

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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September 16, 2009

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: John Swanson, Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Appointment of Replacement Maryland Member of the 2009 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

TPB Chairman Charles Jenkins has indicated he intends to nominate Mr. Richard Parsons to fill a vacancy for Maryland on the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Parsons will replace Derrick Richardson who resigned earlier this year.

Attached you will find an application from Mr. Parsons that details his background and his interest in this position. The TPB will be asked to vote on this nomination at the Board meeting on September 16.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION

RECRUITMENT OPEN UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2008

Please provide the following information:

Name: Richard Parsons

Residential Address: 15812 Amelung Ln, Derwood, MD 20855
Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Business Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Primary Telephone: 301-503-0697 Secondary Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: rnparsons@comcast.net

Use additional pages to answer the following questions if necessary.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the TPB's Citizen Advisory Committee?

I have a strong interest in transportation issues and a passionate conviction that they are best addressed at the regional level. As a participant in many of the recent task forces and project studies in suburban Maryland in recent years, I have gained considerable knowledge and experience regarding both what is most effective in dealing with some of the long-term regional transportation challenges we face, and what is feasible from an environmental, political and budgetary standpoint. I would be very interested in participating in the discussions of the CAC in the coming term, learning more from other CAC and TPB members and staff, and serving my community as a more informed and effective advocate for sensible, multi-modal solutions that meet our transportation needs and improve our quality of life. I am particularly interested in the previous work TPB has done on defining various scenarios for the region, and look forward to further developing and providing feedback from my community on those plans as they move forward.

2. Please check all the interest areas that reflect the perspective you would bring to the CAC.

The Citizens Advisory Committee is dynamic and effective because it represents diverse citizen experiences and interests. All residents are encouraged to apply regardless of their expertise or transportation interest.

Check all that apply:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land-Use Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Disabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-Income Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Issues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business/Chamber	<input type="checkbox"/> Minority Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural/Exurban
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen at Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Concerns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road/Bridges Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown D.C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood-Scale Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit Rider/Transit Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Employees/Labor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks/Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Freight/Rail/Trucking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> School District/Parent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telework	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridesharing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternative Commuting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smart Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit-Oriented Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Justice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway Commuting
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____		

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3. Please briefly describe your experience related to the interest areas you checked in question 2 that you feel may contribute to your effectiveness on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Also, list any relevant organizations or groups in which you participate that may relate to your service on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

As former President of the Montgomery County Chamber, I was very involved on affordable housing issues including expanding our MPDU program to include "workforce housing" and we had a strong partnership with local and national affordable housing groups on this issue. I am an active cyclist and frequent user of the bike trails in Rock Creek Park (and would like to see more like it). I have been a citizen activist much of my life and have been active in a range of community and civic organizations, including President of my neighborhood civic association (Forest Estates); a Board member of the United Way, Rebuilding Together and others; and a graduate of Leadership Montgomery. As former Director of Maryland Government Relations for the Greater Washington Board of Trade, I lobbied in Annapolis in support of Maryland's 1997 Smart Growth Act and other economic and transportation funding issues. I was a member of Montgomery County's Economic Advisory Committee, and was appointed in 2001 to the Montgomery County Planning Board's Transportation Policy Report Task Force, which laid much of the groundwork for the County's current 10-year Transportation Plan. I was a founding member of the Purple Line Now Coalition and Board Member of the CCT Coalition, in addition to several years of advocacy on major regional transportation projects, most of which had to go through NEPA/environmental impact reviews.

4. Is there any other information related to your serving as a member of the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee that you'd like to tell us about?

As former COO at a design firm that specializes in mixed-use new-urbanist re-development, I have learned a fair amount about how to make successful transit-oriented development happen and the role it can play in reducing trip generation, though I do not have an engineering or design background. I grew up in a very rural area (Maine), and have lived in a variety of urban-to-suburban settings (in DC, Arlington and Maryland), so I think I have a pretty good sense of the full range of living experiences throughout our region. I feel many of the transportation challenges we face demand fresh, outside-the-box thinking, as well as creativity, persistence and old fashioned common-sense. I would like to contribute constructively in any way I can to those who are interested in finding solutions that work.

5. If appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee, could you begin your term in February 2009?

Yes No

6. How did you learn about the Citizen Advisory Committee opportunity?

I have participated with COG and TPB for many years and learned of the CAC through attending TPB meetings in the past.

7. Demographic Information (Optional):

Sex: Male Female

Disability: Yes No Age: 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 +

Ethnicity: African American American Indian/Alaskan Native Hispanic

Multiracial Asian/Pacific Islander White (European Decent) Other