

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

December 20, 2023

*Christina Henderson, Chair*

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met in a virtual format on Monday, November 27, 2023. The committee discussed WMATA's Better Bus network redesign, COG's Enhanced Mobility solicitation update, Virginia's multimodal trip planner tool, and TPB's National Capital Trail network update. The AFA advises the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, underrepresented communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **WMATA BETTER BUS NETWORK REDESIGN UPDATE**

Melissa Kim, WMATA's Program Manager, provided an update on their Better Bus initiative. Better Bus seeks to rethink, redesign, and revitalize bus service to better serve the needs of customers in the region. The AFA last received an update on Better Bus in December 2022. The committee heard an update on the initiative, including findings from their spring/summer 2023 public engagement efforts.

Member questions and comments included:

- Discussion on outsized negative impressions by District of Columbia residents on visionary network as driven by five routes.
- Consideration of equity and connectivity as part of the visionary network.
- Financial feasibility of implementation.
- Participation of traditionally disadvantaged groups in public comment efforts, including those lacking computer and internet access, by using "ride along" efforts.

### **2023 ENHANCED MOBILITY SOLICITATION UPDATE**

Mohammad Khan, TPB's Enhanced Mobility Program Manager provided an update on recent developments for Round 6 of the Enhanced Mobility Solicitation including a summary of applications submitted, funding availability, selection committee membership, and next steps for project approvals.

Member questions and comments included:

- Discussion on selection and award timelines with a particular effort on recipient operational needs and grant performance period.

### **OVERVIEW OF VIRGINIA'S MULTIMODAL TRIP PLANNER**

Tiffany Dubinsky, Director of Transit Planning, Jess Maffey, Transit Program Manager, and Grace Stankus, Statewide Transit Planner, all from Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation, provided an overview of the October 2023 release of a new map-based multimodal trip planning tool on its ConnectingVA website. DRPT provided an overview of the tool, including the project development and its functions related to visualizing mobility options throughout the state, including human service transportation options. The Virginia Trip Planner was funded through an Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) grant from the Federal Transit Administration.

Member questions and comments included:

- Efforts to outreach to traditionally disadvantaged population groups.
- Plans for long-term maintenance and improving the planning tool to include paratransit and on-demand services.

## **NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK UPDATE**

Andrew Meese, TPB's Systems Performance Planning Program Director, and Michael Farrell, TPB's Transportation Planner, provided an update on the National Capital Trail Network, which was approved by the TPB at its July 2020 meeting. The National Capital Trail Network is a 1,400-mile, continuous network of long-distance, off-street trails serving the entire region.

Member questions and comments included:

- Inquiring on data and outreach efforts focused on understanding the pedestrian comfort of these facilities, including, those using wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Sergio Ritacco, TPB's Transportation Planner, provided an update on staff's committee preparations for 2024, including, development of the meeting calendar beginning in March 2024 and efforts to update, formalize, and increase committee membership.
- Chair Henderson announced to the committee that the November 2024 meeting was her final as AFA Chair. She added that staff is currently in the process of identifying a new Chair for 2024 with an announcement due shortly.

### **District of Columbia**

Heather Edelman  
Heather Foote  
Cristopher Grayton  
Nechama Masliansky  
Brenda Richardson

### **Maryland**

Doreen Brown  
Bong Delrosario  
Deborah Fisher  
Sara Fought  
Denise Israel  
Robert Malone

### **Virginia**

Cynthia Alarico  
Emily Braley  
Kinta Carter  
Clemmon Hammie  
Regina Moore  
Karen Smith

### **Regional**

Glenn Millis

### **TPB Staff**

Andrew Meese  
Rachel Beyer  
Lyn Erickson  
Kanti Srikanth  
Mohammad Khan  
Michael Farrell  
Sergio Ritacco

### **Guests**

Grace Stankus, DRPT  
Jessica Maffey, DRPT  
Tiffany Dubinsky, DRPT  
Melissa Kim, WMATA  
Faisal Khan

### **Chair**

Christina Henderson, Council of the District of Columbia