
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE TPB**

February 21, 2024
Ra Amin, CAC Chair

The February meeting of the CAC was held on Thursday, February 15. The meeting featured a briefing on the TPB's work on resiliency and a discussion about the upcoming public comment period for the development of the new regional transportation plan, Visualize 2050.

DISCUSSION OF THE TPB'S TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Katherine Rainone of the TPB staff provided an overview of transportation resilience planning, including various natural hazards that can impact the transportation system, the differences between mitigation and adaptation, and a summary of the TPB's recently completed vulnerability assessment. Due to a high level of committee interest, Ms. Rainone was unable to complete her presentation, so the group invited her to return to their March meeting for a continuation.

Member questions and comments included the following:

- It is important for this work on resiliency to be ***incorporated into the update of the regional transportation plan***, Visualize 2050. Staff assured committee members that the current work on resiliency will not only be reflected in the development of the new plan but will be incorporated into ongoing long-range planning activities at the TPB.
- Are these research activities considering the ***impacts of climate change on neighborhoods and communities***? Staff said that the fundamental intention of this work is to promote the resiliency of the systems that people use and rely upon every day. She said that, in particular, it is important to improve resiliency in traditionally disadvantaged communities, including Equity Emphasis Areas.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR VISUALIZE 2050 NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Rachel Beyerle, Transportation Communications Manager, and Cristina Finch, Transportation Planning Manager, provided information about plans for public engagement for Visualize 2050, including the next public comment period which will be conducted between March 1 and March 30, 2024.

Staff explained that this next round of engagement would focus on soliciting comments on projects that affect air quality conformity. The comment period will use a MetroQuest comment form.. To spread the word, staff will disseminate "ambassador kits," which will include sample emails and other materials that stakeholders and community leaders can share with their contact lists. Staff said they consider CAC members to be prime ambassadors for this activity.

Committee questions and comments included the following:

- Members had suggestions on ***how to conduct outreach*** for the comment period:
 - ***Use radio***. The public outreach efforts should consider placing ads on radio during traffic reporting. This kind of messaging could effectively target drivers when they are actually experiencing transportation challenges.

- **Use local government meetings.** TPB staff or CAC members can make announcements during public comment periods during city and county meetings.
 - **Include seniors.** The outreach should be sure to include seniors, who often use different methods for communication.
 - **Conduct in-person sessions.** As the TPB staff plan for future outreach, they should consider conducting some in-person sessions. Committee members noted that real personal interaction is still important.
- Committee members had a variety of **comments on the specific subject** of this comment period:
 - On one hand, if this comment period is intended to focus exclusively on projects affecting air quality conformity, one member said the **narrow focus needs to be clear.**
 - On the other hand, another member said the focus for engagement **should not be too narrow.** He noted that a lot of transportation problems do not only have transportation solutions. For example, if zoning were changed in some places that would allow more people to live close to Metro. He said there should be room for those kinds of comments.
 - A member suggested the **TPB should apply for a grant** under the federal “Safe Streets and Roads for All” program.

OTHER BUSINESS

- This was the first meeting led by 2024 CAC Chair Ra Amin
- CAC Chair Amin named two vice chairs for 2024 – Ashley Hutson and Richard Wallace
- Lyn Erickson of TPB staff provided a summary of the upcoming February TPB meeting agenda.
- John Swanson of TPB staff said a new round of the TPB’s Community Leadership Institute would be conducted during three evening sessions on April 25, April 30, and May 2. He encouraged the newer CAC members to attend and to share the CLI application with their communities.
- John Swanson also announced the release of the new People’s Guide to Transportation Decision Making, which updated the TPB’s Citizens Guide.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Ra Amin, Chair
 Nancy Abeles
 Timothy Davis
 Maribel Donahue
 Christina Farver
 Heather Gaona
 Zach Israel
 Kalli Krumpas

Ashley Hutson
 Bernie Locascio
 Daniel Papiernick
 Jeff Parnes
 Lorena Rios
 Rick Rybeck
 Gail Sullivan
 Larkin Turman

Staff

Rachel Beyerle
 Lyn Erickson
 Cristina Finch
 Leo Pineda
 Katherine Rainone
 John Swanson