

## **ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

September 12, 2019

*Kacy Kostiuk, Chair*

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met on September 5, 2019 and the highlights from the meeting are provided below. A list of participants is on the last page. The AFA advises the TPB on transportation issues and services important to low-income communities, minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults.

### **TPB's 2019 ENHANCED MOBILITY SOLICITATION**

Mr. Sergio Ritacco provided an update on the 2019 Enhanced Mobility Solicitation, that launched on September 1, and closes November 4. By the time of the TPB meeting, five pre-application conferences (attendance is required to apply) will be completed. An additional online session may be held. Attendees included a mix of new agencies and jurisdictions interested in applying and existing grantees looking to continue, expand, or implement new projects. More information can be found at [mwco.org/enhanced-mobility](http://mwco.org/enhanced-mobility).

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY ACCESSIBLE TAXI INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Ms. Hannah Henn, Rapid Transit System Project Coordinator for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, presented on Montgomery County's recently approved regulation outlining improved incentive programs for accessible taxis. These incentive programs include upfront capital assistance for the purchase or retro-fitting of accessible vehicles, an increase in payment for wheelchair trips with additional incentive to provide trips in the evening and overnight, and a guaranteed \$10 minimum fare for shorter trips. Ms. Henn also emphasized how the program can be used as match for an Enhanced Mobility application for accessible vehicle procurement and related expense. The topic elicited much interest and discussion. A number of AFA members expressed frustration with lack of availability of accessible taxis in the National Capital Region and noted that it can be particularly difficult to get one during the nighttime hours.

### **TAKEAWAYS FROM COG'S DOCKLESS BIKE AND SCOOTER SHARE WORKSHOP**

Chair Kacy Kostiuk shared with the committee her observations about and presentation of AFA concerns to attendees of COG's Dockless Vehicle Workshop held on May 30, 2019. Concerns included:

- Bikes/scooters parked on the sidewalks and blocking pathways present a fall hazard for people who are blind or have visual impairments and a mobility barrier for people using mobility devices
- Bike/scooter use on the sidewalks present a safety issue
- Lack of adaptive bicycles and tricycles for people with disabilities
- Need for involvement of the disability community from the planning stage of new transportation technologies

She also shared that staff member Michael Farrell will be participating in a panel about Dockless Vehicles and the MPO role at the National Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in October. The committee expressed interest in hearing about the panel at the next meeting.

A robust discussion about the problems and benefits of dockless vehicles followed, resulting in a decision by the committee to develop formalized recommendations to the jurisdictions for addressing the issues at the next meeting on November 7.

#### **UPDATES FROM AFA MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN OTHER REGIONAL COMMITTEES**

The role of AFA members is to advise the TPB on transportation issues, programs, policies, and services important to traditionally underserved communities and to serve as conduits between other regional committees and the AFA. Staff led a discussion with three members who participate on regional committees to determine issues they address that are of interest to the AFA and how the work of the AFA and TPB is shared with these committees. The overall sense was that the AFA is a valuable forum and complements the other committees throughout the jurisdictions. One member also noted that the TPB's Community Leadership Institute was helpful.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Chair Kostiuk shared information about Ride On Flex, a new on-demand bus service in Montgomery County that is wheelchair accessible.
- Members expressed interest in an update on the Bus Transformation Project at the next meeting

The final AFA meeting of 2019 will be held on November 7.

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

District of Columbia	Virginia	TPB Staff
Gerald Kasunic, DC Department of For-Hire Vehicles	Cynthia Alarico, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Lyn Ericksen
Nechama Masliansky, S.O.M.E, Inc.	MaryJo Hensler, Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services	Debbie Etheridge
Angela Miller, Direct Action	Roger Hoskins, representing older adults	Sergio Ritacco
Gloria Swieringa, Prince George's Commissions for Individuals with Disabilities	Peter Leisen, Arc of Northern Virginia	Jackie Sellman
<b>Maryland</b>	Heidi Mitter, Virginia Department of Transportation	Nick Suarez, intern
Shawn Brennan, Montgomery County Aging & Disability Services	Jeanna Muhoro, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services (phone)	Lynn Winchell-Mendy
Charlie Crawford, representing individuals with disabilities	Doris Ray, ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia	<b>Chair</b>
Thomas Curtis, Maryland Department of Disabilities	Karen Smith, Arc of Greater Prince William (phone)	Kacy Kostiuik, City of Takoma Park – Ward 3 Councilmember
Debbie Fisher, representing people with developmental disabilities	Brittany Voll, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit	
Hanna Henn, Montgomery County Department of Transportation	Andrew Wexler, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services	
Sara Fought, JCA Connect-A-Ride	<b>Regional</b>	
Yolanda Hipski, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Janine Ashe, FHWA (phone)	
Robert Malone, Arc of Prince George's County (phone)	Christiaan Blake, WMATA (phone)	
Sam Oji, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (phone)	Brenda Richardson, Women Like Us	
Bill Orleans, resident		