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## 2024 END-OF-YEAR REPORT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Ra Amin, 2024 CAC Chair Presented to the TPB, January 22, 2025*

For the last 30 years, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB)'s Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been providing "region- oriented citizen advice" to the TPB, promoting public involvement in the regional transportation planning process. As required by the TPB's Public Participation Plan, this report summarizes the committee's activities and interests in 2024.

Much of the committee's attention in 2024 was focused on the update of Visualize 2050, the region's long-range transportation plan. We also focused on DMVMoves—the joint Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) initiative to unify, optimize, and deliver a world-class transit network. The TPB CAC served on the Community Partners Advisory Group, a working group of the DMVMoves Task Force, providing valuable input. We were also pleased to have opportunities throughout the year to interact with a variety of new and different programs in the TPB process. These included development of the new transportation resilience program and participation in workshops such as the Regional Curbside Management Forum.

### COMMENTS ON VISUALIZE 2050 AND THE 2023 AND 2024 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

Throughout the year, the committee discussed the update of Visualize 2050. Some key themes emerged in our discussions and comments, as outlined below:

- 1. Clarify the purpose of the comment period and how the comments will be used.** Public comment outreach on project inputs to the plan held late in 2023 were appreciated, but the purpose and role of the comment period was confusing. It was unclear how the input received was related to later planning stages, the long-range plan in general, and how they would be considered, since so many comments were about individual projects.
- 2. Consider and communicate what portions of the plan benefit from public comment.** The project inputs and conformity public comment periods put the focus on individual projects. Although that may be helpful, there are other aspects of regional planning that may benefit from public comment that should get more attention.
- 3. Seek input from underserved communities.** Outreach overall was not programmed to specifically seek targeted input from traditionally marginalized communities. Future outreach should be expanded to explicitly seek input from these communities, such as the over-sampling done in Equity Emphasis Areas in other outreach projects/efforts.
- 4. Use the CAC to leverage comment opportunities.** Regarding outreach for air quality conformity held in the spring and summer, the CAC advised staff to be clear about the narrow focus of the topic and to use the CAC to communicate about the opportunity to their networks, which include local governments and active non-profits. Also consider continuing in-person sessions.

5. **Ensure the online forums are accessible.** The use of MetroQuest or any platform needs to be accessible to people using different browsers and software if it is the only way to provide feedback.
6. **Consider a “constrained” transit scenario.** Regarding the travel forecasts, the CAC advised that WMATA’s current funding challenges may amount to a “transit constraint” and should be considered in the modeling. This is not a new concept. The TPB has developed a transit constraint in the past.

## **DMVMOVES**

The CAC’s involvement with DMVMoves kicked off in May with a briefing from TPB staff on the initiative and the CAC’s role in it. The CAC was represented as part of the Community Partners Advisory Group (CPAG) with the chair, Ra Amin, as the official representative. Concerns raised included the transparency of the decision-making process, the swift-moving timeline, and management of the consensus-seeking process. After initial development of recommendations over the summer, the CAC provided feedback on the regional fare policy framework, regional fleet and stop design guidelines, and sources for dedicated transit funding.

Members also dove deeper into the six recommendations arising from discussions, noting that the four addressing customer service would be a good opportunity for the CAC to weigh in over the balance of the initiative. How best to provide this involvement was discussed at length over the course of three meetings. For the balance of the initiative, the CAC representative will continue to solicit questions and comments from the CAC to communicate to the advisory committee. TPB staff will continue to provide support in the CAC’s engagement with updates and information. Members of the CAC will also serve on the working groups set up around the four service-oriented initiatives.

A chief concern of the CAC was public involvement. Although there was the DMVMoves survey, this is feedback to the initiative. There needs to be a way for the public to provide comments about the ideas being developed. The CAC offered to be a forum for this engagement. Another concern raised was land value return, which was discussed at length.

## **OTHER 2024 INITIATIVES**

**TPB’s Transportation Resiliency and the Climate Mitigation Program.** The CAC provided several suggestions for clarifying the messages being conveyed by the new TRIP plan and its accompanying resources. There was also time spent discussing the greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation strategies including the realities of what is possible in GHG reductions in the transportation sector, and what influence the TPB has over those reductions.

**“Act Locally” Round Robins.** An opportunity was added to each CAC agenda starting in June to hold some time for members to share something about the work they were doing in their communities. Several members have shared their activism on an array of transportation and land use topics, from serving on a planning commission, volunteering for school safety, to design charettes, CAC members are very engaged.

In addition to the items described above, the CAC discussed a range of topics throughout the year, including:

- The State of Public Transportation Report, January and June 2024, Pierre Gaunard
- The Regional Bus Stop Design Forum, May 2024, Pierre Gaunard
- TPB Resources and Application Page (TRAP), July 2024, Charlene Howard
- The 2023 Washington-Baltimore Air Passenger Survey, October 2024, Kenneth Joh
- The TPB Regional Roadway Safety Summit, October 2024, Janie Nham

- The FY2024 Street Smart Campaign, November 2024, Mike Farrell
- The TPB/CAC Leadership Roundtable, December 2024

For all these topics, committee members provided observations and comments and engaged the presenters in Q&A sessions. These discussions were reported to the TPB in the monthly CAC report. This is the last report for this CAC cohort. A new cohort will begin to meet in February 2025.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The CAC held its first meeting in December of 1992. Since that time, the committee has played an important role in questioning and commenting on regional-level transportation issues. The two years ahead will see the conclusion of Visualize 2050, the DMVMoves initiative, and implementation of new TPB plans and policies aimed at climate resilience and mitigation. The involvement of diverse voices such as the volunteers on the CAC is ever more critical. We look forward to continuing to provide the TPB with a sounding board and a conduit to the communities the TPB serves.

### MEMBERS 2023-2024 COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Name	Jurisdiction	State
Ra Amin, Chair	DC Ward 5	DC
Ashley Huston	City of Manassas	VA
Richard Wallace	Charles County	MD
Gail Sullivan	DC Ward 6	DC
Kalli Krumpas	DC Ward 5	DC
Larkin Turman	DC Ward 3	DC
Rick Rybeck	DC Ward 1	DC
Zach Israel	DC Ward 4	DC
Dan Papiernik	Fairfax County	VA
Jeff Parnes	Fairfax County	VA
Lorena Rios	Loudoun County	VA
Christina Farver	Loudoun County	VA
Jason Stanford	Arlington	VA
Jeffrey Parnes	Fairfax County	VA
Mark Scheufler	Prince William County	VA
Noell Evans	Prince William County	VA
Tafadzwa Gwitira	Fairfax County	VA
Maribel Wong	Frederick City	MD
Nancy Abeles	Montgomery County	MD
Timothy Davis	Frederick County	MD
Vanessa Hercules	College Park	MD
Bernie LoCascio	Gaithersburg	MD
Felipe Millán	Prince Georges County	MD
Heather Gaona	Rockville	MD
Jacqueline Allen	Charles County	MD