

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee

March 11, 2010

Maureen Budetti, CAC Chair

The CAC's meeting on March 11 included introductory words by TPB Chairman David Snyder, a brief primer on the TPB and CAC to acquaint new members and update incumbent members, and a discussion on planning for the May 26 forum on long-term regional transportation planning. This was the first meeting of the 2010 CAC, as the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

TPB Chairman David Snyder Stimulates a Discussion on What's Ahead in 2010

Chairman Snyder spoke about the goals of the TPB for 2010 and how the CAC can make the greatest contribution to the TPB's efforts over the course of the year. He acknowledged the constraints faced by the TPB and the region's transportation implementing agencies in the midst of a revenue crisis, but told the Committee that 2010 nonetheless provides opportunities for the TPB to initiate and carry forward many exciting activities and successes. In particular, he noted the success of the TPB's application for federal funds for a regional priority bus program through the TIGER grant program that was part of the stimulus package. He said this demonstrated the ability of the region's jurisdictions and agencies to work together at the regional level and said that the TPB would be pursuing other collaboration opportunities in a similar manner.

Chairman Snyder said that part of working within current funding constraints is making the most out of existing transportation infrastructure, and that the TPB has made significant progress in this area in recent years. He cited the development of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program as a low-cost effort that maximizes the efficiency of the transportation network and helps manage congestion caused by various unexpected incidents.

When asked to comment, CAC members provided input on various ways in which existing capacity and future transportation investment might be maximized, including the use of HOV lanes and freeway shoulders for bus service, shaping travel patterns by imposing a carbon tax or some other form of auto usage fee, the possibility of more privately-run transit service in the region, a focus on inter-city rail service, and gathering more information from other countries about transportation strategies. As part of the introductory session, Chairman Snyder also asked CAC members to introduce themselves and explain their interest in transportation and the TPB.

Chairman Snyder suggested that among the ideas mentioned by CAC members, there were enough topics to fill many CAC agendas during 2010. He and Director of Transportation Planning Ron Kirby updated CAC members on TPB activities related to some of the comments, including a proposal for research on the public acceptability of road use pricing and ongoing research into options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by the transportation sector.

They also mentioned that the TPB was tracking upcoming changes to the Federal Transit Administration's "New Starts" Program for funding transit projects. Mr. Kirby also updated the Committee on the latest TPB Scenario Study activities in response to a question about the direction Chairman Snyder and the other TPB members hope to take the study in 2010. Finally, Chairman Snyder helped explain, particularly for new CAC members, the role that the TPB can play in advocating regional priorities despite various *de jure* and *de facto* constraints on the body's power.

CAC/TPB Overview

John Swanson of TPB staff gave an overview of the role of the TPB and the structure and function of the CAC. He summarized many of the different committees and activities of the TPB, particularly the ongoing Scenario Study that looks at alternative land-use and transportation futures for the region along with options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He also noted the CAC's past involvement with the Scenario Study, including recommendations submitted to the TPB and participation in the TPB Scenario Study Task Force.

Great Interest in TPB Forum Planned for May 26

This led to a discussion of the upcoming forum on regional transportation planning, currently scheduled for May 26. Mr. Kirby described the origin of forum as a response to the previous CAC memorandum to the TPB regarding the Scenario Study and long-range planning. He also summarized the proposed structure of the forum, which is to include opportunities for interaction between members of the TPB, TPB Technical Committee, CAC, and other members of the public about possibilities for enhancing long-range transportation planning in the region.

CAC members sought additional details regarding the purpose and goals of the forum, asking what outcome would be regarded as a success. Members also, however, were pleased that the proposed structure of the event would allow for a greater degree of interaction than was initially planned. There was a general discussion about the positions of the region's transportation stakeholders regarding regional-level planning activities, with a consensus emerging that although implementing agencies may regard a more robust regional planning process as a threat, there is increasing precedence for it and evidence of its value to the region. The successful TIGER grant application was cited as a positive example, and members asserted that regional planning activities that are financially "unconstrained" can help the TPB in better positioning itself for future grant opportunities.

On the topic of regional unconstrained transportation planning, one CAC member circulated a copy of research provided to the CAC at a 2008 meeting regarding efforts by other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) around the country to identify regional transportation priorities and prepare unconstrained plans.

Chair Budetti also announced the appointment of herself and CAC member Larry Martin as the CAC representatives on the group that will plan the May 26 forum.

Other Business

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, briefed the committee on the upcoming TPB agenda.
- Staff circulated a summary report of the results of a recent survey of CAC members regarding CAC logistics and agenda topics. Discussion of the results was postponed to a future meeting due to time constraints.
- A CAC member circulated a handout regarding future projections of gasoline prices.
- TPB Chairman David Snyder called for a moment of silence in honor of Harry Sanders, long-time transportation advocate and past member of the CAC, who recently passed away.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, March 11, 2010

Members in Attendance

1. Maureen Budetti, VA, Chair
2. William Easter, MD
3. Harold Foster, DC
4. Farrell Keough, MD
5. James Larsen, VA
6. Larry Martin, DC
7. Stephen McCoy, DC
8. Madeline McDuffy, VA
9. Allen Muchnick, VA
10. Gail Parker, VA
11. Tina Slater, MD
12. Roxanne Taylor, MD
13. Emmet Tydings, MD
14. Faith Wheeler, DC

Alternates in Attendance

1. Kim Kaplan, VA
2. Kevin Posey, VA
3. Frederick Walker, VA

Members Not in Attendance

1. Zach Dobelbower, DC

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP
Darren Smith, COG/DTP
Deb Bilek, COG/DTP
Bill Orleans, interested citizen
Shirley Williams, interested citizen