

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee April 15, 2009 Farrell Keough, CAC Chairman

The normal business meeting of the 2009 CAC on April 9 included a briefing on the TPB's scenario analysis, discussion of the TIP forum on June 11 and discussion of CAC organizational matters.

Discussion Regarding the TIP Forum on June 11

Andrew Austin of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee on the public forum on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which will be held during the CAC meeting on June 11. He said the forum would coincide with the release of the draft TIP for public comment. He suggested the CAC should consider developing questions ahead of time for submission to the DOTs, so that the agencies have time to prepare.

Comments and questions from the committee included the following:

- The forum should be structured to maximize time for questions and answers with the DOTs.
- The forum should provide big-picture information on cross-cutting criteria, such as percentage of funding devoted to project modes/types, sources of revenue, number of new lane miles, information on total numbers of bike/ped projects, etc. Mr. Austin noted that the draft TIP brochure has some of this information already. He suggested that staff could work with the committee to be sure the next TIP brochure provides information that will be of interest to the committee and will be useful for the TIP forum.

Briefing on the Scenario Study Task Force (SSTF) Activities

Monica Bansal of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee on the scenario study, including a description of the origins and development of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and the ongoing development of the "What Would It Take?" (WWIT) Scenario and the CLRP Aspirations Scenario. The WWIT Scenario is based upon an ambitious goal of achieving an 80-percent reduction in carbon dioxide compared to 2005 levels, and includes a number of aggressive assumptions, such as a 35-mpg vehicle standard by 2020.

Ms. Bansal also drew attention to the development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network for the Aspirations Scenario. She said the TPB will be considering pursuing federal

stimulus funding under a federal grant program that would take the first steps toward implementation of a BRT network.

CAC members discussed the relative merits of bus rapid transit compared to light rail. Members of the committee were interested in the fact that BRT is cheaper and faster to implement than light rail, and thus it is much more likely to actually move forward. But members also discussed the fact that BRT will not provide the same land-use impacts as light rail. A member commented that in order for light rail to be successful, local jurisdictions will really need to focus on land-use aspects.

Discussion of CAC Organizational Matters

The committee discussed a number of organizational issues:

- The May 14 meeting of the CAC will be held in Frederick, Maryland on the 3rd floor hearing room at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street in Frederick. In addition to the regular business meeting of the CAC, the meeting will include discussion of local concerns in Frederick and how they fit into the regional planning context at the TPB.
- The committee will continue to explore opportunities for interaction with the citizen committees of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA).
- The committee will elect vice chairs at its meeting on May 14.
- The committee discussed the methods that the CAC has used in the past to provide advice to the TPB. These methods include the monthly report from the CAC chair to the TPB. In addition, the CAC over the years has developed detailed recommendations on key TPB activities, including recommendations regarding the initiation and development of the scenario study, improvements in CLRP/TIP information and procedure, and support for the development of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) program. The CAC also was the driving force behind the initiation of the scenario study outreach forums that were conducted between 2005 and 2007.
- As the committee seeks to develop new opportunities for providing advice, members asked TPB staff to provide information on the process laid out in the TPB Participation Plan for developing an annual Participation Program.

Other Business

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided an overview of items on the April 15 TPB Agenda.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, March 12, 2009

Members in Attendance

1. Farrell Keough, MD, Chair
2. Paul DeMaio, DC
3. Allen Muchnick, VA
4. Lynn Shanton, MD
5. Maureen Budetti, VA
6. Roland Gunn, VA
7. Larry Martin, DC
8. Harold Foster, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Emmet Tydings, MD
2. Bill Klenke, MD
3. Jim Larsen, VA
4. Gail Parker, VA
5. Shirley Williams, DC
6. Trudy Reeves, DC

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Andrew Austin, COG/TPB
Bill Orleans