

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

February 27, 2023

Christina Henderson, Chair

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on February 27. The committee discussed the Visualize 2050 kick-off, the results of the Visualize 2045 Environmental Justice analysis, and the update to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan. The AFA advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, underrepresented communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

VISUALIZE 2050 KICK-OFF

Lyn Erickson, Plan and Program Coordination Director, provided a briefing on the Visualize 2050 plan development kick-off. She discussed the activities that will take place over the next few months as the plan development occurs. There were no comments from the committee on this item.

VISUALIZE 2045 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) ANALYSIS

Sergio Ritacco, TPB Transportation Planner, presented the results of the federally required EJ analysis of the 2022 update of Visualize 2045. The findings from the analysis concluded that the plan does not have a disproportionately high or significantly adverse impact on low-income and racial or ethnic minority population groups. Comments and questions from the committee included:

- **Questions about the EJ analysis process:** Committee members had questions about the process including the frequency of the analysis and model inputs. Staff responded that the analysis is conducted with every major long-range transportation plan update, or approximately every four years. Staff also clarified that the model includes travel behavior based on new land use and transportation projects including highways and transit. Another member asked about the flexibility of the analysis to account for the impact of emerging technologies.
- **Discussion about metrics or visualizations to better understand mobility over time:** One committee member recommended that an index rating could be used to compare public transit or other measures in EEAs versus non-EEAs to understand disparities. Staff responded that currently the data demonstrates that EEAs will experience improved access to jobs via public transit, but both EEAs and non-EEAs see a decrease in jobs accessible in 45 minutes via auto travel because of congestion impacts. Staff added that the results of the analysis demonstrate changing conditions based on anticipated changes from proposed projects included in the Visualize 2045 and projected changes in the region compared to today's conditions. Another committee member asked about the pandemic's impact to essential worker's access to their jobs. Staff responded that project inputs began in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, and the TPB will be updating the plan ahead of its four-year cycle. They noted that it is an opportunity to identify lessons learned during the EJ analysis and review of projects.

COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (COORDINATED PLAN) UPDATE

Sergio Ritacco presented an overview of the Coordinated Plan, the timeline for the required update, and the AFA's role in the process. He shared the unmet transportation needs previously identified by the committee and draft strategies and priority projects to meet those needs. The draft Coordinated Plan will be released in March to gather feedback on elements of the plan. Comments and questions from the committee included:

- **Discussion about additional unmet needs including paratransit coverage, language access, rural healthcare transportation, and developing transit for families.** Several members identified unmet needs for inclusion in the plan. One member asked about how the plan could address paratransit access in developing areas, and service gaps where fixed-route transit (and subsequently the ¾ mile paratransit service area) was cut during the pandemic. Another member asked about addressing the challenge of meeting transportation needs of older adults with Limited English Proficiency, especially those that live alone. A committee member added about the importance of informing the public in different languages per the Language Access Act in DC or Title VI with a professional translator in a culturally competent way. Another member discussed healthcare transportation and noted HB 596 and SB 511 that seek to establish a rural NEMT program in Maryland. Another member noted that if you build transit with families in mind then it would benefit everyone.
- **Questions about WMATA/MetroAccess coverage.** One member observed that they have not seen many MetroAccess vehicles in Prince George’s County. A committee member representing WMATA responded that MetroAccess will serve people where buses and trains WMATA and its compact members provide service. Another member asked about how WMATA coordinated with routes from local bus providers. A committee member representing WMATA stated that the Bus Planning department collects all changes made by local bus services which is updated into their scheduling and maps.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Henderson thanked the committee for sharing their preferences for hybrid versus virtual-only meetings. She announced that the June 26, 2023 and September 18, 2023 AFA meetings would be held in a hybrid format, with an in-person meeting at COG and a concurrent virtual option.

District of Columbia

Tyler Cargill
 Faye Dastgheib
 Anthony DeLorenzo
 Heather Edelman
 Christopher Grayton
 Nechama Masliansky
 Angela Miller
 Brenda Richardson

Maryland

Doreen Brown
 Deborah Fisher
 Sara Fought
 Jade Gingerich
 Yolanda Hipski
 Denise Isreal
 Marci LeFevre
 Robert Malone
 Bill Orleans

Virginia

Cynthia Alarico
 Emily Braley
 Tom Furlong
 Clemon Hammie
 Roger Hoskin

Valesca Maldonado

Lorena Rios
 Karen Smith

Regional

Janine Ashe
 Cecilia Castillo-Ayometzi
 Glenn Millis
 Angela White

TPB Staff

Jamie Bufkin
 Rachel Beyerle
 Lyn Erickson
 Justine Velez
 Mohammad Khan
 Andrew Meese
 Marcela Moreno
 Katherine Rainone
 Kanti Srikanth
 Kimberly Sutton
 John Swanson

Chair

Christina Henderson, Council of the District of Columbia