
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

November 16, 2022
Ashley Hutson, CAC Chair

The TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Thursday, November 10. The committee discussed the next update of the region's long range transportation plan, current recruitment for the next term of committee members, and the 2022 state of the commute survey. The meeting was online-only.

UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2024 LONG-RANGE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Stacy Cook provided a briefing on preparations for the next long-range plan update, which is scheduled for approval in 2024.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- ***Discussion about visionary vs. realistic planning.*** Some CAC members spoke of a desire to see bolder and more visionary planning. One member said that the region's goals – including climate goals and Vision Zero goals – can only be met with a more ambitious set of projects. As an example, another member noted that the region regrettably seems to have given up on streetcars. In contrast, some participants spoke of the importance of making planning decisions based on realistic constraints. One member said that solutions that work in Europe will not necessarily work in our car-oriented culture. Stacy Cook from TPB staff some effective solutions to the region's transportation problems may not be appropriate for inclusion in the TPB's long-range plan.
- ***Confusion about zero-based budgeting.*** Members asked for more information about the actual implications of the zero-based budgeting approach that will be used for the 2024 plan update. Specifically, they said it would be useful to better understand what would cause a project to be taken out of the plan.

DISCUSSION ABOUT RECRUITMENT FOR 2023-2024 CAC

John Swanson of the TPB staff reminded the committee that the application period for the 2023-2024 CAC will be open until December 5. He led an open discussion in which members were asked what qualities the TPB should be looking for in new CAC members.

Members comments and suggestions included the following:

What personal qualities and characteristics make CAC members effective?

- Idealistic - Wanting to help make their communities better places.
- Interested – Having a strong interest in transportation, as well as in adjacent topics like land use, housing, economic development, and the environment.
- Patient – Willing to listen to lots of presentations; willing to be frustrated by the slow pace of planning.

- Open to outside-the-box ideas – Willing to go out on a limb and talk about pie-in-the-sky ideas.
- Curious – Interested in learning; interested in ideas that are different from their own.
- Open-minded – We need to be able to listen to each other and learn.
- Committed – Among other things, new members should make a commitment to attend meetings.
- Active – Already involved in their communities; people who are involved with other organizations and can be conduits for sharing information
- Knowledgeable – It’s helpful if you understand decision-making processes in your local jurisdictions.
- Balanced – Bringing locally oriented perspectives to the CAC discussions, but also being able to consider the bigger picture. Understanding that appropriate solutions may be different for different communities and for different parts of the region.

What experiences and perspectives should the TPB be looking for in committee membership?

- A mix of experiences on the committee is very important
- Mixed feelings about whether transportation professionals should be involved:
 - Some noted that the CAC shouldn’t just be dominated by transportation professionals.
 - ...but others said it can be helpful to have people on the committee with some technical background.
- Extra effort should be taken to get members whose perspectives may be left out
 - Get more input from outer jurisdictions, including folks who use commuter rail.
 - Try to be inclusive of the interests of low-income individuals.
 - Include representatives from counties and jurisdictions that have been less active in regional planning.

Suggestions for how to recruit members

- Get people involved who have been previously involved in local government, such as retired planners or staff of former elect of elected officials.
- Recruit past participants from the TPB’s Community Leadership Institute.
- Use social media to spread the word about the application process.

BRIEFING ON THE 2022 STATE OF THE COMMUTE SURVEY

Nick Ramfos of TPB staff briefed the CAC. He said that every three years since 2001, Commuter Connections has conducted a random sample survey of employed persons in the region to monitor trends in commuting behavior such as mode shares, telecommuting, and distance traveled, as well as attitudes about commuter assistance services. Among many other things, he said, the 2022 survey documented the recent surge in telework.

CAC member comments and suggestions included the following:

- ***The findings of this survey are extremely anomalous because of the pandemic.*** The findings should not be assumed to be to reflect larger trends regarding transit use or telework or other findings. Ramfos agreed with this comment and noted that the survey report was very careful to note the unusual circumstances of the recent years period.
- ***Will the data from the study be made available to the general public?*** Ramfos answered that the findings would be made available to jurisdiction staff but not to the general public.

- ***Suggestions regarding the availability of specific data points.*** Participants asked about specific data, including breakdowns by gender and age. One member asked if there was any documentation regarding slug lines. Nick Ramfos answered that the full survey report contained a wealth of data that his presentation only touched upon.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Lyn Erickson of TPB staff briefed the committee on the upcoming TPB meeting.
- John Swanson made the following announcements:
 - A new TPB public participation planner will begin in November and will attend the CAC meeting in December.
 - Recruitment for the new committee membership for calendar years 2023 and 2024 is currently underway. The application period will close on December 5. The TPB will be asked to approve new appointments in January. The new committee's term will begin in February 2023 and end in January 2025.

ATTENDEES

Members

Ashley Hutson, Chair
Nancy Abeles
Ra Amin
Michael Artson
Prince Coulibaly
Solomon Haile
Rob Jackson
Katherine Kortum
Audrey Nwaze
Daniel Papiernik
Jeff Parnes
Lorena Rios
Elisa Walton

Staff

Kanti Srikanth
Lyn Erickson
Nick Ramfos
Stacy Cook
Rachel Beyerle
John Swanson

Others

Bill Orleans
Bill Pugh