

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee September 19, 2007 James Larsen, CAE, CAC Chairman

The September 13 meeting of the CAC included release of the draft TPB Participation Plan for a 45-day public comment period, along with continued CAC discussion of the document and related CAC recommendations for public involvement activities. The CAC also discussed the proposal for a new TPB task force for stewardship of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study (RMAS).

Discussion on the Draft TPB Participation Plan

Mr. Swanson gave a presentation that recapped the development of the draft Participation Plan, its structure, and comments received on the plan to date. He said that the TPB Technical Committee had asked for clarification of the references in the draft plan to conveying a “regional story.” CAC members discussed this briefly and expressed support for the idea that the TPB in one way or another needs to communicate a unified regional message or story about transportation that is different than the stories of individual jurisdictions in the region.

Mr. Swanson called attention to several elements of the draft plan that are of particular interest or relevance to the CAC. In particular, CAC members discussed the challenges faced by TPB staff in responding meaningfully to public comments submitted about the CLRP and TIP and comments made at TPB meetings. There was also discussion of the CAC procedures as outlined in an appendix of the draft Participation Plan, with one CAC member indicating that the streamlining of this language was a positive step. Members also discussed how to achieve diverse representation on the CAC, and some members suggested that this be given greater emphasis in instructions given to the TPB officers when they make their appointments to the CAC. Another idea mentioned was to help diversify viewpoints on the CAC by involving other CAC’s at COG including those for the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee and the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee.

Mr. Swanson also distributed copies of the “Recommendations for Improving Information and Analysis of the CLRP and TIP” issued by the CAC in January 2006, and noted the relevance of these recommendations to the draft Participation Plan, especially as guidance for development of annual Participation Programs as called for in the draft plan. Members indicated that they see a significant role for the CAC to play in the annual development of the Participation Program, which will be used by staff to guide strategic implementation of public involvement efforts over the course of each year.

CAC members also discussed the use of public opinion surveys, a possible participation tool listed in the draft Participation Plan. Members debated the utility of this tool and the reasons why elected officials might find surveys useful in promoting a regional vision for the future.

Briefing on Establishing a TPB Task Force for the Regional Accessibility and Mobility Scenario Study (RMAS)

Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, updated the Committee on discussion by the TPB of the Scenario Study and the outreach feedback report the TPB received at its July meeting, which included the CAC recommendations on the Scenario Study as an appendix. He said that based on the CAC recommendations and the outreach feedback, staff had recommended the creation of a TPB task force to provide policy-level stewardship of the Scenario Study and related TPB activities. TPB Chair Cathy Hudgins indicated at the July 18 TPB meeting that TPB member Michael Knapp had agreed to chair the task force, and Chair Hudgins asked staff to provide a proposal for creation of the task force at the September 17 TPB meeting. Mr. Kirby summarized the memorandum to the TPB detailing the structure and activities of the proposed task force.

CAC members raised the issue of whether it would be appropriate for a CAC member or members to be formally represented on the task force. Mr. Kirby responded that there were benefits to the task force being composed exclusively of TPB members and that the CAC may actually be able to exert more influence on the task force if it relies on communications that represent CAC consensus rather than relying upon a single representative of the committee on the task force. He also noted that the Value Pricing Task Force, upon which this new group would be modeled, has operated in a relatively informal manner which has permitted extensive discussion and interaction with citizens and stakeholders who are not official task force members. He said he believed the new task force under the chairmanship of Michael Knapp would operate in a similar way. CAC members indicated they generally accepted this approach.

Members indicated that they were pleased with the progress represented by the creation of a TPB task force and enthused about the possibilities for integrating Scenario Study results with TPB planning processes. CAC members provided some additional ideas related to the task force. One member suggested putting a note in the TPB agenda if there is to be a task force meeting held prior to the TPB meeting. Another suggestion was to use the task force to achieve greater involvement from other COG institutions that are addressing regional visioning, especially those that deal with land use such as the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee.

Other Business

- John Swanson of the TPB staff mentioned that the October CAC meeting would be truncated to one hour but followed immediately by a public forum on the 2008-

2013 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP). The TPB is required by SAFETEA-LU to hold such a forum and holding it in conjunction with the CAC meeting seemed to be a logical fit.

- Mr. Swanson said that there were no outreach meetings for the Scenario Study currently planned, but that staff would continue to try to arrange at least one or two such meetings in the District of Columbia in the coming months. CAC members indicated they may be able to help coordinate these meetings.
- Mr. Swanson briefly described a presentation he gave at an event arranged by COG for community leaders from the Hispanic community, and noted that many participants raised concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety in the region.
- Mr. Kirby reviewed the TPB agenda, highlighting in particular the action items dealing with amendments to the TIP proposed by VDOT.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, September 13, 2007

Members in Attendance

1. Jim Larsen, VA, Chair
2. Larry Martin, DC, Vice-chair
3. Stephen Cerny, VA
4. Harold Foster, DC
5. Grace Malakoff, DC
6. Allen Muchnick, VA
7. Todd Reitzel, MD
8. Alexandra Simpson, VA
9. Emmet Tydings, MD

Members Not in Attendance

1. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
2. Steve Caflisch, MD
3. Daniel Malouff, VA
4. Robin Marlin, DC
5. Jahantab Siddiqui, MD
6. Merle Van Horne, DC

Staff/Others

Ron Kirby, COG/TPB
Sarah Crawford, COG/TPB
Darren Smith, COG/TPB
John Swanson, COG/TPB
Bill Orleans
Harry Sanders