

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee

May 18, 2005

Emmet Tydings, Vice Chair

The CAC's monthly meeting on May 12 included an extensive discussion of the COG land use forecasting process. The committee also established two working groups that will focus on 1) outreach for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and 2) improving information and analysis for the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The meeting was chaired by CAC Vice Chair Emmet Tydings.

Cooperative Land Use Forecasting

Paul DesJardin of COG staff provided a thorough briefing on regional growth and development. He explained that COG's Cooperative Land-Use Forecasts provide the land-use inputs for the TPB's travel forecasts. The forecasts include projections for households, populations and jobs.

The final slide of Mr. DesJardin's presentation emphasized that anticipated job growth (53%) is expected to significantly outpace population growth (38%) between 2000 and 2030. These forecasts mean the region will face a shortage of nearly half a million housing units by 2030 to meet anticipated new jobs. The implications of this jobs/housing imbalance—including its effects on transportation and congestion—have become the subject of discussion in a wide range of forums across the region, including citizens groups (like to the CAC), high-profile events like the Reality Check conference in February, and investigative reports in the media. Recently, the D.C. Office of Planning called attention to the Cooperative Forecasts' jobs/housing distribution, noting that the "projections are alarming." The CAC concurs that the projections are alarming.

At the CAC meeting, members expressed interest in the TPB's plans to more fully examine the transportation impacts of the Cooperative Forecasts and to review the concerns raised by the District of Columbia. The CAC plans to continue to monitor the TPB's analysis of scenarios in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study that would alleviate the effects of the job/housing imbalance. The CAC will offer input to TPB on the scenarios at some point.

Questions and comments regarding Mr. DesJardin's presentation included the following:

- ***Affordable housing.*** Several members commented on housing affordability, noting with alarm the inability of almost all moderate and low income workers to pay average rents, let alone mortgages.
- ***Household size.*** A member asked what is the anticipated trend regarding household size. Mr. DesJardin said that household size dropped significantly since the 1970s, and is expected to continue to decline, although less dramatically. Another member expressed

confusion about the apparent contradiction between predictions that D.C.'s population would continue to decline, while housing prices continue to skyrocket. Mr. DesJardin agreed that these projections appear contradictory, although he noted the significance of declining household size throughout the region, and particularly in D.C.; families are moving out and single people and couples without children are moving in.

- ***Accuracy of the Cooperative Forecasts.*** In past rounds of the Cooperative Forecasts, Mr. DesJardin said, household forecasts have been the most accurate, while the greatest variations occurred in forecasts of population. He said that in several rounds, employment forecasts have been underestimated.

CAC Working Groups

The committee established two working groups:

- 1.) ***Engaging Citizens in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.*** The committee has made clear that its number-one priority is promoting the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study by engaging the public and highlighting the relationship between transportation planning and land use. The working group will develop outreach meetings for the fall and will continue to monitor and comment on the evolution of the study. Emmet Tydings was appointed to chair this working group.
- 2.) ***Information and Analysis for the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).*** This working group will develop recommendations on the kinds of information that should be provided on the CLRP and TIP, and the analysis of the plan's impacts that should be developed. The group will particularly look at promoting the development and dissemination of information early in the planning process. Steve Cafilisch was appointed to chair this group.

Other Business

- The Committee learned that TPB Chairman Phil Mendelson sent a letter on May 11 to CAC Chair Dennis Jaffe in response to Mr. Jaffe's April letter sent on behalf of the CAC concerning incident response coordination in the region. The original letter urged the TPB to conclude deliberatively and act expeditiously regarding the recommendations of the TPB's task force to improve incident response coordination and communication by our region's transportation agencies. Mr. Mendelson concurred with Mr. Jaffe's suggestion that a high-level discussion be convened, and has scheduled a special TPB work session for July 20 focusing on Cap Com. Transportation agency leadership, TPB members and other stakeholders will be invited to this work session.
- The committee discussed the TPB's approval of this year's project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the CLRP/TIP. The approved submissions included the Beltway HOT lane project in Virginia. Last month the

CAC passed a resolution requesting further study, public input and consideration of HOT lane alternatives prior to any inclusion in the CLRP air quality analysis. CAC members decided they would consider whether and how they might further pursue this issue.

- Ron Kirby provided an overview of the upcoming TPB agenda.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, May 12, 2005

CAC Members in Attendance

Emmet Tydings, Vice Chair, MD
Stephen Cerny, Vice Chair, VA
Ephrem Asebe, MD
Steve Caflisch, MD
Don Edwards, DC
Harold Foster, DC
Mike LaJuene, VA
Jim Larsen, VA
Grace Malakoff, DC
Allen Muchnick, VA

CAC Members Not in Attendance

Nathaniel Bryant, MD
Dennis Jaffe, DC
Lee Schoenecker, DC
Stewart Schwartz, VA
Kimberly Shiley, MD

CAC Alternates in Attendance

Merle Van Horne, DC

Staff/Others

Julie Ruszczyk, VDOT
Paul DesJardin, COG/HSPPS
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Jill Locantore, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP