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**TPB CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT**

January 16, 2019

*Katherine Kortum, CAC Chair*

In 2018, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) participated in the development of Visualize 2045 in addition to fulfilling its mission by working to *promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region, and providing independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues.*

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018**

During the year, the committee provided feedback and guidance on many issues, ranging from performance-based planning and programming to transportation safety. The following describes the topics and ways in which the CAC feels it had the biggest impact in 2018.

At the beginning of the 2018 session, the CAC voted on its priorities for the year. These included: improving public engagement around Visualize 2045; improving transportation access and equity; and exploring implications of emerging transportation technology.

#### **Visualize 2045**

The committee applauds the TPB staff and the board for trying something different with Visualize 2045. They are glad that the plan was approved and are thankful for the opportunity to participate in the process. Members of the committee appreciated involvement in the planning of the public forums. Those that were able to attend the meetings were excited to see TPB staff raising awareness about the regional plan in their communities. The committee also liked holding one of its own CAC meetings at the Visualize 2045 Open House in the District of Columbia outside of the COG offices. The committee felt like it played a role in raising awareness about Visualize 2045 throughout the year.

#### **Transportation Equity**

Several times throughout the year the committee was briefed on the TPB's work with Equity Emphasis Areas, the Coordinated Human-Service Transportation Plan, and the environmental justice analysis of Visualize 2045. The committee felt they provided meaningful feedback on these activities and encourages the TPB to continue its work to make transportation more equitable in the Washington region.

#### **Transportation Technology and Other Accomplishments**

The committee received one briefing that provided a high-level look at transportation technology in the Washington region and ways that other MPOs are dealing with technology, including autonomous vehicles. The committee encouraged TPB staff to continue tracking developments in this area.

Committee members were also proud of the feedback they provided to the consultant assisting staff with an evaluation of participation activities. The committee also appreciates the board's quick response to CAC frustration that the WMATA board was considering terminating the Rider's Advisory Council.

### **Comments and advice on TPB plans**

In addition to providing comments and advice on Visualize 2045, the committee provided input into the monthly TPB meeting agenda, Performance-Based Planning and Programming targets, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

### **MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**

With all that the CAC accomplished and discussed during 2018, several missed opportunities were identified. Although the committee decided that it had some success in discussing its priorities, it would have liked more time set aside to fully address CAC interests. Specifically, members said they wanted to hear more about how the TPB and different jurisdictions in the region are planning for changes in transportation technology. The committee felt like it could have encouraged staff to be clearer when communicating complex ideas. The staff also felt like better attendance from committee members could help discussion.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019**

The committee discussed recommendations for the 2019 CAC. The 2018 committee encourages the new group to take the following into consideration as they plan their work.

#### **Questions**

- What is the TPB's travel demand model and how does it work? What plans are in place to improve the model in the future?
- What transportation "big" data exists, how is it being collected and used, and how might that change? Also, what data privacy concerns might future transportation technologies bring?
- Are there any other community-based groups in the region that the CAC can collaborate with?
- How can the committee encourage the TPB to follow-through on implementation of aspirational initiatives?
- How can the committee work to raise awareness about regional transportation planning, Visualize 2045, and opportunities to get involved in the regional process?

#### **Advice**

- Don't get discouraged. The TPB works at a high-level and plans for the long-term future. It can take a while to really understand the TPB's role in the region, and transportation planning simply takes a long time.
- Ask questions of fellow CAC members and TPB staff.
- You get out of the committee what you put into it.
- Review recent CAC and TPB accomplishments to get a better understanding for how the committee can be as effective as soon as possible.

### **AT THE JANUARY CAC MEETING THE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED**

- John Swanson, TPB Transportation Planner, briefed the committee on recent developments related to the aspirational initiatives from Visualize 2045.
- Lyn Erickson, Plan Development & Program Coordination Director, reviewed the agenda for the January TPB meeting.

## ATTENDEES

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Katherine Kortum, chair  
Robert Jackson  
Ronit Dancis  
Meredith Howell  
Stephen Still  
Emmet Tydings  
Veronica Lowe  
Jeremy Martin

### ALTERNATES

Daniel Papiernik

### TPB STAFF AND GUESTS

Lyn Erickson, staff  
John Swanson, staff  
Bryan Hayes, staff  
Abigail Zenner, staff  
Bill Orleans, resident