
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MONTHLY REPORT

April 13, 2023
Richard Wallace, CAC Chair

The April meeting of the 2023 - 2024 TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on Thursday, April 13. The committee discussed the TPB's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan), and TPB and CAC role in the long-range planning process. The meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

UPDATE ON TPB'S COORDINATED PLAN

Sergio Ritacco presented information about the 2023 update to the Coordinated Plan. The presentation described TPB's role in the Enhanced Mobility program, the purpose of the plan, key elements of the plan, and the next steps to the plan's approval.

Member comments and questions included:

- **Clarifying disabilities addressed in the plan.** One member noted a gap in addressing people with disabilities that are not focused on mobility, such as people utilizing rideshare with seeing-eye dogs. Staff responded that the plan is inclusive of all disabilities under the federal definition and will clarify that in future presentations.
- **Clarifying questions about the grant program and plan.** Members asked several clarifying questions about different aspects of the Enhanced Mobility grant program and Coordinated Plan. One member asked how grant funding is overseen. Staff responded that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), as the administrative agent, provides oversight to ensure the grant programs are effectively administered. Another member asked if funding could be used to acquire vehicles. Staff responded that funds could be used to purchase vehicles, and a DC Village used funding in the past for wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- **Enthusiasm about learning more and bringing awareness about the Coordinated Plan.** One member expressed interest in sharing the Coordinated Plan and information about the Enhanced Mobility grant program with their community.

TPB'S ROLE IN THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING PROCESS

In response to discussion about Visualize 2050 at the March meeting, Kanti Srikanth provided remarks detailing the TPB's role in the federally mandated long-range transportation planning (LRTP) process. He provided the purpose of the long-range plan, as well as information about the TPB's plan, Visualize 2045. He shared additional information about how members of the CAC can engage individually and collectively to fulfill their mission and the development of the LRTP.

Member comments and questions included the following:

- **Discussion about responding to projected land use and travel patterns in the LRTP.**
 - **Keep in mind roadway networks for auto-reliant areas.** A member provided feedback that 80% of land use existing today will exist 20-25 years from now.

- They noted that density near high-capacity transit is projected to nearly double and recognized that it's important to keep in mind areas in the region that are more auto dependent for travel and commerce.
- **Share examples of scenario studies.** One member asked for examples of scenarios that will be examined. Staff responded with that there are a variety of scenarios that are tested – and shared several examples like “what if there are more jobs near housing” or “what if there was more housing near transit stations?” He added that committee members could refer to the [TPB's Scenario Planning Study Findings](#).
 - **Rethink the status quo.** Another member emphasized that the long-range nature of the plan is 'marathon, not a sprint' and requires rethinking how we currently build infrastructure.
- **Questions about how we address and account for the future of telework.** Referring to the draft Cooperative Forecast, one member asked about the findings related to job and household growth in the region. They expressed concern that the data may not match the reality of the office vacancies and other COVID impacts and wanted to understand how the travel demand model will take the impact of telework into account. Staff noted that the post-COVID future poses uncertainty but that there is consensus that higher rates of telework will remain. Staff also acknowledged how this impacts cities financially and noted Metro's \$750M funding gap in FY25. In addition, staff added that data is showing that traffic is returning to pre-pandemic levels even with fewer commuters. They stated that these trends will need be monitored and is one of the reasons the plan update is happening sooner.
 - **Clarification on the exempt and non-exempt lists.** One member asked for clarification on why larger projects are grouped together and placed on the exempt list when construction is underway on segments of the corridor. Staff responded that exempt projects may be under construction or funded and shared the Purple Line as an example. Staff also clarified that exempt projects are still being re-examined and does not preclude project changes to further advance TPB's goals and priorities.
 - **Clarification on WMATA's role in the long-range planning process.** A member asked for clarification on whether WMATA relies on the states to propose projects, or whether they act independently. Staff clarified that WMATA submits their own input and financial plan – their project submissions are already approved by their Board of Directors. A follow up question asked about projects like the Blue line extension and whether they are included in the LRTP. Staff responded that projects in the LRTP must demonstrate funding, but the projects mentioned were included in WMATA's unconstrained comprehensive plan and currently do not have committed funding. Another member suggested that the CAC can recommend possible funding sources for projects to provide reasonable ways to enable visionary thinking.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Marcela Moreno provided an overview of the upcoming TPB agenda.
- CAC Orientation Module #2 will take place at the May meeting.
- Chair Wallace announced that the next CAC meeting will take place on May 11th as a hybrid meeting with an in-person option in at COG and virtual option on Microsoft Teams.

ATTENDEES

Members

Richard Wallace, *Chair*
Ashley Hutson
Carolyn Wilson
Daniel Papiernik
Felipe Millían
Gail Sullivan
Heather Goana
Jacqueline Overton Allen
Jason Stanford
Jeffery Parnes
Kalli Krumpos
Larkin Turman
Maribel Wong
Mark Scheufler

Nancy Abeles
Noell Evans
Ra Amin
Rick Rybeck
Timothy Davis
Vanessa Hercules

Staff

Justine Velez
Kanti Srikanth
Marcela Moreno
Rachel Beyerle
Sergio Ritacco

Guests

Tad Aburn
