

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

May 10, 2018

Kacy Kostiuik, Chair

Ms. Kacy Kostiuik, TPB member and Councilmember from the City of Takoma Park, MD is serving as the chair of the AFA committee. The AFA met on May 10 and the highlights are provided below. A list of participants is 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 skills, people with disabilities, and older adults.

UNMET TRANSPORTATION NEEDS FOR THE UPDATE TO TPB'S COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Ms. Winchell-Mendy of the TPB staff provided an overview of the components of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan which guides the funding decisions for the Enhanced Mobility grant program. The AFA is providing input on the update to the Coordinated Plan which is scheduled to be presented to the TPB for adoption in the fall. Ms. Winchell-Mendy provided a summary of the updated unmet transportation needs document based on the February 8 breakout groups and comments received via email. The unmet needs are grouped into four categories: Availability, Accessibility, Awareness and Affordability. Ms. Winchell-Mendy also discussed next steps; the unmet needs will inform the strategies and priority projects in the Coordinated Plan which will be discussed at the June 7 AFA meeting.

VISUALIZE 2045 INITIATIVES AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

Mr. John Swanson of the TPB staff provided an overview of TPB's new long-range transportation plan, Visualize 2045, and the outreach forums being held throughout the region on the aspirational elements of the plan – the seven transportation initiatives. Ms. Wendy Klancher of the TPB staff described the seven transportation initiatives (not in any ranked order) and then participants broke out into small groups and discussed the initiatives with a focus the following initiatives: Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together, Expand Bus Rapid Transit and other Transit Regionwide and Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit.

Common themes from the break out groups included broad support for the initiatives and the following:

- Support for bringing jobs and housing closer together, concerns about the lack of affordable and accessible housing and the possibility that further concentrating development could exacerbate this issue;
- AFA members commented that there are neighborhoods in the region that need more jobs and retail services, such as grocery stores;
- Support for more Bus Rapid Transit and other transit in the region; emphasizing the need for feeder services for first-last mile connections and the need to debunk the myth that buses are only for those with low-incomes;
- Concerns about the cost of Metrorail fares and access to retail locations to purchase and recharge Smartrip cards for bus dependent populations given the announcement of CVS to no longer provide these services;
- Support for pedestrian and bicycle pathways to transit; biking can be a good alternative for low-income populations; concerns about sidewalks not being fully accessible and about dockless bikes being left in areas that block pedestrian pathways;

- Hopes for technology to address mobility challenges for many people and concerns that app-based services and automated vehicles may leave certain populations behind.

The full set of comments from the AFA will be compiled along with those from other forums and become a part of the Visualize 2045 forum report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Naaji Drayton from Seabury Resources for Aging announced the ConnectorCard Enhanced Mobility program, which provides DC residents who have disabilities or are over 60 with prepaid debit cards for use on taxis, ride-hailing and other transportation options.

Ms. Jennifer Karanek from NV Rides, an organization that supports volunteer driver programs in Northern Virginia, announced their May 17 “Safe Driving as you Age” event in Clifton, VA.

MEETING ATTENDEES

District of Columbia	Virginia	TPB Staff
Michele Chin, DC Department of General Services	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood Services	Brandon Brown
Anthony DeLorenzo, DC Department of General Services	Fatemeh Allahdoust, Virginia Department of Transportation (phone)	Lyn Erickson
Naaji Drayton, Seabury Resources for Aging	Richard Ezike, Union of Concerned Scientists (phone)	Ken Joh
Nechama Masliansky, S.O.M.E.	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	Wendy Klancher
Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Sergio Ritacco
Erica Paris, DC Office of Disability Rights	Jennifer Karanek, NV Rides	John Swanson
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	James Lewis, City of Alexandria Traffic & Parking Board and Transportation Commissions (phone)	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Maryland	Alexa Mavroidis, Arlington Transit Advisory Committee Accessibility Subcommittee	Abigail Zenner
Samuel Bland, Regency Taxi, Inc.	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County Department of Transportation	
Harriet Block, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	
Janet Moye Cornick, Maryland Department of Transportation	Lorena Rios, Community Care Network of Northern Virginia	
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Andy Wexler, Arlington County Transit	Chair
Debbie Fisher, CHI Centers, Inc.	Regional	Kacy Kostiuk
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County DPWT	Angela White, National MS Society	
Kevin Thornton, Prince George's County DPWT - the Bus	Glenn Millis, WMATA Office of ADA Policy and Planning	
Bill Orleans, resident	Janine Ashe, FHWA DC Division	