

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee December 19, 2007 Larry Martin, CAC Vice-Chairman

The normal business meeting of the CAC on December 13 included the election of six designees for the 2008 CAC, a briefing on the Maryland Transportation Plan from Maryland Department of Transportation staff, a briefing on the TPB Participation Plan, and an update on the TPB Scenario Study Task Force.

Although the TPB meeting in November was cancelled, the CAC still conducted its meeting on November 8. Because the CAC did not develop a November report for the TPB, this December report contains a summary of the main item on the CAC's November agenda, which was a debriefing on the Public Forum on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was conducted at the CAC's October meeting (see page 3).

Release of the CLRP/TIP for Public Comment

Wendy Klancher of TPB staff provided a short overview of the new Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) website and announced that the 2007 CLRP and 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were being released for public comment. She said the public comment period would last until January 12, 2008, and invited members of the CAC to review information about the CLRP and TIP online and provide comments on the documents and website. The TPB is scheduled to act on the CLRP and TIP at its meeting on January 16, 2008.

Election of Six Designees for the 2008 CAC

The CAC was provided with applications from members of the public interested in serving on the 2008 CAC. The CAC was asked to select two designees each from the District, Maryland, and Virginia. The CAC selected six current members to serve on the 2008 CAC: Harold Foster and Larry Martin of the District of Columbia; Dan Malouff and Allen Muchnick of Virginia; and Todd Reitzel and Emmet Tydings of Maryland.

The 2008 TPB officers are scheduled to nominate the remaining nine members of the 2008 CAC at the TPB meeting on January 16. At that meeting, the TPB is scheduled to approve all 15 new CAC members. The 2008 CAC will hold its first meeting on February 14. The 2007 CAC will meet for the last time on January 10.

Briefing on the Maryland Transportation Plan

Ron Spalding of MDOT reviewed the update process for the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), noting that MDOT is approaching this update in a comprehensive manner

and advancing significant policy-level changes to the MTP. Scott Giering, a consultant to MDOT, provided the CAC with information on MDOT's outreach efforts in developing the MTP. He said they sent information on the MTP to 10,000 households and have received 1,300 comments thus far. He noted other outreach efforts, including distributing MTP materials and bookmarks to local libraries and working in partnership with other agencies.

Mr. Giering led the CAC in an exercise to determine what they felt the goals of the MTP should be. He asked the CAC to comment on what transportation issues they felt should be addressed through this planning effort. He then asked the CAC about other non-transportation trends that are important for MDOT to consider in the MTP update.

Comments from CAC members included:

- Coordinate with the District and surrounding states to ensure that priorities highlighted in the MTP are integrated regionally.
- Many CAC members felt that the MTP should include policies to ensure the integrity of the Chesapeake Bay is protected when MDOT considers transportation improvements. More generally, the CAC urged MDOT to consider the environmental impacts of potential transportation facilities and focus on ways to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- Consider using existing highway facilities more efficiently and expanding transit infrastructure, reducing the emphasis on roads as a mode to balance the transportation system. One CAC member suggested that in order to develop a balanced transportation system for Maryland, MDOT must define the nature of the existing imbalance in transportation infrastructure.
- Through this planning effort, MDOT should develop planning goals and policies that will influence future growth, rather than reacting to projected growth. Expanding on this idea, CAC members encouraged MDOT to use the MTP as a tool to guide land use and smart growth principles.
- MDOT should be cognizant of regional trends, including the decentralization of federal governmental staff through the Base Realignment and Closure decision and the East/West imbalance of housing and jobs.
- The MTP should promote alternatives to traditional commuting patterns, such as internet ride-sharing.

Briefing on the TPB Participation Plan

John Swanson of TPB staff provided an update on the adoption of the TPB Participation Plan. He reviewed comments received during the 45-day public comment period and said the TPB will be acting on the Participation Plan at its December 19 meeting.

Update on the TPB Scenario Study Task Force

Mr. Kirby reviewed the agenda for the TPB Scenario Study Task Force meeting on December 19. He said the Task Force will discuss future expansion of the TLC Program with will be provided with three alternative programming options. The Task Force will

also review recent Scenario Study activities, including the Variably Priced Lane Scenarios, an analysis of Scenario Costs, an analysis of Local Level Impacts, and specification of new scenarios. He said the Task Force will also discuss its activities for FY 2009.

CAC member Steve Cafilisch distributed a draft resolution reiterating a CAC recommendation from last February that called upon the TPB to study a scenario that would focus mainly on converting existing lanes to variably priced lanes. He noted that all the variably priced lane scenarios studied to date have included extensive networks of new road capacity.

Mr. Kirby expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of some of the language in the CAC draft resolution regarding the variably priced lanes scenarios that have been studied. In particular, he noted that several versions of the variably priced lane scenarios did include extensive conversion of existing lanes to toll facilities, including roads in the District of Columbia, Potomac Bridges and NPS parkways.

Some members had not read the available draft reports on the value pricing scenarios. A motion to table the resolution until the January meeting was approved.

Reflections on the October TIP Forum *(summary from the CAC's November meeting)*

The second half of the CAC's October meeting was devoted to a Public Forum on the FY 2008- 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This forum was conducted in accordance with new federal regulations under the 2005 SAFETEA-LU legislation, which call upon Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) like the TPB to "provide at least one formal public meeting during the TIP development process." The TIP forum gave participants an opportunity to review the draft TIP and also to hear the state DOTs and WMATA answer three key questions: 1) How are your agency's projects selected, prioritized and funded? 2) What opportunities exist for public involvement in your process? 3) Describe any significant changes in this year's TIP.

At its meeting in November, the CAC conducted a recap discussion on the TIP forum. Staff indicated they would use this feedback in determining how to conduct future TIP forums.

Member comments and questions included the following points:

- ***What is the purpose of having a public forum at the tail-end of the TIP development process?*** CAC members noted that conducting a forum in October seems to be too late to affect the selection and development of projects. In past recommendations, the CAC has suggested that the TPB should hold an annual forum at the ***beginning*** of the CLRP/TIP cycle in which the DOTs and WMATA would explain which projects they intended to submit that year for inclusion in the CLRP and TIP.

Staff responded that the presentations at the TIP Forum were intended to provide information on how decision-making actually occurs at the state and local levels. Staff further noted that the information from the TIP Forum could be useful for citizens who wish to affect next year's TIP.

- ***It is important to consider what was NOT included in the six-year TIP.*** CAC members suggested that the TPB should highlight the fact that projects could be included the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) for a long time, but may be continually delayed and never get into the TIP.
- ***Can we get information on broader performance measures?*** Members expressed interest in quality of life indicators, such as livability and mobility, as well as a number of environmental indicators, including carbon dioxide and other measures of impact on air and water.

Other Business

- Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, provided an overview of items on the December 19 TPB Agenda.
- Mr. Swanson noted that the TPB released the call for projects for the 2008 round of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program in November. Applications will be accepted from TPB member jurisdictions until January 15, 2008.

ATTENDANCE **CAC Meeting, December 13, 2007**

Members in Attendance

1. Larry Martin, DC, Vice-chair
2. Steve Caflisch, MD
3. Stephen Cerny, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Daniel Malouff, VA
6. Robin Marlin, DC
7. Allen Muchnick, VA
8. Todd Reitzel, MD
9. Emmet Tydings, MD
10. Merle Van Horne, DC

Members Not in Attendance

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD

2. Jim Larsen, VA, Chair
3. Grace Malakoff, DC
4. Alexandra Simpson, VA

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB
Darren Smith, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Ron Spalding, MDOT
Scott Giering, MDOT Consultant,
Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates
Allen Greenberg
Bill Orleans

**2007 MONTHLY MEETING ATTENDANCE
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE TPB**

All 15 CAC appointments were not completed until the March TPB meeting.

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>District of Columbia</i>										
Harold Foster	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Grace Malakoff	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Robin Marlin	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Larry Martin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Merle Van Horne	X	X		X	X	X		X		X
<i>Maryland</i>										
Nathaniel Bryant *		X		X	X					
Stephen Caflisch	X		X							X
Todd Reitzel *				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jahantab Siddiqui *^										
Emmet Tydings	X	X	X		X		X		X	X
<i>Virginia</i>										
Stephen Cerny	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jim Larsen			X	X	X		X	X	X	
Dan Malouff	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X
Allen Muchnick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alexandra Simpson		X	X			X	X			

* These members were appointed at the March TPB Meeting.

^ This member resigned in September.