
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE TPB**

December 20, 2023
Richard Wallace, CAC Chair
Ra Amin, CAC Vice Chair

The December meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, December 14. The meeting featured briefings and discussion on the development of COG's Priority Climate Action Plan and the update of the National Capital Trail Network. Because Chair Wallace had a scheduling conflict, the meeting was led by CAC Vice Chair Ra Amin.

EPA's CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Deb Harris from ICF provided an overview of the federal CPRG program and how COG is involved. She said the program includes non-competitive allocations for states, including the District of Columbia. Through DC's allocation, COG is managing \$1 million for climate planning in our Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes COG jurisdictions and other communities from Virginia and West Virginia. She said that two plans are required in the first phase of this grant: 1) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP – due March 1, 2024) and 2) the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP – due summer-fall 2025).

Deb Harris said the second phase of the program will focus on competitive implementation grants, ranging from \$2 million to \$500 million each. The purpose of this second phase will be implementation of greenhouse gas reduction measures. For transportation, she said, such measures could include promotion of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, as well as updating building and zoning codes for sustainable development.

Discussion included the following questions and comments:

- A member asked for more information about the outreach that is required for the grant's Phase I planning activities. Ms. Harris noted that the deadline is coming up very quickly for the first plan (the PCAP), so there will be limited opportunity for engagement. But she said that EPA requires a comprehensive engagement plan for the CCAP (the second plan), which must include low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) and Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs), as well as multi-sector stakeholder engagement. A CAC member asked if it would be permissible to compensate people, particularly those from low-income communities, who participate in outreach activities. Ms. Harris replied that such compensation would be permitted.
- Ms. Harris called attention to a survey that is currently online to solicit initial public input. She encouraged CAC members to complete it:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COGClimateEngagement>
- A member asked if land-use reform measures would be eligible for funding through the implementation grants. Ms. Harris said that land-use changes could potentially be funded through implementation grants, although she noted that measures funded through the program would need to show benefits at a significant scale.

- The same member also noted that due to current tax structures, weatherization improvements (such as solar panels) sometimes result in higher property values and thus, cause an increase in taxes, which can be a disincentive to implementing such GHG reduction measures.
- A member asked how this grant work will include local utilities. Deb Harris replied that working with the utilities is not a requirement, but they would be invited to join in stakeholder engagement and meetings.
- A member asked if extensions might be given to applicants and recipients, given the very tight time frames for these grants. Ms. Harris said the deadlines for the PCAP and CCAP appeared to be firmly set. She did note that grantees would have 5 to 6 years to spend the implementation funding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TRAIL NETWORK (NCTN) OVERVIEW

Mike Farrell, TPB bike/ped planner, provided an overview and update about the National Capital Trail Network, which is a planned continuous network of long-distance, off-street trails, serving the entire region. He said the entire network will be 1,549 miles long, About half has been completed. The TPB first adopted the network in 2020 and is currently in the process of updating it. He said that 83 miles have been completed since July 2020

Mr. Farrell said the trail network will be accessible to a significant number of people throughout the region when it is completed. Nearly half (47%) of the region's population will live within a half mile of the NCTN. Nearly all (97%) Regional Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas (92%) will be within a half-mile of the network.

The TPB is anticipated to approve the NCTN update in February.

OTHER BUSINESS

- John Swanson provided a summary of the upcoming December 2023 TPB meeting agenda.
- John Swanson said the next CAC meeting will take place on January 11 as a virtual meeting held on WebEx. That meeting will be led by 2023 Chair Richard Wallace. At the TPB meeting on January 17, the new TPB chair will appoint the CAC chair for 2024. The membership for the committee will not change, however.
- John Swanson said that a new session of the TPB's Community Leadership Institute (CLI) will be held in late April/early May of next year. CAC members will be encouraged to attend. The CLI is a workshop, held over the course of three evenings, in which community leaders from throughout the region learn how transportation planning works at various levels and how the pieces fit together in the regional planning process.

ATTENDEES

Members

Ra Amin, DC (presiding as chair)
Ashley Hutson, VA
Carolyn Wilson, MD
Christina Farver, VA
Daniel Papiernik, VA
Heather Gaona, MD
Jeffrey Parnes, VA
Kalli Krumpos, DC
Larkin Turman, DC
Maribel Wong, MD
Mark Scheufler, VA
Nancy Abeles, MD
Noell Evans, VA
Rick Rybeck, DC
Timothy Davis, MD

Staff and Guests

Deb Harris, ICF Consulting
Mike Farrell, TPB Staff
Rachel Beyerle, TPB Staff
Leo Pineda, TPB Staff
John Swanson, TPB Staff