

**DISCUSSION DRAFT**  
**Outline for CAC Presentation at**  
**The May 26<sup>th</sup> Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities**

The following outline provides a narrative flow for the presentation that Maureen Budetti, CAC chair, will give at the May 26<sup>th</sup> Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities. This outline is based upon CAC input through conference calls, emails, and meetings, as well as recommendations and reports from the CAC from previous years. This outline is intended for committee discussion purposes only and is NOT intended to be something that would be handed out at the May 26<sup>th</sup> event.

- I. Welcome
  - a. Appreciation for TPB's decision to hold event
    - i. Thanks to participants
    - ii. Acknowledgement that in recent months TPB members have spoken about the need for regional coordination and problem-solving
    - iii. Encouragement of participants to be open-minded about the possibilities for the Washington Region
    - iv. Expression of excitement about the potential of this conversation
  - b. Roadmap – What makes for a good conversation?
    - i. A diversity of knowledgeable participants (present)
    - ii. Background information to set a good foundation (Section II of presentation)
    - iii. Inspiration/Motivation for talking (Section III)
    - iv. The freedom to discuss a topic within broad parameters (Section IV)
    - v. A direction for conversation outcomes (Section V)
- II. Background
  - a. CAC's historic involvement with the Scenario Study and related public outreach, dating from 2000
  - b. CAC's consistent call for greater consideration of TPB Vision and regional goals in developing CLRP and TIP
    - i. Regional priorities derived from the Scenario Study
  - c. CAC's recognition of the limitations and unique qualities of the Washington Region
    - i. The CAC understands that each jurisdiction has its own priorities and has the sovereignty to control its own funds
- III. The Case for Change
  - a. The CAC acknowledges that there is a lot of “regional planning” already taking place in the Washington Region and at the TPB, as evidenced by the previous presentations
  - b. In the current process, there is little, if any, serious debate on the regional merits of project proposals

- i. The current process does not lend itself to transparency and public participation
- c. The current process does not equip regional leaders with analysis that can influence decision-making
  - i. Information from the Scenario Study and previous-CLRP analysis is not well-integrated with CLRP development
- d. The current process is not getting us where we want to go
  - i. Future projections are still dire
    - 1. Majority of development still happening away from transit infrastructure and activity centers.
    - 2. Congestion and accessibility worsening
  - ii. Increasing frustration with transportation conditions and decreasing confidence in region's leadership to address challenges
    - 1. Unwillingness of public to provide more funding
- e. The time is right
  - i. New or restructured federal funding programs
    - 1. TIGER was a TPB success and a positive experience of using the Scenario Study as a tool, but it also demonstrated the current ad hoc nature of determining and advancing regional priorities
- f. Great things can be done if we can figure out ways to identify our region's needs and plan for them in a coordinated, open, and forward-thinking way.

#### IV. Options for Change

- a. The CAC has requested and gathered information about various methods used, particularly "unconstrained" or "vision" planning elements.
  - i. What we are *not* talking about:
    - 1. TPB gaining control of funding streams
    - 2. TPB imposing strict criteria on project submissions
  - ii. What we would be dissatisfied with:
    - 1. A "bucket list" of unfunded projects that does not reflect a regional prioritization process and does not influence the CLRP
- b. What's in between?
  - i. The CAC could propose a strawman, but is not really equipped to do so and has a range of opinions within that middle space
  - ii. At a basic level, the CAC believes that the TPB should develop a workplan to initiate a process to develop a regional transportation priorities plan. This plan would identify unfunded priority projects and provide a big-picture context for understanding the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Plan
    - 1. A priority-setting process that picks up where the TPB Vision leaves off
    - 2. A process that facilitates a regional conversation and better uses available information to inform the regional planning process
    - 3. The Scenario Study is a valuable tool for that process

V. Moving Forward

- a. The CAC hopes that today's conversation will help define the process for developing a regional transportation priorities plan and define how that plan would inform the development of the CLRP.