
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

March 9, 2023
Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The March meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, March 9. The committee participated in a discussion with federal reviewers about TPB's public involvement process and the Visualize 2050 plan update. The meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

DISCUSSION ABOUT TPB'S PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Members of the federal review team briefly presented information about the Washington DC TMA's Certification Review. Daniel Koenig from the Federal Transit Administration provided an overview of the metropolitan planning process and the role of public involvement, as well as the purpose for the discussion. The federal reviewers posed six questions to the CAC:

- 1) How effective is public involvement in transportation planning conducted by the National Capital Region TPB and its partner transportation agencies?
- 2) What methods to encourage involvement are working and what are not? Please provide examples and explanations.
- 3) How does public involvement assist the region to reach consensus on difficult and controversial issues related to transportation?
- 4) How can public views successfully be communicated to decision-makers in an area as large and complex as this?
- 5) Please describe situations where public involvement has had an impact on the planning process and decisions reached and where it has not. For example, consider how involvement contributes to developing strategies in the long-range plan, selecting investments in the TIP, or any other activities.
- 6) How might the TPB improve public involvement? For example, consider changes to the structure of advisory groups, use of media, use of facilitators, or efforts to reach a broad range of groups, including minority and low-income communities.

Member comments and questions included the following:

Meeting communities where they are at and working with trusted community leaders/organizations.

Several members provided comments that suggested that future outreach efforts could target community members where they spend time. For example, one member mentioned that they had not noticed outreach in her community in the recent past. They later added that it is important for outreach to be located in areas where people are already using services – Metro, churches, or PTA meetings. Another member suggested places like athletic games and taking different audiences into account. Another member also suggested developing relationships with community leaders at the intersection of transportation issues (housing, climate, etc.) to be facilitators in the engagement process.

Greater emphasis on early and continuing public input as a regional priority. One member noted that they noticed that some local projects have few opportunities for engagement or are happening last minute. For Visualize 2045, they made a comment that raising awareness of local and state projects should have been an aspirational initiative. In addition, they suggested that the TPB should be an

advocate for the public if they feel their input is not heard. Another member also noted that they find out about project or operational updates as they occur with little time to respond meaningfully. They added that they appreciate when they understand how agencies incorporate feedback into their work. Another member asked about the federal role in ensuring public input is incorporated into projects that have longer timelines.

Leveraging power in numbers and established groups and decision-makers. Several members discussed that effective public input involves mobilizing people around issues they care about through a variety of strategies including word of mouth or social media communication. One member noted the importance of being involved in your jurisdiction and other groups. They added that getting involved at this level means getting your view on the record or encouraging a group to take a position on a transportation issue. Another member mentioned the importance of working with elected officials and the efficacy of social media. Another member highlighted the diversity of experiences and interests of the CAC to inform the TPB.

Using technology for greater reach. One member suggested that technology can be used to reach community members by livestreaming or providing recordings of meetings. They also added that technology can be used to connect community members to project leads.

Questions about other MPO procedures. One member asked about how other MPOs approach the public involvement process, and whether other MPOs have community advisory committees.

VISUALIZE 2050 PLAN DEVELOPMENT KICK-OFF

Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development and Coordination Program Director, provided an overview about the Visualize 2050 plan development process and schedule for including projects, programs, and policies in the air quality conformity analysis.

Member comments and questions included the following:

Further clarification about the role of the CAC in the plan update. One member asked for clarification about the role of the CAC at this point in the process. TPB staff suggested reading up on the Visualize 2045 plan update adopted in 2022 to further understand the talking points for the long-range planning process. TPB staff added that at this point, CAC members are encouraged to provide feedback on the green and orange project lists as well. Another member asked if TPB would provide a Visualize 2050 Ambassador Kit, similar to the kit for Visualize 2045. TPB staff responded that there will be an Ambassador Kit for the second public comment period in the fall. Staff added that there are social media posts about the current comment period that CAC members are welcome to share with their networks.

Clarification on the green/orange list projects. A member asked for clarification about green and orange list projects. TPB staff responded that orange list projects are not under construction, nor do they have funding and are in a position to be influenced by TPB priorities, Voices of the Region, etc. Staff added that projects are looked at as a whole – so if a larger project is on the green list, then the associated project segments are also on that list.

Questions about the points of contact and listening sessions for project submissions. One member asked if there was a resource that provided information on the agency point of contact for project submittals. TPB staff responded that the TPB Technical Committee member would be a point of contact, and that all feedback received will be provided on a monthly basis to agency contacts. They followed up with a question about CAC attendance at TPB member/agency listening sessions. TPB

staff responded that the sessions are working sessions, and that summaries will be provided. One member added that if CAC members are interested in learning more about these projects, they should find out more information about budgeting workshops that are happening at the local level. TPB staff added that the Visualize 2050 Frequently Asked Questions is helpful for clarification on the plan update.

Referencing Greater Washington 2050 concept. One member suggested that concepts outlined in the Greater Washington 2050 plan should be incorporated in Visualize 2050. TPB staff responded that many of the concepts of the Greater Washington 2050 plan can be found in policy developed after the plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ra Amin shared that there will be a book signing and talk with Jeff Speck, author of Walkable City on Friday, March 17.
- Marcela Moreno announced that the CAC Orientation Module #2 will take place at the April meeting.
- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on April 11th on Microsoft Teams.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
Ashley Hutson
Carolyn Wilson
Christina Farver
Daniel Papiernik
Felipe Millían
Gail Sullivan
Heather Goana
Jacqueline Overton Allen
Jeffery Parnes
Kalli Krumpas
Larkin Turman
Lorena Rios
Maribel Wong
Mark Scheufler

Ra Amin
Timothy Davis

Staff

Andy Meese
John Swanson
Justine Velez
Kanti Srikanth
Lyn Erickson
Marcela Moreno
Rachel Beyerle

Guests

Dan Koenig, FTA
Sandra Jackson, FHWA