

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee November 13, 2008 Larry Martin, CAC Chairman

At the normal business meeting of the CAC on November 13 the Committee received updates on TPB Scenario Planning activities, the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee, and the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program. The Committee also continued a discussion about the location of future CAC meetings.

Update on TPB Scenario Planning Activities: “CLRP Aspirations” and “What Would It Take?” Scenarios

Monica Bansal of TPB staff briefed the Committee on progress in developing two new scenarios for study. She explained how staff were responding to comments and concerns from the COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, DC Planning Director and TPB Scenario Study Task Force member Harriet Tregoning, and the CAC itself. This includes a new methodology for developing a future land-use scenario that is more closely tied to principles in the TPB Vision and that reflects recent changes to demographic forecasts. Ms. Bansal emphasized that Committee members could get much more detail about plans for the new scenarios by attending the upcoming meeting of the Scenario Study Task Force on November 19 or reviewing meeting materials online.

Questions from CAC members centered on the process for developing the new land-use scenarios, especially the source of projections and the interaction between TPB staff and local jurisdiction planning staff. Some members were particularly concerned about how realistic an alternative land-use scenario will be given the limited tools available for shaping land-use patterns. Ms. Bansal further explained the interaction to date and expected in the future between TPB staff and local planning and transportation staff regarding development of the scenarios, and said that the Planning Directors committee is being relied upon to vet the land-use scenario for feasibility.

The CAC indicated a desire for further information and discussion about the new scenarios at a future meeting.

Briefing on the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee Regional Priority Project List

Michael Eichler of TPB staff provided the CAC with some background on the creation and initial activities of the TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee, and explained that the Subcommittee had developed a list of Regional Priority Projects related to bus service. He said that the Subcommittee had modeled this activity on the annual development of a

Regional Priority Project List by the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, which has had some success at raising the profile of regionally significant projects and encouraging funding of those projects by transportation implementing agencies. Mr. Eichler explained the criteria for regional significance that the Bus Subcommittee had used in drafting the list, and briefly described the projects and how they were categorized.

Discussion focused on the makeup of the Regional Bus Subcommittee and the process through which the priority project list was developed, including whether the subcommittee had considered emergency preparedness issues in developing the list. Mr. Eichler emphasized the importance of the criteria for regional significance in development of the list. He also noted that the TPB has other committees that deal with emergency preparedness issues and said that the Bus Subcommittee has focused on day-to-day operations.

One CAC member asked about how the Regional Bus Subcommittee planned to advocate for implementation of the projects, particularly if it would be recommending their inclusion in the next regional TIP. Mr. Eichler again cited the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee as the model and said that the project list would be presented to the TPB as the result of a regional process that reached consensus on a handful of significant, un-funded projects.

Update on the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program including the Evaluation of the FY 2008 Program and Proposed Changes for the FY 2009 Program

Mr. Smith of COG Staff gave a brief background summary of the TLC Program, emphasizing its origins as a way of taking the “what if?” answers from the TPB Scenario Study and moving forward on the “how to?” questions. He described the accomplishments of the program to date, and the changes for the FY 2009 program that were approved by the TPB at its October 15 meeting. These include greater flexibility in funding amounts for the TLC technical assistance projects, and changes that formalize the project selection process through use of a weighted scoring system and an expert evaluation panel.

CAC members again discussed how the TLC Program could move in the direction of funding capital improvements as well as planning projects, and talked about possible sources of funding for such expansion of the program. Mr. Smith described how staff hopes to focus on identifying possible capital projects in the course of the planning studies. One member asked about the possibility that a “bad” capital project could end up being recommended, but Mr. Smith suggested that the TLC projects, by virtue of bringing together multiple stakeholders and outside experts in a concerted planning effort, should on the whole yield better ideas for capital improvements than the normal process of project identification.

Continuation of the Discussion of Future CAC Meeting Locations

CAC Chairman Larry Martin led the Committee in a discussion on the issue of CAC meeting locations, asking each member present to give his or her opinion on how the question should be addressed. Some members expressed a desire or willingness to explore meeting locations away from the COG offices, while others stated that they preferred a consistent meeting location in a spot central to the metropolitan region. Many also suggested using teleconferencing or video-conferencing as options for reducing the travel burden on members. Members also differed on the desired focus of meetings in remote locations – whether they should be regular CAC business meetings, special outreach forums, or a combination of the two.

While the range of viewpoints was broad, the CAC reached a general consensus on what to recommend for next year's meeting schedule. Chairman Martin moved to recommend that next year's CAC try to have at least two meetings in locations away from COG, and to ask TPB staff to look into teleconferencing or video-conferencing options for all meetings.

Other CAC Business

- Darren Smith of TPB staff reminded the Committee about the upcoming Community Leadership Institute, to be held for an audience of elected officials, and about the November 30th deadline for applications to be on the 2009 CAC.
- Wendy Klancher of TPB staff briefed the Committee about recent activities of the TPB Access For All (AFA) Advisory Committee and invited CAC members to attend the upcoming AFA meeting on November 20th.
- Ron Kirby of TPB staff provided an overview of items on the November 19 TPB Agenda. This included details about Item 16, during which Mr. Kirby will brief the TPB on California Measure SB 375, which links greenhouse gas emissions to metropolitan transportation planning. He described this as an important development for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) such as the TPB, and said he would be presenting it to the TPB as a possible action for the TPB in addressing this region's greenhouse gas emissions. When asked if the California measure had any "teeth", he said that it represented a targets and incentives approach rather than a standards and penalties approach (e.g. the Clean Air Act), which made it a viable approach for voluntary action in this region.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, November 13, 2008

Members in Attendance

1. Larry Martin, DC, Chair
2. Harold Foster, DC
3. Farrell Keough, MD
4. Robin Marlin, DC
5. Allen Muchnick, VA
6. Gail Parker, VA
7. Lynn Shanton, MD
8. Emmet Tydings, MD
9. Shirley Williams, DC

Alternates in Attendance

Members Not in Attendance

1. Bill Klenke, MD
2. Jim Larsen, VA
3. Grace Malakoff, DC
4. Suresh Narasimhan, VA
5. Todd Reitzel, MD
6. Daphne Sahlin, VA

Staff/Others

Monica Bansal, COG/TPB
Michael Eichler, COG/TPB
Rex Hodgson, COG/TPB
Wendy Klancher, COG/TPB
Darren Smith, COG/TPB
Carroll George
Allen Greenberg
Bill Orleans