
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

July 13, 2023

Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The July meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, July 13. The committee received a presentation from WMATA about their funding and project prioritization process and an update about the 2022 Participation Plan Evaluation. The meeting was held virtually on WebEx.

WMATA FUNDING & PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

Mark Phillips, Metro's Director of Regional Mobility Planning, and Erica Tompkins, Metro's Director of Capital Plan and Program Development, provided an overview of their Capital Program and Capital Improvement Program (CIP), annual budget process, and Metro's role in the TPB process. This presentation is part of a series from the various state agencies to TPB's advisory committees to inform them about the state and local processes, and how they coordinate at the TPB.

Member comments and questions included:

- **An interest in how the CAC can support Metro, including through their public participation process.** Several members asked questions related to Metro's public participation process and how individuals can get involved. One member asked how they could advocate for dedicated funding for Metro in their home jurisdiction. Metro staff said that they receive dedicated funding and system performance funding from jurisdictions. They added that CAC members could express their support by contacting their elected officials. Another member asked about how Metro balances the length of transportation projects and public engagement processes. Metro staff said that often it is a balance of hearing community voices and reasonable use of resources. One member asked about how they could engage with Metro outside of events at bus stops or rail stations. Metro staff responded that they work closely with community leaders, have public meetings, and a social media and online presence.
- **Questions about potential impacts of funding gaps, and current funding streams.** One member asked about effects of the funding gap on planning efforts. Metro staff mentioned that the near-term focus was on the operating gap but noted a future capital gap. They added future discussions will cover what capital needs can be met, and which capital needs could be executed if funding was available. Another member asked if the size/cost of a project is considered when prioritizing projects. Metro staff said that cost is a consideration, but the primary constraint for the capital program is the ability to execute while maintaining system operations. After the FY25 six-year CIP, cost constraint will become a more important consideration. Two members asked about funding streams, including impacts from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and how joint-development projects fit into the CIP. Metro staff said there is a joint-development program and revenue from those projects can contribute to the operational or capital budget. Another member asked if project evaluation is considered when identifying future needs. Metro staff stated that their 10-year plan includes a new section that includes anticipated outcomes based on level of investment. Future iterations of this section will be expanded to publicly demonstrate the results of these investments.

- **Question about Blue, Orange, Silver Optimization study status and incorporating its findings in the long-range transportation plan.** One member asked about the status of the Blue, Orange, and Silver Optimization study and how it could be incorporated into Visualize 2050. Metro staff noted that the study will begin a public engagement period on July 17 until September. They also encouraged CAC members to participate in the engagement process by visiting the project website, attending public meetings, or writing letters to the Metro Board of Directors.

UPDATE ON PARTICIPATION PLAN EVALUATION RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTATION

Marcela Moreno, TPB Transportation Planner, updated the committee on the staff implementation of recommendations from the 2022 Participation Plan Evaluation. She presented on the actions taken to date, including recommendations under consideration and actively being implemented.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- **Desire to improve dialogue with the TPB board.** Several members expressed support for improving the CAC report out to TPB, both at the monthly board meeting and through the annual report. Committee members discussed how to best express member feedback to the TPB. One member recalled the CAC proposing a resolution, and that approach could be re-examined. The CAC Chair emphasized the importance of the committee’s voice being communicated to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Wallace announced the 2023 CAC Vice-Chairs, Ra Amin from the District of Columbia and Ashley Hutson from Virginia.
- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on September 14 as a hybrid meeting held with an in-person option at COG and virtual option on WebEx.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
 Allison Horn
 Ashley Hutson
 Christina Farver
 Daniel Papiernik
 Felipe Millían
 Gail Sullivan
 Heather Gaona
 Jacqueline Overton Allen
 Jeffery Parnes
 Kalli Krumpas
 Larkin Turman
 Maribel Wong

Nancy Abeles
 Noell Evans
 Rick Rybeck
 Tafadzwa Gwitira
 Timothy Davis

Staff

Lyn Erickson
 Cristina Finch
 Marcela Moreno
 Rachel Beyerle

Other

Mark Phillips, WMATA
 Erica Tompkins, WMATA