
**TPB ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

June 23, 2016

1. WELCOME

Charles Allen, AFA Chairman

Mr. Allen welcomed committee members and guests to the newly re-launched AFA. He provided a brief overview of the agenda.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Charles Allen, AFA Chairman

Mr. Allen asked attendees to break into groups of two and talk about who they are and their reasons for participating in the AFA. Then each pair introduced their partner to the whole committee these interactive introductions helped the committee get to know one another.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE TPB AND THE FINANCIALLY CONSTRAINED LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CLRP)

Bryan Hayes, TPB Transportation Planner

Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director

Mr. Hayes provided a brief overview about the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) that included a description of the board membership, the TPB's key roles, and the main planning documents.

Mr. Srikanth described the TPB's responsibility for long-range transportation planning and the process for developing the TPB's Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan. He talked about the role of public participation in that process and the federal requirements that the TPB must meet.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE TPB'S ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wendy Klancher, TPB Transportation Planner

Ms. Klancher provided a short history of the AFA, Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force, and the decision to merge the two groups. She shared the activities of the new committee, which fall into three different categories: 1) Input into the TPB's transportation planning process, 2) Human Service Transportation Coordination including updates to the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan, and 3) Discussion of operational issues and concerns. She also described the requirements for membership eligibility and said that AFA members should be community connectors that are able to represent a larger group to the committee.

Mr. Clark, from the Tri-County Council, asked about the efforts made to include veteran's groups in the membership of the committee.

5. ROUNDTABLE ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE AFA

Charles Allen, AFA Chairman

Mr. Allen facilitated a roundtable discussion with meeting participants. Each person was asked to share the single most important regional transportation issues experienced by the traditionally-disadvantaged communities that members represent. The following are the top concerns shared by meeting participants:

- With the aging of the Baby Boomers, transportation for those wishing to “age in place” is a concern
- For Prince George’s County, it’s challenge finding funding to expand “The Bus” service Metrorail is not everywhere and bus services provide key services to fill the gap, but the hours are limited
- There should be a checklist of environmental oversight regulations for major developments so communities understand what air quality, environmental and health assessments must be done for major developments such as proposals for GSA at St. Elizabeth’s and a new location for the Mystic Center
- The cost of Metrorail is too high for some people, especially for those working part-time with hourly wages
- Metrorail should be extended into the suburbs “last mile” problems make it difficult to live in these areas without a car
- The new interest in providing alternatives to paratransit, such as the use of Uber and Lyft, need to be examined carefully, and there is a need to understand how these flexible alternatives are being thought out to make sure they work for people with disabilities
- The lack of late night and off peak service is an issue and there is a need for more travel training and accessible pathways
- There is a need for more affordable as well as safe mobility for older adults, including safe driving education and technology, travel training and travel alternatives such as escorted transportation
- What are the lessons learned from SafeTrack, and what tweaks that are made could be kept in place?
- Language access to transit for people with limited English proficiency is a top concern also its confusing to have different reduced fare policies for older adults– an example of D.C. vs Maryland County’s was given
- Construction projects block accessible pathways and very often wheelchair access to sidewalks is eliminated. There is a need to better communicate changes in accessibility related to construction, especially at transit stops
- Interest in the health impacts of planning decisions, such as high asthma rates for those living near major roadways
- The extent to which transportation planning is done in an equitable fashion and doesn’t place one community above another
- Concerns that services such as Uber and Lyft do not accommodate people using wheelchair or service animals
- Challenges with the need for more funding for bus systems, increase the fleet size and hiring work ready skilled drivers
- The need for education to both drivers and people in wheelchairs about bike lanes wheelchair users sometimes are in the bike lanes which is dangerous
- Increase opportunities to address equity for people with low-incomes in active transportation
- Human service agencies serving people with developmental disabilities are having difficulties finding sufficient resources to support the new policy to move clients into community based models
- Family members of those with developmental disabilities have a fear of their children using public transit or MetroAccess, which puts more pressure on human service agency to provide their own transportation services
- There is room for greater cooperation among jurisdictions and agencies across state lines
- There is need for more options for the first mile/last mile problem for people using transit
- The need for safe pedestrian access without items blocking curb cuts or other features for people with disabilities

- Safe pedestrian crossings around major highways, especially for people who are deaf
- WMATA needs more funding
- Congestion can have a negative impact on quality of life
- Safety on Metrorail is a concern especially after the smoke incident on the Green Line
Communication lines between the public and Metro need to be improved
- People shouldn't have to worry about their personal safety at transit stops with increased violent crime at transit stops people always have to keep their eyes open
- Safe, adequate and affordable transportation options during SafeTrack is a concern
- Interest in continued innovation to provide alternatives to MetroAccess and raising awareness about the accessibility of Metro
- Concern about the cost of transportation for people with low-incomes
- Improved coordination of paratransit services in D.C.
- MetroAccess is unreliable and inefficient
- In outer ring counties and rural areas, there is very little transit access in rural areas, and existing services are being cut making transportation even more challenging for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities
- The consequences of land use planning decisions in jurisdictions impact travel patterns and there is a need to examine how different choices impact traditionally-disadvantaged population groups. For example, land use planning can impact travel times for low-income workers and can be cost-inefficient.
- Metrorail fares can be prohibitive for the homeless, making it difficult to find work and access services. Fewer organizations are providing fare subsidies so the homeless can access transit
- Safety at bus shelters in SE is a concern. Mothers with infants and frail seniors using these stops
- There is an increasing number of requests for trips from older adults and organizations are not able to recruit enough drivers to serve the demand more recruitment efforts are needed to find additional volunteer drivers

Mr. Srikanth acknowledged and thanked Mr. Shaw, Director of the D.C. Office of Planning, for participating in the meeting, and for being an active voice on the TPB for equity concerns.

Ms. Klancher of the TPB staff provided a summary of the themes from the facilitated discussion and stated that a meeting summary would be emailed to the committee for review.

Mr. Allen stated that the feedback received would be used to inform future AFA agendas, and thanked everyone for their participation and enthusiasm before adjourning the meeting.

ATTENDEES

Alexa Mavroidis, Arlington Transit Advisory Committee Accessibility Subcommittee	Kristen Franklin, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation	Charles Allen, AFA Chairman, Councilmember from the District of Columbia
Andy Wexler, Arlington Transit	Lessie Henderson, Prince George's Advocates for Community-Based Transit	Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
Angela Miller, Direct Action (for people with Disabilities)	Lorena Rios, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Virginia	Wendy Klancher, staff
Brenda Richardson, Earth Conservation Corps	Marieannette Otero, Safe Routes to School National Partnership	Bryan Hayes, staff
Charlie Crawford, Representing people with disabilities and AFA liaison to AAC	Monica White, Maryland Transit Administration	Lynn Winchell-Mendy, staff
Chris Blake, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Office of ADA Programs	Nadia Anderson, AAA	Lamont Cobb, staff
Dan Emerine, DC Office of Planning	Nechama Masliansky (phone), SOME (So Others Might Eat)	John Swanson, staff
Daria Cervantes, The Arc of Montgomery County	Nicole Goines, Federal City Council	Abigail Zenner, staff
David Do, Mayor's Office for Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs	Raka Choudhry, District Department of Transportation	Sergio Ritacco, staff
Debby Fisher, CHI, Inc.	Richard Ezike, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation	Anne Phelps, Staff to DC Councilmember Allen
Era Pandya, Montgomery County Public Schools	Rikki Epstein (phone), The Arc of Northern Virginia	Bill Orleans, resident
Eric Shaw, DC Office of Planning	Roger Hoskin, Represents older adults	
George Clark, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Sandra Dent (phone),	
Harriet Block, Jewish Council for the Aging	Susie McFadden-Resper, DC Office of Disability Rights	
Janine Ashe, Federal Highway Administration - DC Metro Division	Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	
Jayson Green, YMCA Fairfax County Reston	Tyra Redus, District Department of Transportation	
Jennifer Kanarek (phone), NV Rides	William Farrell (phone), Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna	
Karen Smith, The Arc of Greater Prince William	Kate Robb, American Public Health Association	
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation		