

REPORT

TPB Citizens Advisory Committee February 16, 2005 Dennis Jaffe, 2004 CAC Chair

The CAC held its regular monthly meeting on February 10. Because the full 2005 committee has not yet been appointed, the 2004 members convened for this meeting, along with some individuals who expect to be nominated for this year's committee.

The committee spent most of the meeting discussing the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and public outreach meetings for this year. John Swanson of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee on the development of transportation scenarios for the study, including: 1) a network of new public transit facilities that will be combined with the land use scenario increasing growth around transit station areas; and 2) a network of High Occupancy Vehicle/Toll (HOV/HOT) lanes that have identified by the TPB's Value Pricing Task Force. Mr. Swanson said the RMAS work group would discuss the controversial question of whether to study Potomac River bridges at its next meeting.

Last December the CAC held two public meetings focused on the issues raised in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. For future meetings, Mr. Swanson said that staff is currently working on several changes in the outreach meeting presentation, which is called "What if the Washington Region Grew Differently?" He said the revised presentation will include analysis of the transportation scenarios. He said the presentation also will be enhanced to show more localized impacts of the scenarios. These will include illustrations showing how the land uses of the different scenarios would look and feel. The presentation might also include analysis of the study's "measures of effectiveness" on a localized or subregional level. For example, it might include data on how the scenarios would affect transit use in specific locations, such as Tysons Corner or Gaithersburg?

Comments regarding the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study included the following:

- ***Continuing interest in the issues posed by a "Region Divided,"*** which members intend to focus on at a future public meeting. Members expressed an interest in exploring the issues raised by the "Region Undivided" scenario. Everyone agreed that the economic divide in the region has been widely acknowledged in recent years. Members said it was important to engage the public more deeply in a conversation about how to encourage the development patterns and transportation facilities that the RMAS study is looking at.
- ***Should we start looking at "how to's" and not just "what ifs"?*** The scenario study was set up to focus on "what if" questions and not address how the scenarios might get implemented to avoid investing potentially excessive amounts of time and effort. But members expressed an interest in getting into some "how to" questions. Such questions might include: "What tools can be used to guide the right densities

for viable transit-oriented development?”... “How can we get good quality development on the eastern side of the region around transit stations and in activity centers?” ...or “What can we do to get the funding and support for important transit facilities, like the Purple Line?” The committee would like to find ways to start addressing these kinds of questions in the presentation and at the outreach meetings.

With these comments in mind, the committee decided that the first public forum for the year will be held in Prince George’s County. The meeting will be scheduled for April or early May. CAC member Nathaniel Bryant will play a lead role in organizing the event.

Other Business

The committee welcomed two new incoming members who will be nominated for the 2005 CAC. Jim Larsen from Reston, Virginia will be nominated by TPB Vice Chair Cathy Hudgins. Kim Shiley from Gaithersburg, Maryland will be nominated by TPB Vice Chair Michael Knapp.

The committee hopes that the TPB will complete the nomination and appointment of all 15 CAC members at the next TPB meeting on February 16.

ATTENDANCE

CAC Meeting, February 10, 2005

2004 CAC Members in Attendance

1. Dennis Jaffe, Chair, DC
2. Ephrem Asebe, MD
3. Nathaniel Bryant, MD
4. Steve Cerny, VA
5. Don Edwards, DC
6. Harold Foster, DC
7. Michael LaJuene, VA
8. Allen Muchnick, VA
9. Lee Schoenecker, DC
10. Emmet Tydings, MD

Staff/Others

Jim Larsen, incoming member
Kim Shiley, incoming member
Harry Sanders
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
John Swanson, COG/DTP