

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
February 18, 2015
Bob Summersgill, Chair

The 2015 CAC held its first meeting of the year on February 12th. Initial business included introductions from the members present. The committee also received briefings from TPB staff on the upcoming February TPB meeting agenda, as well as the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. The meeting ending with general discussion on members' goals and priorities for the year ahead.

Chair Summersgill opened the meeting and led members through introductions.

Overview of Recent and Anticipated TPB Activities

Kanti Srikanth, Director of Transportation Planning, gave an introduction to the TPB's activities, including the CLRP, other requirements of federal transportation legislation, and the TPB's work with the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

Mr. Srikanth also mentioned the TPB's upcoming activities, including the Multi-Sector Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the development of a regional list of unfunded transportation projects. He emphasized that the CAC can play a role in both of these activities as they move forward. He also mentioned the recent approval of the Public Participation Plan and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Members spent 15 minutes with questions and comments regarding specific points on Regional Activity Centers, federal transportation legislation, funding and oversight of WMATA, and integration of past TPB policies, such as the Complete Streets Policy, into upcoming activities.

Briefing on the Upcoming Agenda

Mr. Srikanth provided a briefing on the upcoming TPB agenda for the February 18th meeting. He also provided some background information on committee structure, action items, and public comments on projects related to I-66 in Northern Virginia.

Briefing on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan.

John Swanson of TPB staff provided a briefing on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. He described the goals of the plan, and the three main strategies of the plan. He noted that the plan also supports increased funding for WMATA's 2025 Momentum Plan and COG's 141 designated Regional Activity Centers. Mr. Swanson also noted that TPB staff assessed the 2014 CLRP based on the RTPP. He said the CLRP showed a strong commitments to maintenance, increased development and use of Activity Centers, and several new lines of transit. But he also said the assessment highlighted some areas for improvements, including the continuing need to fund the Momentum 2025 Plan and the challenge of the east-west regional divide.

The CAC expressed concerns about the need for grassroots outreach, which should extend beyond traditional "stakeholders." The committee also called for more rigorous evaluation of public support for projects. Mr. Swanson responded that the TPB's existing public outreach process relies on community leaders to distribute information to the public on regional transportation activities, but he said this process is open to review and improvement. Mr. Srikanth noted that most projects that come before

the TPB are the subject of development processes, including public involvement, at the local and state levels.

Other Business

Chair Summersgill directed members into general discussion about their interests and suggestions for the group over the upcoming year. The group agreed to further discuss forming subcommittees to tackle issues outside of the CAC's regular meeting. Topics for such subcommittee actions may include:

- Reauthorization of federal transportation funding and the highway trust fund
- Focused CAC outreach to organizations outside of the TPB
- Coordination among state DOTs and regional transit agencies, particularly on emergency response
- WMATA fares, service and safety issues

Committee members also suggested the Committee might pursue the following actions:

- Observe funding for projects at the state level and look for ways to encourage shifts in how money is spent, raise new revenues, and regain public trust;
- Encourage the TPB to optimize the use of the CAC;
- Promote the use of open data at the regional level, particularly for transit agencies;
- Address inequity in transit funding and consider how connectivity between job and population centers affects low-income families and the availability of affordable housing;
- Find ways to support short term, nimble projects for implementation rather than long-term planning; consider ways to promote experiment projects with quick turn-around in cost-effective ways;
- Encourage a rethinking of existing data models and examine how the TPB prioritizes projects through a multitude of viewpoints;
- Look at issues of safety in transportation, both in transit and on highways

ATTENDEES

CAC Meeting, February 12, 2015

Members Present

1. Chair Bob Summersgill (DC)
2. Keith Benjamin (DC)
3. Veronica O. Davis (DC)
4. Andrea Hamre (VA)
5. Gary V. Hodge (MD)
6. Holly Muhammad (DC)
7. Jeff Parnes (VA)
8. Lorena Rios (VA)
9. Tom Sanchez (DC)
10. Steven Still (VA)
11. Alex Tremble (MD)

Members Not Present

1. John D. Epps (MD)
2. Deanna Holford (MD)
3. Douglas Stewart (VA)
4. Emmet Tydings (MD)

Alternates Present

1. Lara E. Hegler (VA)
2. Rob Jackson (VA)
3. Jeremy I. Martin (MD)
4. Emily Oaksford (DC)
5. Michael Rodriguez (VA)
6. Tina Slater (MD)
7. Julia Thayne (DC)

TPB Staff

- Kanti Srikanth (COG/DTP Staff)
John Swanson (COG/DTP Staff)
Ben Hampton (COG/DTP Staff)
Bryan Hayes (COG/DTP Staff)
Dan Sonenklar (COG/DTP Staff)
Lamont B. Cobb (COG/DTP Staff)

Guests

- Matt Colvin (Safe Routes to School)
Alan Muchnick