
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

May 11, 2023
Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The May meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, May 11. The committee discussed their goals and expectations as a committee, TPB's Technical Assistance Programs, and the Congestion Management Process. The meeting was held in a hybrid format with an in-person session held at the COG office and virtual session on WebEx.

ORIENTATION MODULE #2

Marcela Moreno introduced the second module of CAC orientation, which included small group discussion between returning and new CAC members about their expectations and goals for their two-year term. She asked the CAC to address the following questions:

- What are two things that your small group would like the CAC to address or accomplish over your two-year term?
- What are two expectations that your small group thinks that all CAC members should agree to for the committee to be positive and successful?
- What is one expectation that your group thinks that TPB staff should meet when working with the committee?

Member comments and questions included:

- **An interest in expanding upon the CAC's mission of "promoting public involvement in regional transportation planning".** One group of committee members expressed interest in reaching and engaging with members of their community. They also suggested that TPB maintain a presence at community events. Another group expressed interest in developing guidance for jurisdictions to use to increase public engagement. A third group expressed interest in public education about sharing the road with cyclists.
- **An interest in the CAC encouraging more interregional options for transportation.** Several groups expressed interest in having more mode options for interregional transportation, including transit and cycling. One group expressed interest in how this could alleviate congestion and help meet climate goals. Another group focused on bicycling infrastructure and noted that funding, design, and education are important considerations.
- **Expectations about promoting a regional perspective, member attendance, and respectful discourse.** Several groups mentioned that they expect CAC members to engage with a regional perspective and consider regional needs. One group said they expect members to attend meetings and listen to other members' perspectives with an open mind. Another group suggested continuing "Roundtable" opportunities to continue relationship building within the committee outside of their monthly meeting.
- **An expectation that the committee be forward-thinking in respect to new technology, information, and ideas.** One group noted that they expect committee members to consider how new technologies (EV, e-bikes, etc.) impact our transportation system. They added that they hope that TPB can meet and exceed climate goals and approach challenges with creative thought. For example, they added, different systems like freight rail and bus networks may be useful for enhancing delivery.

- **An interest in TPB staff establishing a forum for CAC members to engage with their TPB representative.** One group recalled that the last cohort of the CAC held breakout groups with their state TPB representative. They expressed interest in a similar session at a future CAC meeting.
- **Appreciation and desire to continue receiving meeting materials ahead of the meeting.** Several groups said they appreciate receiving mailout materials ahead of the meeting to better prepare and asked that staff continue this practice.

PRESENTATION ON TPB's TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

John Swanson and Janie Nham presented on the three TPB technical assistance programs: the Transportation Land Use Connections (TLC), Regional Roadway Safety (RRSP), and Transit Within Reach (TWR) programs. They provided an overview of the three programs, as well as highlighted past projects. They asked the CAC to address the following questions:

- Do you think that TLC and RRSP are regional programs? If so, how? Or are they really just programs for local governments?
- Do you have any suggestions for how we can share information about the work of these programs?

Member comments and questions included the following:

- **Support for TPB's technical assistance programs as a means for local jurisdictions to achieve regional goals and a desire to expand technical assistance programs.** Several members expressed support for TPB's technical assistance programs while mentioning that the available funding allows local jurisdictions to plan short-term projects that help achieve long-term regional goals like the Aspirational Initiatives. One member mentioned a project that provided connection to a transit station, so even a local project supports regional travel. Another member suggested that the CAC organize to support expanding technical assistance opportunities.
- **Question about how TPB tracks these projects after technical assistance ends.** One member asked if TPB follows up with technical assistance recipients on the status of project implementation. TPB staff clarified that staff conducts project monitoring but follow up is limited due to staff/funding constraints. They also noted that jurisdictions have flexibility to implement recommendations as they see fit. Another member said that considering additional monitoring may increase staff costs and limit the funding available for technical assistance grants.
- **Interest in how community partners engage on these projects.** One member asked about how these projects coordinated with community partners like school boards or PTAs, suggesting that they could be helpful for fundraising efforts. TPB staff added that in addition to these technical assistance programs, there is the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) which includes federal Safe Routes to Schools funding.
- **General questions about the application process.** Members asked questions about what organizations are able to apply for the TLC and RRSP program. TPB staff responded that projects are proposed by TPB member jurisdictions, and that non-member agencies can apply through a county or state level entity. They also added that the selected projects are approved by the TPB.

UPDATE ON CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Andrew Meese presented an overview of the Congestion Management Process

- **Curiosity about the impact of teleworking during the pandemic, and how we can apply data and studies to relieve congestion and bottlenecks in the future.** One member asked if the TPB has released information on traffic during the pandemic. Staff responded that COG and TPB have published some findings on pandemic impacts to traffic and office occupancy. The CAC member added that there are lessons to be learned from the pandemic like the prevalence of teleworking, that could be relevant to addressing congestion going forward.
- **Questions about what the bottleneck analysis considers.** One member asked if this tool looks back at land use changes, such as the location of additional residential or office units. TPB staff responded that the tool primarily focuses on major freeways and urban highways, so information on residential streets is limited. Another member asked if all vehicles are considered. Staff responded that the study tracks general purpose vehicles and trucks.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Marcela Moreno provided an overview of the upcoming TPB agenda.
- The Community Advisory Committee welcomed Cristina Finch to the TPB.
- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on June 15 as a virtual meeting held on WebEx.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
Alison Horn
Ashley Hutson
Carolyn Wilson
Christina Farver
Daniel Papiernik
Felipe Millán
Gail Sullivan
Jacqueline Overton Allen
Jeffery Parnes
Kalli Krumpas
Larkin Turman
Lorena Rios
Maribel Wong

Nancy Abeles
Noell Evans
Ra Amin
Tafadzwa Gwitira

Staff

Andrew Meese
Cristina Finch
Janie Nham
John Swanson
Justine Velez
Lyn Erickson
Marcela Moreno
Rachel Beyerle