that WMATA is working on their triennial submission of the Title VI Plan to the Federal Transit Agency (FTA) which has many components. WMATA has updated service standards which are used to monitor Metro service quality for minorities and non-minorities. On-time service standards will be lowered given recent Metro performance.

- Ms. Reed described WMATA’s Public Participation Plan adopted in 2014 which will be updated for the Title VI submission to FTA. Ms. Reed said that her office relies heavily on community-based organizations to reach minority, low-income and limited-English speaking populations.
- Ms. Castillo described efforts related to providing transit information in languages other than English and described the survey her office hopes to administer to update the database used for reaching out to populations with limited-English skills.

- In response to a question, Ms. Remy said that the Title VI analysis of the 2018 WMATA budget (which tests for disproportionate impacts on minority and low-income populations) has been forwarded to the WMATA Board for consideration and that jurisdictions can decide to subsidize the budget further if they want to reduce potential negative impacts from service reductions and fare increases.

## MEETING ATTENDEES

District of Columbia	Virginia	
Angela Miller (phone), Direct Action	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood Services	Janine Ashe, FHWA- DC Division
Charles Allen, AFA Chairman	Denis Paddeu, Rappahannock Area Agency on Aging	
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	James Lewis (phone), City of Alexandria Traffic & Parking Board and Transportation Commissions	
Nechama Masliansky, SOME (So Others Might Eat)	Karen Smith, The Arc of Greater Prince William	
Nichole Opkins, Office of Councilmember Allen	Leslie Martin (phone), VDOT - Northern VA District	
Richard Ezike, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation	Rikki Epstein (phone), Arc of Northern Virginia	
Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights	Roger Hoskins (phone), representing older adults	
<b>Maryland</b>	Susan Shaw, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood Services	
Abby Levin, Jewish Council for the Aging	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	
Debby Fisher, CHI, Inc.	<b>Regional</b>	
Janet Moye Cornick (phone), MDOT	Angela White (phone), National MS Greater DC-Maryland Chapter	
Kari Snyder, MDOT	Christiaan Blake, WMATA	
Kristin Franklin, Prince George's County DPWT	Glenn Millis (phone), WMATA	
Robert Malone, Arc of Prince George's County	Sharlene Reed (Presenter), WMATA	
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	Corinne Remy (Presenter), WMATA	
Steve Faison, New Horizons	Cecilia Castillo (Presenter), WMATA	<b>TPB Staff</b>  Lyn Erickson Travis Johnston Wendy Klancher Sergio Ritacco Kanti Srikanth Lynn Winchell-Mendy Lori Zeller
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Kate Robb (phone), American Public Health Association	
Bill Orleans, resident	Marieannette Otero (phone), Safe Routes to School National Partnership	