

REPORT

**TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
February 18, 2004
Dennis Jaffe, 2003 CAC Vice Chair**

Members of last year's Citizens Advisory Committee held the regular monthly CAC meeting on February 12, along with a few potential new members. The new appointments for the 2004 CAC were not made in time for this meeting, and therefore the group that convened on February 12 held an informal and abbreviated session focusing on the TPB's February agenda.

Ron Kirby, Director of COG's Department of Transportation Planning, described two key items before the TPB this month: 1) The new brochure documenting the region's pressing transportation needs over the next six years and 2) the release of the project submissions for the 2004 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) amendments and the FY2005-10 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These submissions include construction of the Intercounty Connector in Maryland.

Questions and comments *regarding the brochure on six-year funding needs* included the following:

- To what degree has the development of this document been *driven by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)*? Mr. Kirby answered that the project originated with WMATA, but the states and District of Columbia were also supportive of doing it.
- Is there a *real strategy for doubling the region's transportation money* in the next six years? Mr. Kirby emphasized the importance of recognizing that all levels of government must do their share. He also stressed the importance of making the case to Congress for more funding.
- The inclusion of the *Purple Line* in the six-year funding brochure was not clear to some members. One member noted that the Bi-County Transitway was included as a priority on the Maryland page, but asked if this counted the Bethesda-Silver Spring segment as funded or unfunded? It was also asked if the segment to the east, between Silver Spring and New Carrollton, was included in this priority.
- Another member asked if Maryland considered *a southeast continuation of the Purple Line* to the Wilson Bridge to be a priority in this document. Mr. Kirby answered that he understood the Bi-County Transitway, as it was prioritized for the brochure by Maryland, would not include the segment going southeast from New Carrollton.
- A member said it would have been useful to show what *Metro Matters* means for each state jurisdiction in the region. It was suggested that examples were needed to help

people understand the specifics behind Metro Matters, which is an important categorization that was not clearly defined or explained.

- The committee discussed *methods for lobbying* Congress and the state legislatures. A member suggested hosting a joint press conference on Capitol Hill, not at COG, with selected members of Congress to discuss key projects that might be affected by reauthorization. Another member said that at a bare minimum, representatives of the TPB should be going to Annapolis and Richmond to make a public case for increased funding. Mr. Kirby noted that he had just been down to Richmond to speak to a legislative panel.

Questions on other issues included:

- Regarding reauthorization of federal transportation legislation, does the TPB *lobby Congress* directly or work through the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)? Mr. Kirby said that on issues affecting MPOs nationwide, AMPO serves as the TPB's voice, but for issues specifically focused on the region, the TPB and its members need to approach Congress directly.
- A member asked what the effect will be of the recent court ruling regarding *air quality* and the conformity lapse the region is currently under? Mr. Kirby said that the implications of the ruling are still uncertain.

Other business:

- The committee agreed to aim to hold its first public meeting for 2004 in April. Staff reported that Michelle Pourciau and Alex Eckmann have agreed to help organize the meeting on the topic of the Anacostia light rail project.
- The CAC discussed plans to have TPB Chairman Zimmerman speak at its March meeting, as well as hosting Councilmember David Snyder at a future meeting to discuss emergency preparedness.
- Members discussed suggestions for doing business this year, including a more formalized method for soliciting input on meeting topics.
- Reflecting concerns that the 2004 CAC members had not been appointed in time for the February meeting, participants discussed the need to develop recommendations in the near future on how the appointment process might be improved.

ATTENDANCE
CAC Meeting, February 12, 2004

Dennis Jaffe, DC, 2003 CAC Vice Chair
James Clarke, MD
Glen Harvie, MD
Mike LaJuene, VA
Allen Muchnick, VA
Alexander Radichevich, MD
Harry Sanders, MD

Lee Schoenecker, DC
Emmet Tydings, MD
Merle Van Horne, DC

COG/TPB Staff

Ron Kirby
John Swanson