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**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE TPB**

February 19, 2025  
*Daniel Papiernik, CAC Chair*

The February meeting of the CAC was held virtually and in-person on Thursday, February 13. The meeting featured welcomes and introductions, new member orientation, and work planning for 2025. The committee also held their “Act Locally” round-robin.

**WELCOME FROM THE TPB CHAIR AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The TPB Chair, James Walkinshaw and the Director, Kanti Srikanth, welcomed members, discussed their priorities for the coming year, and discussed how the CAC might play a part in the decision-making. Chair Walkinshaw mentioned the major initiatives underway, including Visualize2050 and DMVMoves. He said that ultimately, transportation is about people, so it should be safe, reliable and sustainable. He also emphasized improving accessibility while balancing needs among urban, suburban, and rural communities. Chair Walkinshaw asked the CAC to continue challenging the TPB to engage in more meaningful discussions, noting that the CAC’s work strengthens the TPB to make more informed decisions. Director Kanti Srikanth provided the CAC with a brief background on the TPB. He previewed the outlook for the TPB work plan and explained how the TPB’s work is funded. Members were then asked to introduce themselves and use a one-word description for their experience or vision of transportation in the Capital Region. The exercise illustrated both the diversity and enthusiasm of the committee.

Questions and comments included the following:

**Do we know how the new federal administration might affect TPB’s funding?**

The TPB’s funding mostly comes from the USDOT (80% federal, 10% state, 10% local). TPB funding is based on a federal formula, which is less likely to be affected by the change in administration. Discretionary funds are subject to re-examination and while the TPB does not receive discretionary funding, the Federal Highway Trust Fund does get supplemented by the general fund and we do not know how this will impact the TPB’s formula funding after next year.

**MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Staff provided members with an orientation to the National Capital Transportation Planning Board, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the role the TPB Community Advisory Committee plays in regional transportation planning. The impact the CAC has had over the years since their founding was also highlighted.

**DMVMoves ORIENTATION AND UPDATES**

TPB staff gave an overview of the initiative and work to date. The main focus is on improving the regional transit system, coordinating services, and identifying funding needs and resources. Vice-chair Ra Amin will continue representing the CAC on the DMVMoves committees and working groups, particularly the Community Partners Advisory Group. Mr. Amin will report back to the CAC to receive the CAC’s feedback and communicate it to the task force. He noted that the CAC’s input is well-received, often reflecting the same priorities as other members of the Community Partners Advisory Group.

Questions and comments included the following:

**Where does consideration for paratransit fall within the DMVMoves framework?**

Paratransit is a factor under consideration when we are talking about a seamless system, such as ADA compliance, which benefits all riders. However paratransit is a much smaller part of the overall budget, so it doesn't face the same "fiscal cliff" as other operations, therefore most of the discussion on paratransit has occurred within the broader context of access overall.

**Has there been any consideration of adoption of fare-free busses across the region?**

Close to half the transit in the region is fare-free or has some fare-free options. Fares are certainly part of the dialogue over a seamless network. Going from no fare to a fare from one transit provider to another is confusing and discourages ridership. As part of the DMVMoves initiative, there's no expectation that any jurisdiction is going to be asked to repeal their fare-free service. Operators can continue to set their own fare policies, but regarding how different discount classes are treated, we are hoping for some consensus.

**Regarding the working groups, are they divided up by jurisdiction?**

The working groups are divided by topic, not by jurisdiction. There are representatives from all the jurisdictions on each group.

**What is the status of the Shared Services Working Group?**

This is the group tasked with exploring shared use of resources, assets and grouped procurements. There's a lot of agreement up front about the overall idea, but there are details about the implementation that has to be discussed. There are differences in how the jurisdictions do procurement, for example. All that takes a lot of discussion. The group continues to hold discussions.

**How difficult is it to achieve consensus?**

Consensus is achievable on the overall ideas, but more challenging when we start talking about implementation. Through the discussions we are achieving a framework to figure out a solution that puts us on a path to consensus.

## **CAC WORK PLANNING DISCUSSION**

TPB staff highlighted the major work activities on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2025, focusing on those topics in which the CAC may be involved, for example the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region, National Capital Region Freight Plan, implementation of safety summit recommendations, DMVMoves, and Visualize 2050.

## **ACT LOCALLY ROUND-ROBIN**

Chair Papiernik opened discussion on the activities that members are doing in their local communities. A number of members shared their ongoing work, including walkability clinics, newsletter production, work on trail improvements, legislation on land value transfer, work on school safety, work with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Healthy Communities Initiative, and work on strengthening ties between transportation, land use and safety in rural areas.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **TPB**

Chair James Walkinshaw

### **CAC Members**

Daniel Papiernik, Chair

Ra Amin, Vice-Chair

Keba Baldwin

Juanita Beltran

Felicia Brannon

Tim Davis

Kyle Dunn

Martha Fedorowicz

Heather Ganoa

Dan Hardy

Kevin Jiang

Madeline Kaba

Jenene Lee

Cooper Lohr

Mónica Martínez López

Dorothy Menelas

Felipè Millàn

Asa Orrin-Brown

Jeff Parnes

Lorena Rios

Rick Rybeck

Mark Scheufler

Gail Sullivan

Connor Young

### **Staff**

Leonardo Pineda

Rachel Beyerle

Laura Bachle

Kanti Srikanth

Amanda Lau

Lyn Erickson

Pierre Gaunard