

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

November 12, 2021

*Canek Aguirre, Chair*

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on November 12 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.

### **RIDES TO HEALTH (RTH)**

Mr. Matthew Mohebbi briefed the committee on the RTH pilot project, a partnership between ITCurves and TPB/COG, funded under the Federal Transit Administration's Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility (ICAM) Pilot Program. RTH is developing and testing technology to improve transportation for End State Renal Disease dialysis patients through a platform which helps to coordinate stakeholders (Patient, Healthcare Facilities, Funding Agencies, Transportation Providers) and improve the transportation experience.

Discussion and questions following the presentation included:

- Return on investment – Mr. Mohebbi shared that every \$1 spent on transportation returns \$11 on healthcare cost and members asked for the data behind it.
- Implications/use for other health issues like cancer treatment, Multiple Sclerosis infusion, other disabilities.
- The digital divide since it is a technology-based program – Mr. Mohebbi confirmed that a person could still connect using a land line.
- The penalty for healthcare providers who do not perform to standards under the Affordable Care Act could be a selling point to help them achieve those standards by keeping patients healthy with reliable transportation to/from treatment.
- Connection to Metro Access and Medicaid transportation – Mr. Mohebbi advised that both were providers on the platform.

TPB staff will follow up to provide links to the two videos explaining the project, the white paper addressing the return on investment, and will coordinate contact for two members interested in participating in the pilot.

### **TRANSPORTATION-LAND USE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM (TLC) – DESIGNING STREETS FOR PEOPLE WITH VISION DISABILITIES**

Mr. Matthew Johnson, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), briefed the committee on MCDOT's Planning and Designing Streets to be Safer and More Accessible for People with Vision Disabilities toolkit. The toolkit helps better engage people with vision disabilities in the planning and design process, identifies issues with current roadway and sidewalk designs, and recommends ways to make roads and sidewalks easier and safer to navigate.

Discussion following the presentation addressed technology for sight-challenged pedestrians, such as audio cues and beacons.

TPB staff shared basic information on the TLC technical assistance grant program that funded the project and will email the toolkit to AFA membership.

## TPB CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION STUDY OF 2021

Ms. Erin Morrow, TPB Transportation Engineer, presented on the history and progress for the TPB Climate Change Mitigation Study of 2021, a 12-month scenario study with the goal of identifying potential pathways for the region to reduce on-road, transportation-sector greenhouse gas emissions to meet regional greenhouse gas reduction goals. Ms. Morrow will return to AFA in early 2022 to share the results of the technical analysis currently underway, and the final report.

Discussion following the presentation addressed what the possibilities of meeting such goals really are when considering the constraints of TPB as a long-range planning agency. Ms. Morrow confirmed that the TPB is a planning agency, not an implementing agency, and that TPB members do have the ability to make policy and program recommendations that could then be carried out by TPB member agencies and jurisdictions.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Aguirre shared information about TRB's new blog series on equity with a focus on resources on transportation accessibility for people with disabilities:
  - Making Travel More Equitable for People with Disabilities - <https://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/blog/making-travel-more-equitable-disabilities>
- Chair Aguirre referenced the AFA's past work on scooters and ebikes and an article on DC scooter policy, which now requires them to be locked and not left on sidewalks: <https://dcist.com/story/21/09/29/starting-friday-rentable-scooters-in-dc-have-to-be-locked-to-bike-racks-signs/>. AFA members briefly discussed continued safety concerns as scooters are being locked to bus stops, reporting and compliance issues, and the possibility of policy creating new precedents.
- TPB staff advised the committee that COG/TPB is collecting Screening Questionnaire's from those interested in developing an application for COG's consideration for FTA's competitive funding opportunity for the [Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility \(ICAM\) Pilot Program](#) provides \$3.5 million in federal funds for regional and statewide mobility management capital projects that support coordination and enable comprehensive community access, including access to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), for underserved groups.
- Chair Aguirre reminded the committee that projects recommended for funding under the 2021 Enhanced Mobility Solicitation will go before the TPB for approval on November 17. TPB staff shared that AFA will receive a presentation on the projects selected in the coming calendar year.

## 2022 MEETING DATES

- To Be Determined

<b>District of Columbia</b>	<b>Virginia</b>	<b>TPB Staff</b>
Faye Dastgheib, District Department of Transportation	Andrew Wexler, Arlington County	Dan Sheehan
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Brittany Voll, DRPT	Erin Morrow
Nechama Maslianky, S.O.M.E.	Clemmon Hammie, VDOT	John Swanson
Tomeka Lee, Capitol Hill Village	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Lyn Erikson
	Karen Smith, Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
<b>Maryland</b>	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Mark Moran
Bill Orleans, member of the public	Peter Leisen, The Arc of Northern Virginia	Sergio Ritacco
Bong Delrosario, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Roger Hoskin, representing older adults	
Deborah Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities		<b>Unknown</b>
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities	<b>Regional</b>	(202) 3XX-XX82
Marci LeFevre, City of Hyattsville	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	161003587
Matthew Johnson, Montgomery County DOT	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	
Matthew Mohebbi, ITCurves	Christiaan Blake, WMATA	<b>Chair</b>
Rob Malone, Arc of Prince William County	Glenn Millis, WMATA	Canek Aguirre, City of Alexandria Councilmember
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride		
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	<b>Other</b>	
Sherri Mohebbi, IT Curves	Richard Ezike, CHPlanning, Ltd.	
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland		