

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
April 16, 2014
Tracy Hadden Loh, Chair

The CAC meeting on April 10 included a discussion about the Initial Draft CLRP-RTPP Comparative Assessment and an open discussion about CAC priorities for this year.

Discussion about the Initial Draft Comparative Assessment of the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)

John Swanson of TPB staff presented the Initial Draft Comparative Assessment for the CLRP and the Priorities Plan. The qualitative assessment is designed to inform discussion and deliberations related to the CLRP update process. Mr. Swanson said this Initial Assessment uses the best available information about the CLRP and its anticipated future performance to evaluate the degree to which the CLRP supports the strategies and objectives spelled out in the Priorities Plan.

Following the presentation, the CAC reacted to the assessment and provided feedback. Several recurrent themes emerged from this discussion:

- **Takeaways from the Initial Assessment.** Following a quick review of the assessment, members highlighted some key observations:
 - ***Metro core capacity improvements will not be funded in the 2014 CLRP.*** CAC members said they were concerned to learn that Metro 2025 improvements will not be included in this year's CLRP. They said it is important for this fact to be highlighted in the assessment. Several members said they were not previously aware that because the system cannot fully accommodate new riders in the core after 2020, the TPB's models constrain ridership in the core.
 - ***The east-west divide remains a difficult regional challenge.*** Members noted that uneven economic development continues to hinder our region, including the exacerbation of transportation problems. They called upon regional leaders, including the TPB, to focus attention on this issue.
 - ***The CLRP is only one of the implementation tools for the Priorities Plan.*** Members said the Assessment helped them understand that the CLRP is just one of the ways in which implementation of the Priorities Plan will be demonstrated.

- **Some quick recommendations.** As part of their first review of the document, members made the following comments:
 - ***The TPB and staff should consider how future assessments might identify gaps in the CLRP.*** With a few exceptions, the Priorities Plan did not call for specific actions and therefore the Assessment, for the most part, focuses on providing positive examples of how strategies are being implemented but does not identify what is missing from the CLRP. It is very difficult to know how large the gaps are, and how they should be filled.
 - ***In general, more benchmarks and specific quantitative measures are needed.*** The Priorities Plan did not establish targets or other ways to measure progress. The TPB might consider developing such measures for future analysis.
 - ***Don't limit this type of assessment to the CLRP.*** Future assessments should address how other implementation tools, not just the CLRP, are meeting or not meeting the goals addressed in the Priorities Plan. In particular, CAC members spoke about the need to identify and evaluate non-capital intensive improvements which are not typically included in the CLRP, but can play a major role in meeting mobility objectives.

Other topics discussed by the CAC include: the role that District-funded transit improvements can play in supporting WMATA core capacity goals; clarifying the ways that toll revenue can be useful; exploring the idea that demand management on highways may promote single-occupancy vehicle use; using numbers and dollar amounts to clarify the assessment; and ways that coordinating policies across the region can achieve goals identified in Priorities Plan.

Open Discussion About Priorities for the 2014 CAC

Chair Loh lead a discussion about ideas that committee members have for CAC action in 2014. Several shared interests emerged from the discussion:

- Ensuring the TPB develops meaningful positions regarding the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation legislation (MAP-21). This topic includes exploring the possibility of new funding streams for MPOs.
- Encouraging the TPB to establish a methodology for benchmarking the Priorities Plan

Other themes discussed include: adopting regional bicycle infrastructure; urge the TPB to expand funding for the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program; educate the region about the need for rail service into Charles County; the federal role in infrastructure investment; desire for briefings on data and travel surveys; regional jobs and housing imbalance; and enhanced powers for MPOs to implement projects.

Other Discussion

- Mr. Griffiths, Acting Co-Director of the Department of Transportation Planning, briefed the committee on the April TPB Agenda.
- The committee discussed plans to elect vice-chairs at the May CAC meeting.

ATTENDEES CAC Meeting, April 10, 2014

Members Present

- Tracy Hadden Loh, Chair (MD)
- Neha Bhatt (DC)
- Tom Burrell (VA)
- Justin Clarke (MD)
- Veronica Davis (DC)
- John Epps (MD)
- Erin McAuliff (DC)
- Jeff Parnes (VA)
- Cindy Petkac (DC)
- Lorena Rios (VA)
- Tina Slater (MD)
- Zachary Smith (DC)
- Stephen Still (VA)

Alternates Present

- Douglas Stewart (VA)
- Gary Hodge (MD)
- Tom Sanchez (VA)

Members not present

- Emmet Tydings (MD)
- Jarrett Stoltzfus (MD)

Staff and Guests

Bob Griffiths, COG/DTP Staff
John Swanson, COG/DTP Staff
Ben Hampton, COG/DTP Staff
Bryan Hayes, COG/DTP Staff
Bill Orleans, citizen