
**TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT**

July 20, 2016

Douglas Stewart, Chairman

At its meeting on July 14, the CAC was briefed on a traffic analysis of SafeTrack Surge 1. The committee also discussed the work of the TPB's Long-Range Plan Task Force and committee's progress on their 2016 work plan.

DISCUSSION ON LONG-RANGE TASK FORCE

Gary Hodge, the CAC representative on the Long-Range Plan Task Force, summarized the discussion at the June 15 task force meeting. He said that the conversation was lively and that progress was being made towards framing a process to identify a limited number of regionally significant unfunded projects that can be tested against criteria and around which the public can be engaged. He observed that some members of the group felt that more emphasis should be put on policy analysis. There was also discussion about the magnitude of projects that should be considered. He said that he spoke up to remind the task force that projects often come in phases and that some game changing projects are not currently being considered.

Kanti Srikanth updated the committee on status of the task force. He said that there would be no meeting in July, and that the next meeting in September would include a presentation of the "all-build analysis" showing the impact of building all the planned and unfunded projects in the region. He said that staff is working with task force leadership to develop a process that would identify a small group of game changing projects to take to the region.

The committee agreed that it is important to demonstrate the impact and value of projects to the public as part of the process.

Through discussion, the committee also reaffirmed a view stated during the May CAC meeting. The committee encourages staff to develop a plan for engaging the public around the prioritization of unfunded projects.¹

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CAC WORK PLAN

Bryan Hayes summarized CAC actions and discussions from the 2016 session. Since approving the work plan earlier this year, the CAC has had four discussions related to the Long-Range Plan Task Force and three discussions about ways that the CAC can advocate for and support TPB public participation efforts. The committee has already achieved one of the stated goals for the year, to appoint a CAC representative to sit on the Long-Range Plan Task Force and report back to the CAC summarizing the discussions and action at the task force meeting. Bryan encouraged the committee to think about how that can achieve more of their goals going forward.

The CAC discussed the value of tracking CAC member outreach to organization and groups throughout the region. They recognized that this outreach falls on a spectrum ranging from simple information sharing about the CAC and the TPB, to more involved advocacy activities. It was

¹ For more detail, see the CAC Report from the May 18, 2016 TPB meeting:
[https://www.mwcog.org/assets/1/28/Item_4_-_Report_of_the_Citizens_Advisory_Committee_\(CAC\)12.pdf](https://www.mwcog.org/assets/1/28/Item_4_-_Report_of_the_Citizens_Advisory_Committee_(CAC)12.pdf)

suggested that TPB staff can support the committee by providing print and online materials that they can use to raise awareness in their communities and at events like Bike to Work Day.

The committee also discussed the challenge of planning outreach meetings when it is unclear how the discussion at those meetings can influence decision making at the TPB. One member stated that a clear goal for engagement was necessary in order for that engagement activity to be successful. Another suggested that hosting an online “town-hall” might make it easier to include more people from across the region.

The committee agreed that public involvement should be used to help validate significant or game-changing projects as part of the effort to identify and prioritize unfunded capital needs.

SAFETRACK: TRAFFIC CONDITIONS DURING SAFETRACK SURGE 1

Wenjing Pu presented an analysis of traffic conditions during SafeTrack Surge 1, which found that overall traffic congestion increased during the surge. He described his methodology for comparing the changes in traffic conditions. The biggest increases in traffic occurred on freeways in northern Virginia during the morning commute. The analysis also showed that the congestion tailed off towards the end of the surge as traveler’s adjusted to the new travel pattern.

The committee asked about how this analysis can be useful. Wenjing responded that it can make planning agencies make decisions and that transportation agencies use similar data to make real-time decisions in operation centers.

OTHER DISCUSSION

- Kanti Srikanth reviewed the agenda for the June TPB meeting.
- Andrew Austin previewed the new COG website.
- Bryan Hayes summarized discussion from the June 23 AFA meeting.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT	ALTERNATES	TPB STAFF AND GUESTS
Douglas Stewart, Chairman	Gary Hodge	Bryan Hayes, Staff
Jeremy Martin, Vice-Chairman	Molly O’Connell	John Swanson, staff
Rob Jackson	Jette Findsen	Kanti Srikanth, staff
Jeff Parnes	Adeyinka Ogunlegan	Ben Hampton, staff
Tina Slater	Bob Lawrence	Lamont Cobb, staff
Emmet Tydings		Andy Meese, staff
Bob Summersgill		Wenjing Pu, staff
Robyn Jackson		Andrew Austin, staff
Nancy Abeles		Bill Orleans