

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

February 13, 2020

Kacy Kostiuk, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met on February 11 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The 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.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF AFA MEMBER JEANNA MUHORO

Chair Kostiuk facilitated a moment of silence and time of remembrance for AFA member Jeanna Muhoro of Fairfax County's Neighborhood & Community Services, who passed away in January. Chair Kostiuk, staff from Fairfax County, and committee members looked at photos and shared memories of Ms. Muhoro and acknowledged the big impact she has had on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities in the region.

ENHANCED MOBILITY PROJECT SELECTION

Ms. Winchell-Mendy briefed the AFA on the twenty-four projects approved for funding by the TPB on January 22 and the timeframe for FTA approval and project start. Questions arose regarding how the grants will impact the number of available accessible vehicles in the region in comparison to the need and the issue of TNCs and wheelchair accessibility. It was determined that, in consultation with the DC Department of For Hire Vehicles and other regional sources, TPB staff will follow up with AFA membership via email.

COG's HOUSING INITIATIVE

COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman presented on three regional targets set by the COG Board of Directors to meet the current and future housing needs of residents in the region and why it matters for the future livability of this region. A robust discussion on fair housing, accessible units, universal design, the need for a diversity of housing types, conflicts with building codes, and ways to make units more affordable followed. AFA membership expressed interest in, and TPB staff will facilitate, links to the information Ms. Chapman referenced in her presentation, and her to return to present on Fair Housing initiatives at a future meeting.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

TPB staff member John Swanson provided an overview of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program and described the FY 2021 projects recommended for funding in Virginia. A discussion ensued confirming the need for the improvements some of the projects aim to resolve, and questions arose about whether disability committees and organizations will be involved. Mr. Swanson agreed to consider the recommendation in managing project implementation. The solicitation for DC and MD projects will occur in the Spring.

OTHER BUSINESS

Safety in Conjunction with the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

TPB staff member Bryan Hayes provided an overview of the purpose of the CAC and its recent work on issues related to safety. Stemming from a conversation with the chair of the CAC, Chair Kostiuk gauged AFA committee interest in collaborating with the CAC on safety issues such as dockless vehicles, and bicycle and pedestrian safety in the region. There was general consensus to proceed with developing the partnership and a work plan.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV)

Staff introduced TPB's planned activities to address CAV, which include workshops and facilitated discussions which offer opportunities for AFA involvement. Chair Kostiuk confirmed interest in representing the AFA at the introductory workshop on March 31. TPB staff confirmed the May 12 AFA agenda will include a presentation and facilitated discussion to obtain member input on CAV. Chair Kostiuk confirmed her planned participation in a second workshop scheduled for May 14 to report out AFA's key takeaways from the May 12 facilitated discussion. Members voiced interest in participating and seeing the issue addressed on the regional level.

Metro's Proposed 2020/2021 Budget and Opportunity for Comment

A member announced release of a pamphlet, "Balancing the Next Metro Budget to Reflect Your Priorities" that outlines Metro's proposed budget, proposed service and fare changes, and dates and times for Open Houses and Public Hearings. Following the meeting, TPB staff sent a link to AFA membership and encouraged individual comment by the March 2nd deadline.

2020 MEETING DATES

- May 12
- July 7
- October 6
- Nov 10 - tentative

MEETING ATTENDANCE

District of Columbia	Virginia	TPB Staff
Anthony DeLorenzo, DC Department of General Services	Andy Wexler, Arlington County	Andy Meese
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Bryan Hayes
Maital Kaminer, S.O.M.E., Inc.	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	Debbie Etheridge
Tomeka Lee, Capitol Hill Village (phone)	Glenn Padeway, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Hilary Chapman
Wendy Klancher, DC Department of For-Hire Vehicles	Jennifer Kanarek, NV Rides (phone)	John Swanson
Maryland	Kinta Carter, ECHO (phone)	Kanti Srikanth
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County DPWT	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Karen Armendariz
Charlie Crawford, representing individuals with disabilities	Peter Leisen, Arc of Northern Virginia (phone)	Lyn Erikson
City of Hyattsville, staff person unclear (phone)	Rikki Epstein, Arc of Northern Virginia (phone)	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Debbie Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities (phone)	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Paul Desjardin
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's County Commission for Individuals with Disabilities	Regional	Sergio Ritacco
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County DHHS	Chris Blake, WMATA	Chair
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Glenn Millis, WMATA	Kacy Kostiuk, City of Takoma Park - Ward 3 Councilmember
Bill Orleans, resident	Lindy Bikish, Connected DMV	