

REPORT

**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
March 21, 2007
Larry Martin, 2006 CAC Vice-Chairman**

The March 15 meeting of the CAC included a discussion of the TPB staff responses to the CAC's Recommendations on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, a briefing on the release of this year's long-range plan amendments, and a briefing on the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program.

Jim Larsen, the 2007 chair, was unable to attend the meeting, so the March 15 meeting was chaired by Larry Martin, who served as vice chair last year.

Discussion of Staff Responses to the CAC Recommendations on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS)

The CAC put considerable time and effort last year into the development of recommendations on the future of the TPB's scenario study, known as the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS). At the TPB meeting on February 21, Emmet Tydings, the 2006 CAC chair, presented these recommendations, which were developed to help maximize the study's overall usefulness.

The CAC was pleased to note that the TPB received the recommendations favorably. Following Mr. Tydings' presentation on February 21, TPB members voted to request staff to develop a plan for implementation to ensure that the recommendations do not "just sit on a shelf."

At the CAC meeting on March 15, TPB staff member John Swanson presented the staff's responses to the recommendations. A memorandum containing the responses was included on the TPB agenda under Item 16, and was included in the TPB mailout. In his presentation, Mr. Swanson provided background on the currently ongoing outreach activities, which provided a context for understanding how the staff plans to implement the study's next steps related to public involvement.

Mr. Swanson described staff responses to each of the 10 CAC recommendations. He said that for the most part, the CAC recommendations are consistent with the activities that TPB staff has begun to implement or is planning to pursue. He said these activities, comprising Phase II of the study, include the following:

- Public outreach to inform the future development and utilization of the study.
- More detailed analysis of already developed scenarios ("drilling down").
- Analysis of variably priced lane networks and implementation options.

In some cases, Mr. Swanson noted that the CAC recommendations will need to be more fully considered after these Phase II activities are completed, which is anticipated later this year. For example, he said, the completion of Phase II activities will provide the TPB with information that will be useful in determining whether and how the TPB might move forward with the development of a regional priorities plan (CAC Recommendation #7).

The committee voted unanimously to accept the responses from staff, although Larry Martin asked staff to develop a timeline for the implementation activities described in the staff responses memorandum. That timeline is attached to this report.

CAC members expressed general satisfaction with the staff's plans to move forward. Member comments included the following points:

- Members noted that several recommendations were essentially deferred until the completion of Phase II activities later this year, which makes the development of a timeline for implementation very important.
- Members reiterated their strong support for the expansion of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program and sought to ensure that the staff response to this position (Recommendation #2) would not preclude such an expansion. Staff assured the committee that staff was open to an expansion after the conclusion of the TLC pilot phase on June 30.
- A member suggested that staff should collaborate more extensively with the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) on the RMAS next steps. He said that the TPB CAC and the CAC for the MDPC should investigate possibilities for future collaboration, including a possible joint meeting.
- Following the CAC meeting on March 15, CAC members exchanged emails regarding the staff memorandum. In these emails, several members asked for clarification of the staff response to Recommendation #9, which called for an analysis of a scenario or scenarios that assume the conversion of existing general purpose lanes to variably priced lanes. The CAC members said the staff response could be interpreted to mean that staff would consider a scenario that started with a base of new capacity, which would be variably priced, and would add conversion of existing lanes. However, the members said the CAC recommendation had called for a reduction or elimination of the addition of new capacity in favor of emphasizing conversion of existing capacity.

In an email response to the CAC on March 19, Ron Kirby, Director of the Department of Transportation Planning, indicated that the staff memorandum was being misinterpreted. He wrote "the staff response says that 'additional existing facilities could be considered for conversion to variably priced lanes.' This includes facilities in the 'base of new capacity variably priced lanes' as well as other facilities."

The CAC requests that the staff elaborate on its response to Recommendation #9 to more fully respond to the intentions of the committee. If staff disagrees with the recommendation, it should clearly state its objection and follow up with its alternative proposed action.

Briefing on the Release of Project Information for the 2007 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The project submissions for this year's CLRP and TIP were released for public comment at the CAC meeting on March 15. Andrew Austin of the TPB staff briefed the CAC on the project submissions. He noted that the TPB on April 18 is scheduled to approve the project submissions for inclusion in this year's air quality conformity analysis.

CAC member comments including the following points:

- A member expressed concern about whether bicycle and pedestrian needs had been fully accommodated in the highlighted projects that staff presented. Mr. Austin responded that information on bicycle/pedestrian accommodations were included in the information posted on the TPB website.
- A member suggested that the maps that were presented should provide more information about what is on the ground already. For example, he noted that the first project described in Mr. Austin's presentation did not show downtown Frederick.

Briefing on the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program

Darren Smith of the TPB staff briefed the CAC on the status of the TLC program, including background on the projects that have been recommended to receive technical assistance during the program's pilot period. The CAC is on record in its support for the TLC program and will continue to monitor the program.

During discussion, a member suggested that the Potomac Avenue project should be sure to include long-time residents in any outreach activities that are pursued as part of the TLC project.

Other Business

John Swanson of the TPB staff announced several items:

- An outreach meeting on the TPB's scenario study ("What if the Washington Region Grew Differently?") will be held in Reston on March 22, starting at 8:00 pm at the Sunrise Valley Elementary School Cafeteria, 10824 Cross School Road. The meeting will be hosted by TPB Chairman Cathy Hudgins and the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations.
- Recent outreach presentations and forums have included the Montgomery County Council (February 13), Suitland (February 28), National Capital Park and Planning Commission (March 1) and Alexandria (March 7).
- TPB Vice Chairman Andrew Fellows has indicated that he will be nominated the final three appointments for this year's CAC at the TPB meeting on March 21.

- The committee welcomed a new Transportation Planner, Sarah Crawford, who has recently joined staff and will be working on public involvement activities.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, March 15, 2007

Members in Attendance

1. Larry Martin, DC, presiding chair
2. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
3. Stephen Cerny, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Grace Malakoff, DC
6. Dan Malouff, VA
7. Robin Marlin, DC
8. Allen Muchnick, VA
9. Alexandra Simpson, VA
10. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Stephen Caflisch, MD
2. Jim Larsen, VA
3. Emmet Tydings, MD

Alternates in Attendance

Vera Abbot, DC

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
Darren Smith, COG/TPB
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Bill Orleans

MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
FROM: John Swanson, COG/TPB Staff
SUBJECT: 2007 timeline for implementation of next steps in the TPB's Scenario Study

At the request of the CAC, TPB staff has prepared the following timeline, which indicates implementation milestones for the 2007 activities related to the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study:

Public Outreach to inform the future development and utilization of the study

- *March–June* – Staff will continue to conduct public outreach events, including interactive forums, presentations to elected officials and planning organizations, and other methods for raising awareness and soliciting public feedback.
- *July* – Staff will present a status report to the TPB on the feedback received through the public outreach.
- *October* – Staff will present a comprehensive report on public outreach.

More detailed analysis of already developed scenarios (“drilling down”)

- *March–September* – Staff will conduct more detailed analysis and present results to the TPB in the fall.

Analysis of variably priced lane networks and implementation options

- *March–September* – Staff will analyze variably priced-lane scenarios and present results to the TPB in the fall. The variably priced lane scenarios are being analyzed as part of a federal grant that is scheduled for completion in September.

Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program

- *March–June* – The pilot period for the TLC program will feature the implementation of six technical assistance projects, and the unveiling of the TLC website in April.
- *July* – Status report on the technical assistance projects provided under the pilot program.
- *July–September* – The TPB and staff will consider the next phase of the TLC program, including potential expansion of the program.

Determination of next steps beyond current activities

- *October–December* – The TPB will consider next steps based on the results of the activities listed above.