
**TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT**

June 15, 2016

Douglas Stewart, Chairman

At its meeting on June 9, the CAC was briefed on the draft Regional Freight Plan and on TPB/COG activities supporting SafeTrack. The committee also discussed the work of the TPB's Long-Range Plan Task Force, focusing on how the public might be included in the process of developing that plan.

DISCUSSION ON LONG-RANGE TASK FORCE

Gary Hodge, the CAC representative on the Long-Range Plan Task Force, started the discussion by updating the committee on the task force's May meeting. He expressed frustration with the direction of the task force. He was concerned that the focus seems to be primarily on the plan development process and selection criteria, which he feared would become opaque and ambiguous. He said that rather than developing a "finer mesh screen" that would use a sort of black-box approach to identify 12-15 unfunded priority projects, the planning process should use a more straight-forward approach that would ask people to identify their top projects. Then staff could analyze a list of the top selected projects to see which ones fit agreed-upon criteria for inclusion. He said he thought the top projects would generally be known to people throughout the region. He said this process should seek simplicity, not complexity.

In the following discussion, the CAC members' main concern was that there needs to be a robust public involvement aspect to the development of the Long-Range Plan. They expressed the importance of choosing projects for inclusion that would have impact on the region and would be significant for the public.

BRIEFING ON THE TPB'S REGIONAL FREIGHT PLAN

Jon Schermann of TPB staff briefed the committee on the draft Freight Plan. He provided an overview of the plan, explained how freight moves through the region, and how demographics play a role in the different kinds of freight and modes of moving it. One member asked about why this region has less freight moved by rail and asked if that was because there are fewer tracks. The answer was yes, that this region has fewer tracks compared to Chicago or New York.

Another committee member asked about public and private roles and how to shift freight from trucks to rail if possible. There were other comments about how this plan will be used and if it is for a bold plan or just tracking trends. One member commented on how to incorporate freight in the activity centers and how to mitigate effects on the communities near where freight must travel.

BRIEFING ON TPB'S ROLE IN COMMUNICATING REGIONAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SAFETRACK

Nicholas Ramfos of TPB staff briefed the committee on the ways that the TPB and COG are helping to communicate regional actions during Metro's safety surge called SafeTrack. He provided an overview of the advertising from Commuter Connections on radio and print. He also explained the various TPB committees that bring together jurisdictional staff to share information.

One committee member commented that there was no clear statement in the presentation about why Commuter Connections was doing this public relations push. Ramfos answered that it is not just for people to use Commuter Connections but also raise awareness that SafeTrack will affect everyone and they need to start planning ahead.

Other committee members expressed concern that there are populations who are not receiving these messages. They asked about Commuter Connections’ database of subscribers but wondered if anyone is working with community groups to reach other Metro riders including children who use the system to get to schools and others.

They also asked if there was a way to map out alternatives so that people could actually look up where they need to go and see what alternatives they have to Metro. TPB and COG staff explained that local governments are doing a great deal of public outreach and expanding their services during the Safety Surge, and COG is providing mechanisms for them to share information and learn from one another.

OTHER DISCUSSION

- John Swanson reviewed the agenda for the June TPB meeting.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT	ALTERNATES	TPB STAFF AND GUESTS
Douglas Stewart, Chairman	Gary Hodge	John Swanson, staff
Keith Benjamin, Vice-Chairman	Molly O’Connell	Abigail Zenner, staff
Jeanose Lexima	Jette Findsen	Ben Hampton, staff
Rob Jackson		Jon Schermann, staff
Jeff Parnes		Andy Meese, staff
Lorena Rios		Nicholas Ramfos, staff
Tina Slater		Bill Orleans
Emmet Tydings		
Stephen Still		
Bob Summersgill		
Douglas Stewart, Chairman		
Keith Benjamin, Vice-Chairman		
Jeanose Lexima		