

ACCESS FOR ALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA) met virtually on Monday, November 3, 2025. The committee members received an update from the WMATA Access Advisory Committee and DMVMoves, discussed revitalizing the Reach-a-Ride program, and leadership of the committee. They also got a detailed briefing of the Visualize 2050 plan documents.

REPORT FROM THE WMATA ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC) LIAISON

Christiaan Blake, Vice-President of Access Services for WMATA, filled in for Deborah Fisher who had a scheduling conflict. The AAC is an advisory committee that reports to WMATA's Board of Directors to represent the needs of people with disabilities and older adults riding Metro. The report touched on several recent activities. Metro has introduced a new access van model to their MetroAccess fleet which has a low-floor ramp. They will be phasing out the lift vehicles with these replacements. The new vehicle can accommodate two wheelchairs, ambulatory passengers, and has many amenities, such as built-in chargers. It provides for a shared-ride experience, for which Metro strives. They are also expanding the MetroAccess network to include Lyft, in addition to Uber and taxi companies. Lyft will likely be door-to-door service. There is currently no charge for these services. They are also looking at expanding the service area, and the number of private companies providing the service.

Questions and comments included clarification about the free rides: what is the eligibility for that? Mr. Blake explained this is the Abilities Ride program. If you are a MetroAccess customer, you book a trip on MetroAccess. Metro runs a lottery that randomly selects a number of trips to go to alternative services fare-free.

DMVMOVES

Pierre Gaunard, TPB Staff, gave a summary of DMVMoves, a regional transit initiative meant to address multiple transit funding and service concerns. The initiative started in May 2024. The Task Force advisory body framed it by adopting a vision and set of goals to achieve an integrated, seamless, world-class transit system. A variety of other advisory and technical working groups were set up to support the Task Force, which was made up of elected and appointed officials. The Government Partners Advisory Group was made up of representatives from different departments of transportation and other government bodies and a Community Partners Advisory Group made up of community members and non-governmental transit stakeholders from a wide variety of interest groups. Over the course of a year and a half of discussions and debate, recommendations were developed to provide additional funding to WMATA for maintenance and modernization needs and a six step Action Plan to create a more seamless and integrated regional transit network. The Task Force met on October 29 and approved a resolution to take the recommendations to the joint COG/WMATA Board. Mr. Gaunard shared that more information is available at dmvmoves.org.

REACH-A-RIDE

Dan Sheehan, TPB Transportation Operations Programs Director, announced that TPB has received a small amount of funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to determine if the Reach-a-Ride program should be re-started. Reach-a-Ride is a referral service for transportation providers throughout the greater metropolitan area. It has a listing of about a hundred plus providers. Someone who is looking for specialized transportation services can use this. It provides information so people can learn their options. He wants to get input from the AFA on the feasibility, since it has been some time since the program has been active, and there has been an evolution in rider referral programs. He asked for volunteers to form a small working group, just one or two meetings, to explore the idea over the next few months. Interested volunteers can contact Mr. Sheehan at dsheehan@mwkog.org.

AFA ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATION

Laura Bachle, TPB staff, facilitated a discussion on a recommendation for AFA leadership. The proposal is for co-chairs; one from the member organizations and one from the ex-officio members. Since there wasn't a significant number of members in the November 3 meeting, Ms. Bachle offered to leave the matter open for any further discussion, after which the recommendation will move to the TPB. The goal is to have the new leadership structure in place by February 2, when the AFA meets again.

DRAFT VISUALIZE 2050 NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLAN, FY 2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS REPORT OF THE PLAN AND TIP

Committee members received a detailed briefing on the Visualize 2050 plan documents, including a review of the website and how to promote participation in the last public comment period, now underway. One follow-up to be considered may be drafting a memo to the TPB from the AFA reflecting advice on future planning efforts. Ms. Bachle asked for volunteers to form a small group if the AFA is interested in pursuing the opportunity.

Member Attendees

Jane Brown, University Legal Services
William Clements, Gaithersburg HELP
Solomon Haile, COMTO, DC Chapter
Terri Lamb, DATA
Kevin O'Brien, WABA
Karen Smith, The ARC of Greater Prince William/INSIGHT, Inc.
Zitao Weng, Korean Community Service Center of Great Washington
Keziah Wohlers, The ARC of Northern Virginia

Ex-Officio Attendees

Denise Isreal, Montgomery County DOT
Glenn Millis, WMATA
Christiaan Blake, WMATA (Guest speaker)
Zachary Smith, DDOT
Leo Pineda, VDOT
Jessica Richards, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

TPB Staff

Laura Bachle
Rachel Beyerle
Amanda Lau
Lyn Erickson
Kanti Srikanth
Dan Sheehan
Cristina Finch
Pierre Gaunaurd
Dusan Vuksan
Robert d'Abadie