

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

April 9, 2021

Canek Aguirre, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on April 9 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 BRIEFING

Ms. Stacy Cook provided an update of on the status of the Visualize 2045 update for 2021, an overview of the parts of the plan, and how it is implemented. She also shared the timeline for public comment and introduced the public comment packet. Finally, she highlighted some of the new major projects and significant changes to existing projects in the update.

The discussion following the presentation included questions and suggestions about access, service coverage and frequency:

- the type of advertising used and how to involve the average citizen
- the need to consider the non-commuter and weekend users of transportation services
- the need to consider shift workers and their access having impact upon in-home care, nursing homes, family caregivers, etc.
- the fact that people with disabilities have basic, essential needs to meet before they can even consider transportation to employment

Staff confirmed the importance of the suggestions and shared how the plan considers where people live, and work based on a cooperative forecast and confirmed the testing of an additional performance measure for multimodal access.

REACH A RIDE BRIEFING

Mr. Dan Sheehan presented on Reach A Ride, a website and call center that provide consumers and social service agencies access to information about Specialized Transportation Services in the region. He provided an overview, walked through the steps to access information, discussed enhancements, and requested AFA feedback for improvements to the website.

Several members and participants provided suggestions for improvements, including:

- better identification of providers who only offer services to their own adult day or other programming
- addressing different information coming up when a zip code with additional 4 digits is used vs. one without
- the need for outreach and education to address negative impressions and the availability of the resource
- continuing to coordinate with existing County, WMATA, and Agencies on Aging databases to avoid duplicative efforts
- the need to consider other means of translation for the diverse populations in our regions, including the Language Line

Mr. Sheehan will follow up with specific requests for information on call and website statistics and a similar project the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is working on. The discussion included specific questions about access for local transportation programming (to be addressed directly by the provider) and discussions of whether the region would benefit from a one stop place for ride information that could also arrange the ride.

2021 ENHANCED MOBILITY SOLICITATION

Mr. Sergio Ritacco briefed the committee on anticipated funding, solicitation launch, and timeline for application and award for the 2021 Enhanced Mobility Program.

The discussion included eligibility for transportation voucher programs and a comparison of funding from the prior solicitation to this one, which is a slight bump up but last year included reallocated dollars from DDOT that are not a consideration this year. The Department of for Hire Vehicles shared concerns about unequal access to Enhanced Mobility and CRRSAA funding due to DC taxi companies being unable to meet COG's insurance requirements. Staff confirmed that DC taxi companies are still eligible to apply for equipment and operating, and the insurance levels were determined in consultation with legal counsel and insurance broker to limit COG's liability.

SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF FUNDING UNDER 5310

Ms. Winchell-Mendy provided an overview of CRRSAA funding and the timeline for award and shared the number and types of applications received. In addition, she information on an upcoming solicitation for additional supplemental funding for Enhanced Mobility under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will be shared

Responses to questions were somewhat limited by the pending concurrence of funding recommendations by TPB Officers and the AFA Chair before specific project details can be shared.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Benito Perez from DDOT shared information on the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Accessible Streetscape Design Project he is spearheading and requested AFA participation. TPB staff will provide follow up information on an upcoming meeting and contact information for Mr. Perez.

Ms. Nicole McCall shared information on Regional Resources available to access data from the 2017/18 Regional Transportation Survey.

Chair Aguirre shared information about a webinar, hosted by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee, on Vision Zero Arterial Design that will occur on Friday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. TPB staff will share a link to register.

Chair Aguirre and Ms. Doris Ray shared information on a judge's ruling that a lawsuit, Equal Rights Center v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al, will continue over Uber's "failure to provide equivalent service under ADA Title III to people with disabilities, and specifically people who have physical disabilities and use mobility devices such as power chairs."

2021 MEETING DATES

- Friday, June 11th, 12-2
- Friday, September 10th, 12-2
- Friday, November 12th, 12-2

District of Columbia	Virginia	TPB Staff
Benito Perez, DDOT	Andrew Wexler, Arlington County	Abigail Zenner
Heather Foote, Age Friendly DC Transportation Committee	Brittany Voll, DRPT	Dan Sheehan
Jerry Kasunic, DFHV	Doris Ray, Endependence Center of Northern Virginia	John Swanson
Karen Randolph, DDOT	Doug Pickford, DATA	Kanti Srikanth
Nechama Maslianksy, S.O.M.E.	Karen Smith, Arc of Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.	Karen Armendariz
Wendy Klancher, DFHV	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Lyn Erikson
	Roger Hoskin, representing older adults	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Maryland	Sarah McGowan, DATA	Nicole McCall
Bill Orleans, resident		Sergio Ritacco
Colleen Aistis, City of Hyattsville	Regional	Stacy Cook
Daria Cervantes, The Arc of Montgomery County	Angela White, National MS Society of Greater DC	
Deborah Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	Chair
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commission for Individuals with Disabilities	Glenn Millis, WMATA	Canek Aguirre, City of Alexandria Councilmember
Marci LeFevre, City of Hyattsville		Unknown
Rob Malone, Arc of Prince William County		Caller #2
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride		Caller #4
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services		Caller #6
Sherri Mohebbi, IT Curves		myu000
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland		C. Price