

## REPORT

### TPB Citizens Advisory Committee

April 16, 2008

Larry Martin, CAC Chairman

The monthly meeting of the CAC on April 10 included an update on plans for the May Forum on the FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a briefing and discussion on activities of the COG Climate Change Steering Committee, discussion of regional unconstrained planning and priority setting, and a briefing and discussion on the Final Report of the TPB Regional Value Pricing Study.

#### **Update on Plans for the May Forum on the FY 2009-2014 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP)**

Andrew Austin of TPB staff discussed a revised structure for the TIP Forum to be held on May 15 that responds to feedback from the CAC after the TIP Forum held on October 10, 2007. He said the purpose of the TIP Forum would be to demonstrate how major projects move through the TIP process and for the state departments of transportation (DOTs) to comment on their project selection process, current projects in the TIP and progress on these projects. He said the TPB would focus on better advertising for the May Forum.

Comments from the CAC included:

- Staff should post information about the major projects on the CAC website so that the CAC and the public will have time to think about the materials and attend the TIP Forum prepared for a productive discussion.
- Even if the focus is to be on a few major projects of regional significance, the TPB should still provide a complete list of projects included in the TIP, to the extent possible.
- Staff should encourage the DOTs to come prepared to speak about the major projects.
- When the advertisement for the TIP Forum is available, staff can e-mail the advertising information to CAC members so they may distribute the information in their communities to encourage attendance.
- Discussion at the TIP Forum should focus on the regional suitability of the major projects.

Mr. Martin said that following the TIP Forum next month, the CAC will be prepared to offer suggestions about how to improve upon the format for future TIP Forums.

#### **Briefing and Discussion on the COG Climate Change Steering Committee**

Joan Rohlfs, Chief of Air Quality Planning at COG, provided a presentation on the formation of COG's Climate Change Steering Committee and its proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the regional level. She reviewed the accomplishments of the

steering committee to date, including the development of the *Best Practices and Policies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases*, a guide that describes programs to reduce greenhouse gases that have been adopted by localities in the National Capital Region and that are available as tools to communities seeking more sustainable options for growth and development. She said a complete draft report of recommendations on regional climate change policy will be reviewed by the steering committee in May. It will include recommendations for energy, land-use, transportation, and other activities and topics that effect greenhouse emissions on a regional level. She added that the CAC would be encouraged to comment on the recommendations during the public comment period, which will take place from June to August.

Comments and discussion from the CAC included:

- CAC alternate member Gail Parker led a brief discussion on global energy usage, which included handouts about the global supply and demand for oil. Discussion included concerns over the slide of the US dollar impacting fuel prices versus the notion of the oil supply diminishing, and tracking fuel prices over time to understand the cost of fuel and inflation.
- The notion of the nation's dependency on fuel is not only an environmental issue, but it also is a national security concern.
- Members wondered if the costs of significantly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would outweigh the benefits. Ms. Rohlf said that based on two reports, the Stern Report developed by British Economist Sir Nicholas Stern and a 2007 study by the McKinsey Global Institute, the economic cost of meeting the challenge of climate change is less than the cost of not acting.

Mr. Martin encouraged the CAC to think about the future of fuel and transportation and said he hopes the CAC can develop recommendations for the TPB on this issue. The CAC formed a subcommittee to address these issues.

### **Discussion of Regional Unconstrained Planning and Priority Setting**

Mr. Martin briefly discussed the absence of strong, well-defined regional criteria for transportation project selection throughout the region. Mr. Tydings encouraged the CAC to review the materials developed by the TPB's Scenario Study Task Force. He said this planning and analysis would provide materials for discussion of regional unconstrained planning for years to come. The CAC agreed to take on this issue at a future meeting.

### **Briefing and Discussion on the Final Report of the TPB Regional Value Pricing Study**

Mr. Kirby reviewed the PowerPoint presentation he provided to the TPB on March 19 on the Final Report of the TPB's Value Pricing Task Force.

CAC comments on the report included questions about HOT enforcement, particularly how HOV and toll-paying users would be distinguished by the system, the degree to which the various corridors studied would pay for themselves, and the commitment to

transit on the planned HOT projects. Mr. Kirby updated the Committee on the plans for HOT enforcement and technological implementation, and explained the varying cost versus revenues performance of the different corridors studied as potential value-priced facilities. He said that research on the effects of value pricing on various segments of the population indicates that it is crucial to provide alternatives to the tolled lanes, especially high-quality transit.

Mr. Martin proposed that the CAC should develop a resolution on variably priced highway lanes to present to the TPB. He encouraged members to read the report, think about the concerns raised by the public, and be prepared to draft a resolution over the next several months.

### **Other Business**

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided an overview of items on the April 16 TPB Agenda.
- Sarah Crawford of the TPB staff told the committee about the upcoming session of the Community Leadership Institute, a workshop on regional transportation issues for community leaders. The session will be held on April 17 and April 19.

### **ATTENDANCE CAC Meeting, April 10, 2008**

#### **Members in Attendance**

1. Larry Martin, DC, Chair
2. Harold Foster, DC
3. Farrell Keough, MD
4. Bill Klenke, MD
5. Jim Larsen, VA
6. Grace Malakoff, DC
7. Daniel Malouff, VA
8. Robin Marlin, DC
9. Allen Muchnick, VA
10. Lynn Shanton, MD
11. Emmet Tydings, MD
12. Shirley Williams, DC

#### **Alternates in Attendance**

Bernard Hill, DC  
Laurie Kelly, MD  
Gail Parker, VA  
Jeremy Siegel, DC

#### **Members Not in Attendance**

1. Suresh Narasimhan, VA
2. Todd Reitzel, MD
3. Daphne Sahlin, VA

#### **Staff/Others**

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB  
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP  
Andrew Austin, COG/TPB  
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB  
Darren Smith, COG/TPB  
Carroll George  
Bill Orleans