

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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June 21, 2006

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Nomination for the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee

Attached is a biography for Mr. Merle Van Horne who will be nominated by TPB Vice Chairman Michelle Pourciau to be a member of the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for 2006. Mr. Van Horne will replace Mr. Allen Greenberg who has resigned from the CAC.

Also attached is a letter from Vice Chairman Pourciau expressing her intention to nominate Mr. Van Horne, along with the resignation letter of Mr. Greenberg.

The TPB's approval of Mr. Van Horne's nomination will be requested at the June 21 board meeting.

Merle J. Van Horne

Telephone: 202/544-8662

1325 Massachusetts Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003

e-mail: mvanhorn@erols.com

Information Submitted by Merle Van Horne Regarding Reappointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board.

Current Status: Retired from the National Park Service, Headquarters Office.

Qualifications and Experience:

Education: B.S. Rutgers. Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design.
Diplom-Forstwirt. University of Freiburg, Germany (M.S. equivalent in Forestry).
Ph.D. Utah State University. Forest Recreation with minor in Sociology and emphasis in Statistics.

Throughout my career with the Interior Department, I have been involved with the interactions of transportation with parks, recreation, the environment and human health. A special concern of mine has been the non-work-related mobility of transportation-disadvantaged population segments. I am familiar with the NEPA process and with the effects of ISTEA and TEA-21 on natural, recreational and cultural resources.

I have been deeply involved in all aspects of human-powered transportation on land and water—especially with water trails and rail trails. Within the National Park Service (NPS), I was the principal staffer on water trails and served on the National Trails Advisory Team until my retirement. I represented NPS on the Bicycle Subcommittee of the Transportation Research Board and on the Interagency Research Working Group on Transportation and Sustainable Communities. I am computer-literate and familiar with statistical methods, survey research, modeling and geographic information systems (GIS).

Why I am interested in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee:

I am concerned about the inadequate consideration by CAC and TPB of the needs of the transportation-disadvantaged—including persons arriving from other regions and countries—for access to recreation and cultural opportunities and other non-work destinations. My special concerns also include foot, bicycle and water transportation.

I am deeply disturbed by a tendency toward Procrusteanism—a one-size-fits-all philosophy—in transportation planning in the Washington region and the nation as a whole. My goal is a metropolitan region in which TPB sees to it that the parts interconnect, that certain standards of mobility and social/environmental impact are met, and that transportation costs are equitably shared. Beyond that, the region should respect each community's vision of what kind of place it is and wishes to become.

My background and experience would, I think, continue to be valuable to the work of the Citizens Advisory Committee in 2006.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

June 9, 2006

Mr. Ron Kirby, Director
Department of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

Dear Mr. Kirby:

I received correspondence (attached) from Mr. Allen Greenberg that he must resign his appointment to the Transportation Planning Board's Citizens Advisory Committee (TPB - CAC). Pursuant to the By-Laws of the TPB, I am forwarding a nomination of a District resident to replace Mr. Greenberg on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

I am nominating the following resident to serve as a member:

Merle Van Horne
1325 Massachusetts Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-544-8662

Mr. Van Horne has served on the CAC in the past and is presently an alternate member.

I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Greenberg for his service. I hope that he might continue to participate in a non-official capacity.

I hope that the TPB will give favorable consideration to this nominee to the CAC.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pourciau
Deputy Director

rr:MP

From: agcatp2@aol.com [mailto:agcatp2@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2006 11:02 AM
To: michelle.pourciau@dc.gov; rick.rybeck@dc.gov
Subject: FHWA Forces Me to Resign from CAC

Dear Michelle and Rick:

My employer, the Federal Highway Administration, has determined that my serving on the Citizen Advisory Committee to the Transportation Planning Board presents a potential conflict of interest with my job. I have appealed this matter to seven different managers at FHWA, including the chief ethics officer, but without success. I strongly disagree with this determination and believe that it is contrary to U.S. Office of Government Ethics standards. Specifically, such standards state: "An activity conflicts with official duties...if the activity would require the employee to be disqualified from matters so central to the performance of the employee's official duties as to materially impair the employee's ability to carry out those duties." In all of my FHWA service, I have never had any decision-making or even advisory role on any matter dealing with the Metropolitan Washington TPB, nor do I anticipate this changing. If a matter from the TPB ever did come before me for action as an FHWA employee, I could—as I've offered to do—recuse myself from any role in the matter. It cannot reasonably be argued that my serving on the CAC (which has no funding or policy-making authority) would cause the aforementioned high threshold to be crossed.

Despite the aforementioned, and other arguments I presented to my employer, FHWA has demanded I resign before the upcoming CAC meeting on Thursday or face serious sanction. Fortunately, my employer has no objection to my participating in CAC matters so long as I am not an official member. Thus, I plan to attend this Thursday's CAC meeting, and subsequent CAC meetings, but not as a member. I hope to continue to advance region-wide performance-based incentive programs (per the attachment), among other measures, to encourage sustainable, accessible, and affordable transportation within the region.

I am honored to have been appointed to represent the District of Columbia on the CAC and am very appreciative of the opportunity you provided me. I remain eager to continue to work with both of you and others to improve transportation and communities in DC and throughout the region.

Sincerely,
Allen Greenberg