

REPORT
TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
October 16, 2013
Stephen Still, 2013 CAC Chair

The CAC meeting on October 10 included a briefing on the Draft Regional Green Streets Policy, a briefing and discussion on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP), and the first in what will be a series of briefings and discussions on the FY2014 Constrained Long-Range Plan. The CAC also held a brief discussion on identifying agenda priorities for the remainder of the year.

Briefing in the Draft Regional Green Streets Policy

Mr. Farrell of TPB staff provided a briefing on the Draft Regional Green Streets Policy. He defined Green Streets as those that provide alternatives to conventional street drainage systems and are designed to more closely mimic the natural hydrology of a particular site by infiltrating all or a portion of local rainfall events. He said that Green Streets use trees, landscaping, and related environmental site design features to capture and filter storm-water runoff within the right of way, while cooling and enhancing the appearance of the street. He summarized the discussions to date that TPB staff has held about Green Streets, and passed around a draft Green Streets Policy Inventory. He said that the draft Green Streets Policy is modeled on the TPB Complete Streets Policy, and is intended to promote the adoption of Green Streets policies and practices by TPB member jurisdictions and agencies. He added that the draft policy is out for comment through October 24, after which the policy will be revised. He said that the policy would likely be presented to the TBP in November.

CAC members offered a variety of comments for consideration in developing a Regional Green Streets Policy, as follows:

- Evaluation – One member of the CAC suggested that the Regional Green Streets Policy should be composed in such a way that individual jurisdictions would be able to evaluate *the extent to which* they are successfully implementing local Green Streets policies. Rather than allowing jurisdictions to evaluate their own Green Streets adoption with a “yes” or “no,” the final regional policy should provide specific guidance on the elements of a Policy, and allow individual jurisdictions the ability evaluate success on a “point-by-point” basis.
- Use of Native Species – Some members of the CAC held strong feelings that the Regional Green Streets Policy should address the use of native species and landscaping. As a guide, they said, the policy should recommend species that can also withstand the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and flooding.
- The Role of Measurement – Some CAC members suggested that the policy include specific evaluative measures or grades. Other CAC members advocated for the policy to serve as a general guidance document, and recommended against creating a situation in which jurisdictions could be evaluated against each other.

- Maintenance – One CAC member noticed that the role of maintenance was absent from the policy template, and advocated for including it in the final policy. The member suggested the policy should include specific emphasis on ways to preserve the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, the regional policy should address contaminants to the Chesapeake Bay – such as fertilizers or certain plant species.

Briefing on the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)

Mr. Kirby provided a briefing on the recent developments of the RTPP, including seven themes that staff had identified in the comments that were received during the public comment period over the summer. Mr. Kirby expects these items to be a major discussion item in the October 2013 TPB meeting. Also provided was a brief overview of the information received during the September 27 Economy Forward event.

The CAC had some preliminary comments relating to the RTPP, many of which centered on the link between the RTPP and the CLRP. One CAC member noted the absence of any specific reference to the RTPP's priorities in the Call for Projects document for the new CLRP. Mr. Kirby responded that the RTPP is not yet adopted, and as such, cannot be called out explicitly in the CLRP process. Other comments that arose during this brief discussion were:

- The specifics of implementation still require greater clarity with regard to basic questions of who, what, when, how, etc.
- Integration between modes is not a sufficient point of emphasis, nor are elements of connectivity between economic centers.
- The RTPP requires more specifics regarding inter-jurisdictional planning

Chair Still said that the CAC will continue its conversation about the RTPP through the fall, and will compile comments for submission for additional comment periods.

Briefing and Discussion on the FY2014 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) Part 1: Process Overview and Project Solicitation

Mr. Austin of TPB staff presented information on the CLRP, and focused specifically on the overall process and on project solicitation. He discussed the FY2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and said that, in response to requests by the CAC to hold a forum earlier in the TIP process, a TIP forum would be scheduled on January 16.

CAC members said they appreciated this presentation, and held a follow-up discussion that included some questions seeking clarification on the process. A primary concern was understanding the links between the RTPP and the CLRP, and to what degree the RTPP can influence the outcomes. Mr. Kirby noted that projects to be added to the upcoming CLRP would first need to be vetted locally before being included in the project submission form. Members of the CAC continued to question the specific links between the CLRP and the RTPP.

Mid-Year Check-in

CAC members held a brief discussion to articulate priorities that members would like to address in the remaining four months. The following items were identified:

- A process whereby the CAC be involved at the onset and throughout the development of any draft policy platform addressing federal surface transportation reauthorization.
- A request to have a briefing by DDOT on moveDC activities.
- A briefing on Bus Rapid Transit that is coming to Alexandria and Arlington, citing that such a briefing could provide valuable lessons for other places in the region, specifically Montgomery County.
- Potential to assemble a regional panel for a public meeting on such issues as BRT, streetcars, and/or the regional relationship between corridor studies that are currently underway.

Other Issues

- Ms. Tracy Hadden Loh will now be the CAC representative to the Street Smart Advisory Task Force.
- Mr. Kirby provided an update on the October TPB Agenda.
- Mr. Swanson announced that the TPB Information HUB website would be formally launched on October 16, the day of the regular TPB meeting. He gave a brief overview of the website, which can be found at www.transportationplanninghub.org.
- Ms. Bilek reminded CAC members about the upcoming Community Leadership Institute, which is to be held on November 14 and 20. She encouraged CAC members to participate if they have not already participated in a CLI.
- Ms. Bilek announced that the TPB, in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School Greater Washington Region, is hosting a Safe Routes to School Regional Meeting on October 29 at 9am. The intent of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for professionals, advocates and those interested in Safe Routes to School to have a chance to be in the same room and share information.
- Ms. Bilek took a moment to speak about the life of Ms. Karin Foster, who passed away suddenly on September 30. She reminded members of the CAC that Ms. Foster had addressed the committee earlier in the year about regional freight issues, and pointed out the tribute to Ms. Foster in the October version of TPB News. She said that Ms. Foster was a tremendous colleague, and her presence is deeply missed.
- Members of the CAC summarized their participation in the September 27 Economy Forward event, which was sponsored by COG and TPB and held at the National Press Club. CAC members who participated said the event was well-organized, and spent a moment reflecting on their individual table-top discussions. Members also praised AmericaSpeaks, the nonprofit organization that facilitated the event.

ATTENDEES
CAC Meeting, October 10, 2013

Members Present

1. Stephen Still, Chair (VA)
2. Justin Clarke (MD)
3. Veronica Davis (DC)
4. Cherian Eapen (MD)
5. John Epps (MD)
6. Tracy Hadden Loh (DC)
7. Allen Muchnick (VA)
8. Emily Oaksford (DC)
9. Lorena Rios (VA)
10. Tina Slater (MD)
11. Emmet Tydings (MD)

Alternates Present

- Anita Hairston (DC)
Rosemarie Helen Savio (DC)
Jarrett Stoltzfus (MD)

Members Not Present

1. Neha Bhatt (DC)
2. Patrick Gough (DC)
3. Jeff Parnes (VA)
4. David Skiles (VA)

Staff and Guests

- Ron Kirby, COG/DTP staff
Andrew Austin, COG/DPT staff
Deb Kerson Bilek, COG/DTP staff
Mike Farrell, COG/DTP staff
John Swanson, COG/ DTP staff
Bill Orleans, citizens