



Citizens Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

that the TPB initiate a Plan to Receive Public Input on Regional Unfunded Priority Transportation Projects

October 13, 2016

The CAC has been actively engaged in and supportive of TPB discussions on Regional Unfunded Priority Projects since the genesis of these discussions in 2014. In November 2014, the CAC endorsed the request of TPB member Jonathan Way that the TPB staff compile a comprehensive inventory of unfunded transportation projects throughout the National Capital Region. Since then, the CAC has monitored the progress of the unfunded capital needs inventory of transportation projects and participated as a member of the Long Range Plan Task Force.

The mission of the CAC is 1) to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, and 2) to provide an independent, region-wide perspective and citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues.

The CAC has long promoted robust public involvement in the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP). For example, in 2006 the CAC provided recommendations to the TPB for improving the information and analysis of the CLRP and the Transportation Improvement Program, including holding public forums to allow citizens to learn from implementing agencies how projects are chosen, and identify unfunded regional priorities.

In monitoring and participating in the development of the unfunded projects list, the CAC has been particularly interested in public participation and has consistently encouraged the TPB to solicit public input in suggesting, prioritizing, and selecting unfunded projects for regional consideration. The TPB's approved Unified Program Work Plan for 2017 includes public outreach activities to inform the development of criteria and selection of unfunded regional projects. The UPWP calls for "develop[ing] and conduct[ing] workshops or events, as needed, to engage the public and community leaders on key regional transportation issues, including challenges reflected in the development of the CLRP, the TIP, and the forthcoming Plan of Unfunded Regional Priority Projects" (53).

The CAC believes that:

- Effective public engagement must focus on specific questions and provide clarity about how public input will be collected and used to inform policy decisions
- TPB staff should develop a plan for approval by the TPB that sets forth the means by which public input will be sought and how it will be used in prioritizing and selecting unfunded projects for regional consideration.
- In addition, TPB members have critical roles to play in informing their constituents about the Long-Range Plan and how it will affect their communities.

Therefore, the CAC recommends that the TPB initiate a plan for engaging and incorporating public input into the selection of a limited set of regional unfunded priority transportation projects.