

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

February 8, 2018

*Kacy Kostiuik, Chair*

At the January TPB meeting, Chair Allen announced that Ms. Kacy Kostiuik, Councilmember from the City of Takoma Park, MD would serve as the next Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee chair.

Ms. Kostiuik chaired the first AFA meeting of 2018 on February 8. The highlights from this meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited-English skills, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **2017 ENHANCED MOBILITY GRANTS**

Ms. Winchell-Mendy of the TPB staff provided a summary of the seventeen Enhanced Mobility grants approved by the TPB on January 17, 2018. Nine of the grants will provide vehicles to agencies that provide specialized transportation to clients with intellectual or physical disabilities to attend therapeutic day programs and participate in social and recreational activities. The other eight projects will provide travel training, mobility counseling, language access, volunteer driver programs, taxi vouchers and pedestrian infrastructure.

### **UPDATE OF TPB'S COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND BREAK-OUT GROUPS ON UNMET TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

Ms. Klancher of the TPB staff gave an overview of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan which is federally-required and guides the implementation of the Enhanced Mobility program. In 2018, the Coordinated Plan will be updated per federal requirements and under the guidance of the AFA committee. The Coordinated Plan is based on unmet transportation needs for people with disabilities, older adults and those with limited incomes.

To kick-off the Coordinated Plan update process, the AFA discussed unmet transportation needs for all of the population groups the AFA represents. Meeting participants divided into small groups and each group discussed one of the four themes of unmet transportation needs: accessibility, awareness, availability and affordability.

#### **Highlights by theme include:**

*Accessibility:* Technology used in transportation (apps, internet, Smartphones) is not universally accessible for people – those with physical and cognitive disabilities, older adults, as well as people with who cannot afford a Smartphone.

*Awareness:* The need for more centralized information and the promotion of existing transportation services customized to the audience, including those who have limited-English skills and/or may not have access to the internet or a cell phone.

*Availability:* Location matters: in urban areas there are more transportation options and fewer in suburban and rural areas. Across the region, there is a need for more options for cross-jurisdictional travel as well as more coordination among jurisdictions. Weekend and evening transit options are lacking as well as same-day specialized transportation services.

*Affordability:* Transit fares, parking costs and tolls are barriers for many people, not just those with the lowest-incomes in the region.

## **TPB'S TRANSPORTATION / LAND USE CONNECTIONS SOLICITATION**

Mr. Swanson, TPB staff, described the solicitation for applications under the Transportation/Land Use Connections Program (TLC) which provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions to design vibrant communities. Applications are due April 2.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Joh on the TPB staff asked for AFA member feedback on how to increase the survey response rate from minority populations to the TPB's Household Travel Survey, particularly households who have limited-English skills.

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## MEETING ATTENDEES

<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Drew Larsen, Earth Conservation Corps	Tomi Adeleke, Virginia Department of Transportation (phone)	Kanti Srikanth
Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights (phone)	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood Services	Lyn Erickson
Brenda Richardson, Earth Conservation Corps	Jayson Green, YMCA Fairfax County Reston	Wendy Klancher
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Sergio Ritacco
Ezra Wright, Earth Conservation Corps	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County Department of Transportation	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
<b>Maryland</b>	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	Ken Joh (presenter)
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	Karen Smith, The Arc of Greater Prince William	John Swanson (presenter)
Janet Moye Cornick, Maryland Department of Transportation	Tom Furlong, Diamond Transportation	Matthew Gaskin
Charlie Crawford, representing people with disabilities	Richard Ezike, Union of Concerned Scientists	Bob Griffiths
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Andy Wexler, Arlington County Transit	<b>Chair</b>
Debbie Fisher, CHI Centers, Inc.	<b>Regional</b>	Kacy Kostiuk
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County DPWT (phone)	Christiaan Blake, WMATA	
Abby Levin, JCA Connect-A-Ride	Glenn Millis, WMATA (phone)	
Bill Orleans, resident	Angela White, National MS Society	
Maxine Powell, Maryland Department of Transportation		