

## REPORT

**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee  
September 14, 2006  
Emmet Tydings, CAC Chairman**

The September 14 meeting of the CAC included presentations and discussion of 1) the release of the 2006 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and 2007-2011 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) for public comment, and accompanying public information items; 2) the status of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and additional TPB efforts to link transportation and land use planning in the Washington Region; and 3) CAC priorities for the remaining months of the calendar year.

**Presentation: Release for Public Comment: Draft *2006 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP)*, Draft *FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* and Associated *Conformity Findings* for the Draft CLRP and TIP**

COG/TPB Staff member Andrew Austin gave a presentation that will be given to the TPB at its meeting on September 20. He focused on the new ways in which the CLRP and TIP information is being packaged for public accessibility, including a new, more-detailed CLRP website and a new full-color brochure that summarizes the CLRP and provides some data on plan performance. He described how these information items had evolved from just a few years ago, when the plan could only be accessed in the form of a 100-plus page document. He pointed out that past CAC recommendations for making plan documents more user-friendly helped shape the new information items.

Mr. Austin also went through in detail the new projects and studies included in the draft CLRP. New projects include the widening of MD 201/Kenilworth Ave. in Prince George's County and the completion of the Cross County Connector in Charles County in Maryland, and upgrades to the VA 28/I-66 interchange in Fairfax County, Virginia. In the District of Columbia, the new projects include reconstruction of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street and South Capitol Street bridges, and Phase One of the Anacostia Streetcar Project. New studies in the draft plan involve Phases Two through Four of the Anacostia Streetcar Project, and a proposal to build and operate HOV/HOT lanes on I-95/395 in Virginia.

CAC members expressed appreciation for the improvements that have been made in the presentation of the CLRP for public consumption, and indicated that they look forward to planned interactive features on the website such as a regional plan map with pop-up information on included projects.

CAC members also asked several questions about specific projects included in the draft CLRP, seeking information about what exactly the projects entail, where exactly they are to be located, and what impacts they may have. Mr. Austin gave additional information about the projects and also clarified the relationship between the CLRP and the TIP.

Additional questions included whether more information about plan performance will be available before the public comment period is over. COG/TPB Staff member Wendy Klancher, also present at the CAC meeting, said that additional plan performance information would be added to the website in the coming weeks and would be available before the TPB votes on approval of the plan at its October meeting.

CAC members also suggested additional features to be included on the CLRP website, including an archive of plan comments and a collection of contact information and web links for transportation agencies and officials in the region. Mr. Austin said that both of these suggestions could likely be implemented fairly easily.

A final question dealt with the completeness and accuracy of the map in the CLRP brochure of the bicycle and pedestrian projects included in the plan. Mr. Austin said that the map came from the separate Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and that it may not reflect bicycle and pedestrian accommodations that are part of other road projects included in the CLRP.

### **Presentation: Update on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and Transportation/Land Use Linkage Initiatives**

Ron Kirby, COG Director of Transportation Planning, told CAC members that TPB staff is concluding the initial phase of the scenario study and completing documentation of the results of the scenarios studied so far. This includes the article on RMAS in this year's Region Magazine, which was distributed at the CAC meeting, and a draft technical report that would be released at the meeting of the RMAS Joint Technical Working Group on September 15. He said that future RMAS activities would include a Value Pricing Scenario and potentially one or more composite scenarios. Mr. Kirby said that interest in the study on the part of the TPB had increased in the last couple months as a result of discussion on the possibility of a regional initiative that would provide incentives for linking transportation and land use. Such an initiative would seek to further goals in the TPB Vision and be informed by the results of the scenario study.

Mr. Kirby distributed a presentation that will be given at the September 20 TPB meeting and briefly summarized it. He explained that the presentation recaps three options presented to the TPB at past meetings: 1) Start a regional grant program that would fund planning studies and capital projects that further regional land use and transportation goals; 2) Start a smaller grant program that would only fund planning activities; and 3) identify and promote priority projects using TPB funds. He said that the presentation also contains an overview of activities linking transportation and land use in the region, discusses TPB concerns regarding a regional initiative, and presents a staff proposal that represents a compromise position given the varied viewpoints of TPB members on moving forward with a regional grant program. The proposal calls for the TPB to serve as a regional "clearinghouse" for transportation and land use activity and to begin funding technical assistance for specific projects out of its own budget. Mr. Kirby emphasized that the CAC could potentially play an important role in the discussion of moving forward with these implementation steps.

CAC member questions included the following:

- ***If the TPB began providing technical assistance services for specific projects, how would the projects be prioritized?*** Mr. Kirby said that this could be an issue if demand is high, but that if demand ends up being that great, the case could then be made for initiating a more formal grant program and funding it with additional money from the states. He said that in the meantime, projects would probably be screened based on the goals of the TPB Vision.

## **Discussion: CAC Priorities for the Remainder of 2006**

Chairman Tydings introduced this topic by noting that guiding the scenario study and promoting implementation of the scenarios had probably become the biggest priority for the CAC in 2006. He said that unlike past CAC priority issues this one moves slower and there are fewer opportunities for accomplishing something in the short-term, but that he believes it is important for the CAC to remain focused on the issue. He then encouraged CAC members to express any other issues they believe should be CAC priorities in the final months of 2006.

Ideas put forth by CAC members included the following:

- ***Reviewing the CLRP materials including the brochure and website and helping TPB staff make them as informative and user-friendly as possible.*** This would include focusing on analysis of plan performance and making sure that this information gets to the public and to TPB members in a timely manner.
- ***Take advantage of the election season to compile information about political perspectives on transportation issues from throughout the region.*** An understanding of the political climate regarding transformation could also help inform efforts to get more resources to fund transportation improvements.

## **Other Business**

- Darren Smith of the COG/TPB staff summarized public involvement activities underway, including planning for scenario study outreach meetings and additional Community Leadership Institutes in the coming months, and thanked CAC members for their suggestions of organizations that might host the “What If” outreach presentation.
- Mr. Kirby described additional items on the agenda for the September 20 TPB meeting, including Human Service Transportation Coordination, and amendment of the TIP to facilitate a study of HOT lanes on I-95/395 in Virginia. CAC members discussed briefly with Mr. Kirby the options in play for the I-95-395 corridor and how investment in the corridor can be most efficient, including consideration of the distribution of lanes, possible outside funding sources, HOV requirements, and effects on ride-sharing or “slugging”.

**ATTENDANCE**  
**CAC Meeting, September 14, 2006**

**Members in Attendance**

1. Emmet Tydings, Chair, MD
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Stephen Caflisch, MD
4. Stephen Cerny, VA
5. Harold Foster, DC
6. Jim Larsen, VA
7. Grace Malakoff, DC
8. Dan Malouff, VA
9. Robin Marlin, DC
10. Larry Martin, DC
11. Allen Muchnick, VA
12. Alexandra Simpson, VA
13. Merle Van Horne, DC

**Members Not in Attendance**

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
2. Elvin Crespo, MD

**Staff/Others**

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB  
Darren Smith, COG/TPB  
Andrew Austin, COG/TPB  
Wendy Klancher, COG/TPB  
Julie Ruszcyk, VDOT  
Allen Greenberg