

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee
November 19, 2003

The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee held its regular monthly meeting on October 13. The main topics for the meeting were pedestrian safety and other bicycle/pedestrian planning activities, and the peer review of the TPB's travel forecasting process.

Discussion on Pedestrian Safety and Other Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Activities

Mike Farrell of the COG/TPB staff described the second year of the "Street Smart" pedestrian safety campaign. This campaign will use a variety of media to heighten awareness about pedestrian safety and influence the behavior of drivers. Mr. Farrell also described the "Walkable Communities Workshops" that will be held in May of next year. This series of eight workshops will be held in communities on the eastern side of the region. Through a competitive application process sponsored by the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, the TPB was selected to coordinate these events.

CAC comments and questions included:

- CAC members and Mr. Farrell agreed that the region needs a "cultural change" similar to what occurred on the West Coast where drivers have been trained over time to respect pedestrian rights.
- Mr. Farrell emphasized that simple messages must be repeated frequently to create long-term retention. For example, one simple message that might be stressed is that drivers are required to stop at crosswalks. Many people are unaware of this requirement.
- A member said that laws regarding pedestrians are not consistently enforced. He suggested that the threat of ticketing should be part of the campaign. Mr. Farrell said that this kind of warning was not part of the campaign in the past because there are not enough police to really put teeth into this threat.
- A member said the schools should be more extensively used to educate children on pedestrian/bicycle safety and to distribute books, CDs and other materials.
- A member suggested that drivers' examinations should be used to reinforce key laws to protect pedestrians.
- A member suggested that issues of walkability should be tied into the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, which will include a scenario on transit-oriented development.

- A member spoke about whether more effort should be put into pedestrian bridges and other grade separations. Mr. Farrell noted that grade separations sometimes can be counter-productive because pedestrians do not use them and instead continue to use unsafe crossings.
- A member asked if the regional traffic signal optimization program, which was pursued last year as a Transportation Emission Reduction Measure (TERM), took traffic calming efforts into account. Mr. Farrell answered that these programs were not directly related, although signal optimization is often considered to improve pedestrian safety because predictability is increased when drivers are not rushing to catch the next green light.

Briefing and Discussion on the Review of the TPB's Travel Forecasting Process by the Transportation Research Board

Mr. Kirby provided the CAC with a status report on the peer review of the TPB's travel forecasting process. He said that this review was being conducted by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies of Sciences. The peer review will produce two reports. The first report, which was issued in September, provided comments on the TPB's current travel forecasting process. The second report, which is expected at the beginning of next year, will provide suggestions on how the process might be enhanced.

Mr. Kirby said the first report included 11 observations. TPB staff agreed with five of these observations. On three of the observations, staff agreed that improvements might be made. Staff believes that three of the observations require further information and discussion.

Some of the issues and challenges included in the peer review report and described by Mr. Kirby included:

- How should the travel forecasting process deal with differences between data that is produced through the models and data that is observed through traffic counts, etc.? Mr. Kirby noted that observed data should not always be assumed to be correct. Staff is now looking at ways to fine tune the input data for the models.
- How should the model account for commercial vehicles, including light-duty trucks such as delivery vehicles, which are not currently separated from "business trips"? It has proven very difficult to get information on commercial vehicles.
- How should bus speeds be modeled in future years? Mr. Kirby noted that it is not possible to know how bus routes will change over the long-term. The peer review suggested that congestion should be reflected in the inputs for bus speeds, but Mr. Kirby said it was just as possible that bus service might be adjusted in outyears to accommodate for congestion.
- Mr. Kirby briefly described other issues, including concerns about the use of "adjustment factors" and other comments.
- A member said that to many people it would seem practical to make forecasts extending out 30 years. In general, members indicated that the value and limitations of the forecasting process need to be better articulated to the public.

CAC Elections for 2004

The six individuals elected by the 2003 CAC to serve on the 2004 CAC are as follows:

- District of Columbia: Harold Foster, Dennis Jaffe
- Maryland: Nathaniel Bryant, Steve Caflisch
- Virginia: Allen Muchnick, Stewart Schwartz

The TPB officers for 2004 will nominate nine individuals to fill the remaining CAC membership positions. All 15 members for 2004, including the six people elected by the 2003 CAC, will be approved by the TPB.

Other Business

The CAC held its fifth outreach meeting of the year on November 18 at George Mason High School in Falls Church. The topic was "Should the Beltway Be Expanded With HOT Lanes?" Tom Farley of VDOT and Gary Groat from Fluor Daniel consultants were the speakers. The meeting was moderated by Catherine Hudgins, Fairfax County Supervisor.

The last public outreach meeting of the year will be titled: "Columbia Pike Revitalization: Can It Be a Model for the Region?" It will be held on December 3 at the Arlington Career Center, 816 South Walter Reed Drive in Arlington. Chris Zimmerman, Arlington County Board member and TPB member, will be one of the featured speakers at this session.

Dennis Jaffe reported that his work advocating distribution and display of bus maps is moving forward with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The CAC passed a resolution in May in support of the proposal to distribute free maps and post maps at rail stations and bus shelters.

Attendance

November 13 CAC Meeting

(An attendance record for the entire year through November is on the reverse of this page)

Members

1. Karren Pope-Onwukwe, MD, chair
2. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
3. Steve Caflisch, MD
4. Federico Cura, VA
5. Glen Harvie, MD
6. Dennis Jaffe, DC
7. Lee Schoenecker, DC
8. Merle Van Horne, DC

3. John Edwards, VA
4. Nancy Jakowitsch, DC
5. Allen Muchnick, VA
6. Jacque Patterson, DC
7. Stewart Schwartz, VA

Alternates

Harry Sanders, MD

Staff

Ron Kirby
Mike Farrell
John Swanson

Members not in attendance

1. Bob Chase, VA
2. James Clarke, MD

2003 Meeting Attendance
Citizens Advisory Committee to the TPB
 January – November

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sept	Oct	Nov
<i>District of Columbia</i>										
Dennis Jaffe	*	X	X	X	X		X			X
Nancy Jakowitsch		X			X					
Jacque Patterson	*									
Lee Schoenecker		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Merle Van Horne	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Maryland</i>										
Nathaniel Bryant	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Stephen Caflisch	X		X		X	X	X	X		X
James Clarke	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Glen Harvie	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Karren Pope-Onwukwe	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
<i>Virginia</i>										
Bob Chase	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
Federico Cura	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
John Edwards	X	X	X							
Allen Muchnick	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Stewart Schwartz	X	X		X		X		X	X	

* Appointed after January CAC meeting.