National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: John Swanson
Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Report on Community Leadership Institute, October 25 & 28, 2006

DATE: November 15, 2006

The Department of Transportation conducted the TPB's second Community Leadership Institute on October 25 and 28 at the Council of Governments. The October sessions of the Institute focused on activists who work with senior citizen organizations and people with disabilities. Most of the invitees were nominated by AARP.

The two-day workshop, which was piloted in April, is designed to help community leaders learn how to get involved more effectively in transportation decision-making. It is also intended to help the TPB reach out to communities and groups that have not typically been involved in the TPB process.

The TPB contracted with the Academy for Leadership Foundation for assistance in conducting the institute. Former TPB Chairman Peter Shapiro of the Academy for Leadership Foundation helped conceive the Institute and facilitated the entire program. Mr. Shapiro is currently a senior fellow at the University of Maryland's Burns Academy of Leadership.

Over the course of two days, participants learned about how, where and when transportation decisions are made in the Washington region. The curriculum included information about the various planning processes at the state, regional and local levels. Information about key regional transportation challenges were woven into the curriculum, including the need for improved coordination between transportation and land use, and the regional transportation funding shortfall.

The written evaluations and other feedback from the Institute have been very positive. Like the CLI sessions in April, the Institute seems to have been well-received because it included a good mix of participants who were enthusiastic and already engaged in their communities, and therefore were leaders who could use the information and experience from the Institute. In addition, participants liked the fact that the curriculum was designed to avoid overwhelming participants with information and data. Rather, a key goal of the

Institute was to get participants engaged and empowered through interactive and experiential learning methods. The interactive sessions literally illustrated the concepts discussed in the presentations and made people think about how these issues related their communities.

The October round of the Institute also demonstrated that the curriculum designed for the session in April is truly replicable. Preparation for the October sessions was much easier than the first time.

TPB staff currently plans to repeat the Institute at least once before the end of the fiscal year. In addition, staff is considering whether the materials and curriculum from the Institute can be used in other formats—for example, in one-day workshops, in shorter presentations or in publications.

Staff also recognizes the importance of follow-up with Institute participants. Since the April sessions, TPB staff has maintained and utilized the contacts with the community leaders who attended the pilot Institute. Among other things, staff would like to use these contacts as conduits for expanded public outreach using the presentation "What if the Washington Region Grew Differently?"

To see the presentations and other information from the Community Leadership Institute, go to www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/cli.

Participants, TPB Community Leadership Institute, October 25 and 28, 2006

Vera Abbott	Washington, DC	DC AARP
Poul Arendal	Washington, DC	DC AARP
Toni Clemons-Porter	Manassas, VA	Prince William Co Area Agency on Aging
Stanley Doore	Silver Spring, MD	
Alan Feinberg	Frederick, MD	
Jeannette Higginbotham	Forestville, MD	
Frances Hart	Alexandria, VA	AARP Virginia Outreach Volunteer
Bernard B. Hill	Washington, DC	DC AARP
Jane King	Alexandria, VA	AARP Virginia Outreach Volunteer
Carol Mason Downs	Vienna, VA	Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna
Nancy May	Silver Spring, MD	Leadership Montgomery
Doris E. McCannon	Washington, DC	
Pat Moles	Rockville, MD	
Amber B. Nightingale	Alexandria, VA	Associate State Director, AARP
Trudy Reeves	Washington, DC	DC ANC Commissioner
Candice Rose	Arlington, VA	Commission on Aging
Nancy Sutton	Leesburg, VA	Loudoun County Caregivers
Michael Wenk	Alexandria, VA	AARP Virginia Advocacy Team Volunteer
Sue Whitman	Washington, DC	AARP