

## ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

September 24, 2021

*Canek Aguirre, Chair*

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on September 24 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, underrepresented communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **VISUALIZE 2045 – RESULTS FROM FOCUS GROUP RESEARCH & UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Ms. Sarah Bond shared the results of a series of focus groups that were conducted earlier this year to provide input for Visualize 2045. Highlights included:

- How diversity of perspectives and backgrounds, rather than statistical significance, guided the selection of participants
- The extent of information collected
- The use of MAXQDA, qualitative data management software that identifies and manages emerging themes and does systematic comparisons
- A sampling of questions and responses on Equity, Safety, Climate Change, including specific quotes on issues such as bus stop and sidewalk safety, affordable housing accessible to transit, and telework as a solution to some concerns
- How the information collected will be used for further analysis and products, including a Voices of the Region story map

A member acknowledged similarities in the results to what she hears in her outreach to DC older adults and is interested in hearing more about the responses from the older (60+ population) and residents from east of the river in the report. Another felt that the information highlighted the issue of a living wage.

### **DISSERTATION ON WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY OF TNCs**

Dr. Mahtot Gebresselassie, who previously invited AFA to take or share her survey of wheelchair users regarding TNC service, shared the findings from her dissertation “Wheelchair Users’ Perspective on Transportation Hailed Through Uber and Lyft Apps.”

The presentation included proprietary information since Dr. Gebresselassie will be publishing her findings, so specific details are not being shared in this summary. The presentation covered:

- Methods, participant recruitment, partner organizations who distributed the survey (including AFA)
- Statistics on participants
- Perceptions of service
- Experience using service
- Recommendations

AFA discussion following the presentation included:

- Concerns about access and the lack of ability to participate for those who are not tech savvy and/or do not have or cannot afford a smartphone
- The lack of paper surveys, which would have allowed for more participation and perspectives
- The difficulty to recruit drivers during the pandemic and continued recovery
- The importance of training drivers to work with people with disabilities

Dr. Gebresselassie acknowledged some of the shortcomings of her sample and reiterated that her work will continue through additional stages of talking with drivers and jurisdictions and organizations with oversight for TNCs.

### **DRAFT TPB PRINCIPLES ON CONNECTED AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES (CAV)**

Mr. Andrew Meese shared background information on the TPB's role and work related to CAVs, including a white paper, discussions during four CAV webinars TPB hosted in 2020 and 2021, a review of the context of Visualize 2045 and other existing TPB policy documents, and AFA input provided in a survey and at the June 2, 2020 meeting. He then introduced draft CAV Principles, invited AFA feedback, which included:

- Concerns about legal responsibility when non-vehicles get injured and what kind of regulations for clarify of responsibility will be put in place
- CAVs having difficulty recognizing darker skin
- The larger picture and the importance of coordination wait at all levels – private sector, Federal government, local level

TPB staff will email the principles to all members and request feedback for consideration in developing the final version.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Lynn Winchell-Mendy advised participants of the purpose of and AFA role in the Human Service Transportation Coordinated Plan in preparation for the 2022 update. The 2022 AFA agenda will focus heavily on this task.

### **2021 MEETING DATES**

- Friday, November 12th, 12-2

<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Angela Miller, Direct Action	Andrew Wexler, Arlington County	Andrew Meese
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Brittany Voll, DRPT	John Swanson
Nechama Maslianksy, S.O.M.E.	Clemmon Hammie, VDOT	Kanti Srikanth
Wendy Klancher, DFHV	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Leonardo Pineda
<b>Maryland</b>	Karen Smith, Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Lyn Erickson
Deborah Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities	Mahtot Gebresselassie, PhD	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Sarah Bond
Marci LeFevre, City of Hyattsville	Peter Leisen, The Arc of Northern Virginia	<b>Unknown</b>
Rob Malone, Arc of Prince William County	Roger Hoskin, representing older adults	myu000
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	<b>Chair</b>
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	<b>Regional</b>	Canek Aguirre, City of Alexandria Councilmember
Sherri Mohebbi, IT Curves	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	