

REPORT

**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
July 12, 2007
James Larsen, CAE, CAC Chairman**

The July 12 meeting of the CAC included an update of TPB staff's recent public involvement activities, presentation and discussion of a report summarizing feedback from the Scenario Study outreach activities, and an update on the status of the TPB's Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program.

Mr. Larry Martin, Vice-Chair of the CAC for the District of Columbia, chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. Larsen.

Update of TPB Staff's Recent Public Involvement Activities

TPB staff member Darren Smith introduced new TPB staff member Monica Bansal, who will be working with Wendy Klancher on various tasks including some public involvement activities. Mr. Smith also reviewed the anticipated timeline for consideration and approval by the TPB of the draft Participation Plan, which the CAC reviewed and discussed at its previous meeting in June.

Presentation and Discussion of Scenario Outreach Feedback Summary

Mr. Smith discussed TPB staff outreach efforts surrounding the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario (RMAS) Study. He provided an overview of the RMAS Study Outreach activities, and discussed the feedback voiced by outreach audiences. He said that while most participants agreed on the land use factors causing regional congestion, and there was some consensus on a strategy of trying to alleviate congestion by concentrating growth in activity centers served by transit, audiences identified many challenges and concerns about implementation of this strategy. These challenges included housing affordability as a driver of land use patterns and municipal fiscal motivations encouraging job growth above housing. He said audiences feared that government would not provide adequate infrastructure, especially road and transit capacity, to accommodate a strategy of concentrated growth, with many saying that localized side effects would outweigh the potential benefits of such a regional strategy.

Mr. Smith concluded his presentation by listing eight opportunities for TPB action, among which are communicating a cohesive message about regional challenges related to growth, advocating for more funding for transportation improvements, providing more tools for localities to "do density right", and improving the process through which transportation projects are prioritized in the region. He said the next steps would be to consider prior CAC recommendations and this public feedback to determine future Scenario Study activities, and

to recommend that the TPB create a subcommittee or task force to provide policy stewardship for the future of the Scenario Study and related outreach.

Comments from CAC members included:

- TPB staff should draw comparisons between the public feedback and CAC recommendations and further develop these into a set of next steps for where the TPB should take this report.
- The Scenario Study has not effectively provided a process for the region to prioritize projects and direct coordinated transportation and land use development. The TPB should move forward in developing this relationship based on public feedback and CAC recommendations.
- It is difficult to move forward a cohesive message about regional growth challenges, particularly when the media seems reluctant to report on long-term, regional issues. Other members agreed, adding:
 - There is no common vision represented in a regional newspaper.
 - The media represents private interests, including real estate and development.
- A new TPB subcommittee should work to formulate a cohesive strategy for moving forward the Scenario Study and developing a regional message about growth.
- The TPB must consider the impact of local zoning on future scenarios and realize that zoning regulations drive development patterns.

Update on the TPB's Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program

TPB staff member Sarah Crawford provided a PowerPoint presentation on a status report on the Regional Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance components of the TLC Program. She provided a demonstration of the Regional Clearinghouse (www.mwccog.org/tlc), showing the CAC members the national best practices on linking transportation and land-use, and the regional database, a compilation of local examples of this linkage. She discussed the status of the five location-specific technical assistance projects and the development of the public presentation on density issues that will be available region-wide.

Ms. Crawford said that once the pilot projects are all complete, the TPB will conduct a thorough evaluation of the pilot round, scheduling conference calls with the participating jurisdictions and consultants, as well as asking them to complete a written questionnaire about their experience participating in the program. She said this evaluation will inform the second round of funding for Technical Assistance, which is currently planned for the same level in FY 2008.

Comments from CAC members included:

- The TPB should be methodical in evaluating the success of the technical assistance projects in the pilot round, and use the evaluation to shape how projects are selected in future rounds.
- The project results from the TLC program should be used to inform future stages of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study.

- Future rounds of the TLC program should provide funding levels that will make a greater impact on regional development.

Other Business

- Mr. Kirby reviewed the TPB agenda, highlighting the following items:
 - Item 7: The establishment of a Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force.
 - Item 8: A briefing on the dismissed complaint against the TPB in the Intercounty Connector lawsuit.
 - Item 9: A briefing on responses to TPB comments on the Freight Railroad Realignment Feasibility Study developed by the National Capital Planning Commission.
 - Items 10, 11, 12, and 13: Briefings on Visualization of the CLRP and land use information, the TPB Participation Plan, the Draft Report and Feedback Summary for the TPB Scenario Study Outreach Activities, and a Status Report on the TLC pilot program, four items that are interrelated in their efforts to provide opportunities for the TPB to enhance the ability for interested parties to participate in the TPB process and implement key recommendations of this participation.
- The CAC asked that improvements be made to the TPB minutes so that public comment is fully reflected. Suggestions for improving the minutes included:
 - Posting online the remarks submitted by the public
 - Providing online an audio file of the public comment session, and preferably of the entire TPB meeting.
 - Videotaping the meeting and stream this video online.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, July 12, 2007

Members in Attendance

1. Larry Martin, DC, Vice-chair
2. Stephen Cerny, VA
3. Grace Malakoff, DC
4. Daniel Malouff, VA
5. Allen Muchnick, VA
6. Todd Reitzel, MD
7. Alexandra Simpson, VA
8. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
2. Steve Cafilisch, MD
3. Harold Foster, DC
4. Jim Larsen, VA, Chair
5. Robin Marlin, DC
6. Jahantab Siddiqui, MD
7. Emmet Tydings, MD

Staff/Others

- Monica Bansal, COG/TPB
 Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB
 Ronald Kirby, COG/TPB
 Darren Smith, COG/TPB
 Allen Greenberg