

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee July 15, 2009 Farrell Keough, CAC Chairman

The CAC's meeting on July 9 included extensive discussion of upcoming activities in the new fiscal year, including public outreach and the integration of the scenario study into the FY2010 long-range plan.

The Scenario Study & the Development of a Regional Priorities Plan

The CAC extensively discussed how it would like to further push for the development of a regional priorities plan, which has been a key recommendation of the committee since 2005. John Swanson of the TPB staff began the discussion by providing some history on the committee's involvement with the scenario study since its inception. He noted that the CAC helped to conceive the study, pushed staff to conduct public outreach on the scenarios, first recommended the formation of the scenario study task force, and consistently has called for the study to be used in the development of a regional priorities plan.

CAC Chair Farrell Keough distributed a draft set of comments which will urge the TPB to use the upcoming fiscal year to finally establish a regional long-range plan that integrates the scenario study with the CLRP. Mr. Keough noted that the CLRP, as currently assembled, is not a plan but is rather a collection of projects. He said the "time is right" for the TPB to exercise real leadership by developing a guiding document which ensures transportation project selection has a regional focus and impact.

Member comments included the following:

- Several members noted that the upcoming federal transportation authorization legislation makes the timing particularly apt for the development of a regional priorities plan. They noted that this was a good opportunity for the TPB to demonstrate leadership, showing it is ready for new responsibilities.
- Members discussed the specific process for integrating a regional priorities plan into the CLRP. One member noted that it is already too late to affect the development of next year's CLRP. That may be largely true, others responded, but even if this year's CLRP is only indirectly affected, the relationship in the future will become stronger between the regional priorities plan and the CLRP.
- Members expressed concern that analysis of the Aspirations Scenario has not been completed. They noted that TPB staff had previously indicated that this scenario was supposed to form the basis for an unconstrained priorities plan. However, they said that

until the analysis of the Aspirations Scenario is completed, it will be difficult to know how useful it will be in the upcoming plan development. Mr. Kirby responded that staff is currently working on the analysis, but the utility of the plan is still valuable as a guiding document.

- CAC members and TPB staff decided that the focus of the fall kickoff meeting for the FY2010 planning cycle should be a presentation and discussion on how the scenarios will be integrated into the TPB's long-range plan.
- CAC members agreed to form a subcommittee to further refine the committee's recommendations on how to move forward with a regional priorities plan. Although an August meeting is not regularly scheduled, the committee determined it should meet next month.

The TPB's Participation Program & the Upcoming Long-Range Plan Update

John Swanson of the TPB staff gave a presentation on the draft Participation Program for FY2010. This annual program, which is required by the TPB's Participation Plan, includes a framework for outreach activities, including procedures, committees, website, documents, public meetings and trainings. In FY2010, the TPB will produce a long-range plan with a horizon of 2040 that will reflect regional priorities identified through the TPB's scenario planning activities. Many of the TPB's public participation activities in FY2010 will be designed to seek citizen input to inform the development of this new long-range plan.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***The TPB should focus on providing a one-stop clearinghouse with information on all projects in the region.*** Staff called attention to recent information improvements, but they agreed that additional work is needed in developing better user-friendly information.
- ***Why do we have a forum at the end of the TIP cycle when it's really too late to affect decision-making?*** Staff said that the June forum is largely intended for information sharing. Staff further noted that a kickoff forum this fall is designed to initiate the process for developing the new CLRP and TIP. Among other things, this forum will provide information on how and where decisions are made regarding project selection.
- ***The CAC needs more opportunities to be able to explain to the DOTs about the needs of citizens.*** Members said they tend to spend too much time at meetings simply listen to what the DOTs are planning.
- ***The committee discussed whether the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) should be extended ten years*** as is currently planned (the CLRP's new horizon will extend to 2040). One member argued that such a long extension in the plan would effectively mean that significant additions to the plan would have to wait ten years. Plus, once projects go in the plan, he said, it is difficult to get them out. Other members said that this major extension represents an opportunity to get projects included that otherwise would be left out and to think and plan in more visionary terms.

- *The CAC needs to be briefed on the upcoming federal transportation authorization legislation.* Some members noted that Congress is considering the possibility of establishing a metropolitan program, in which capital funding would be allocated directly to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) like the TPB.

Other Business

- The CAC by email elected two vice chairs: Paul DeMaio for the District of Columbia and Gail Parker for Virginia.
- The committee agreed that Gail Parker will organize an outreach meeting in Virginia this fall. Details will be determined in the coming weeks.
- At the meeting, Mr. Kirby described the TIGER grant proposal for federal stimulus funds to be used for a network of priority bus services.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, July 9, 2009

Members in Attendance

1. Farrell Keough, MD, Chair
2. Maureen Budetti, VA
3. Paul DeMaio, DC
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Allen Muchnick, VA
6. Gail Parker, VA
7. Lynn Shanton, MD
8. Shirley Williams, DC (called in)

3. Jim Larsen, VA
4. Larry Martin, DC
5. Trudy Reeves, DC
6. Emmet Tydings, MD

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
 John Swanson, COG/DTP
 Darren Smith, CGO/DTP
 Lee Schoenecker
 Bill Orleans

Members Not in Attendance

1. Roland Gunn, VA
2. Bill Klenke, MD