

MWG 8/13/19

Transportation

Attendance: Michael Powell, Nancy Kopp, Elizabeth Bunn, Jana Davis, Fred Ducca, Mike Remsberg, Elliott Campbell, Susan Payne, Earl Lewis, Colleen Turner, Justin Mabrey, Paul Berman, Dave Nemazie, Ellen Valentino, Ken Choi, Ian Ullman, Suseel Indrakanti, Tim Wilke, Rebecca Bankard, Jim Frazier, Audrey Lylce, Nick Webster, Mike Jones, Tom Walz, Jeff Silva, Lindsey Mendelson, Eric Norton, John Mosheim, Jeremy Martin, Drew Veysey, Donald Goldberg

Welcome from Secretary Grumbles

- Secretary Grumbles noted the importance of transportation in the draft GGRA plan. He mentioned the draft GGRA plan is still in progress and they are working to provide all specifics. As the plan is going through interagency review, a certain release date is still unknown, but he is attempting to keep the public as informed as possible.

Public Comment

Jeff Silva (Citizen)

- He is concerned with pollution from electricity producers and mentioned how transportation is now relying on EVs. He would like to see more widespread electrification and wants power factor corrector circuitry installed. He likened cell phone charging to an EV charging station (he gave a demonstration). He would prefer to see MD succeed in the transportation sector and believes the answer to this is more PV panels.

Lindsey Mendelson (Sierra Club)

- She thanked TCI's commitment in Baltimore and thinks the public engagement sessions in impacted areas are a good opportunity to learn about TCI and give feedback. She listed a number of organizations that support it.

Eric Norton (Director of Policy and Program for Central MD Transportation Alliance)

- He noted the importance of the six public engagement sessions. His line of work is to improve transportation options. He urged the group to take a stand against transportation projects such as highway expansion and believes an increase in emissions will lead to an increase in sprawl to farmland.

John Mosheim (Citizen)

- He believes we are consuming too many fuels in MD that are non-renewable. He also believes that even if we reduce this consumption, we still need other types of alternative fuels. He urged the commission to look more in-depth at the topic of biofuels. He stated that biofuels have worked in CA in terms of efficiency on low-carbon tests. He would like to see more analysis on this issue which would incorporate efficiency, economy, and environmental savings.

Jeremy Martin (Union of Concerned Scientists)

- He stated that transportation is the largest source of emissions in MD and the localized impacts of transportation issues hit some communities harder than others. Mentioned that TCI is not a silver bullet on its own but can help to be part of the solution.

Donald Goldberg (Citizen)

- He emphasized the importance of public participation specifically in terms of investment. He believes we need more than just commission meetings devoted to this specific issue. He thinks a good first step in regards to state fleets is going to hybrid or electric vehicles. He believes full EVs would be better, even at an increased cost and MD needs to show real leadership on these to counter people's reluctance to buy them.

Ellen Valentino (MAPDA)

- She 100% agrees with better analysis on transportation, but thinks that realistic goals need to be met as opposed to policies. She thinks failures should be evaluated as well, such as EVs which usually only targets new car buyers such as the wealthy. She would like to see the science of better policies, more work at home options, as well as transparency going forward. She highlighted that the public needs to see the benefits of the EV purchased at the point of sale.

Elizabeth Bunn (MWG member)

- She is questioning the TCI process. She believes the vast majority of burden falls on those with the inability to avoid it. She would like to see communities participate as the process unfolds. She suggested that future MWG meetings be live streamed and recorded for the public.

Transportation Planning Overview (see PowerPoint)

- Earl Lewis and Colleen Turner- This PowerPoint is an overview of what was presented at the August Meeting for MDOT.
 - **Questions and Comments:**
 - Mike Powell mentioned that a lot of the EV money is being spent on infrastructure along the highway. He does not think MD residents truly benefit from EV charging stations along the highway, but rather at home and at the workplace.
 - Earl Lewis understands what Mike Powell is alluding to, but stated there are different layers to this initiative.
 - Secretary Grumbles stated that workplace charging facilities are a priority in which MD is looking at for EV charging stations.
 - Mike Powell continued stating that the I-95 charging stations are probably not even used by MD residents, but rather out-of-state users who are passing through. He mentioned that even if MD residents were to go on a long trip, they would most likely charge their vehicles in other states and not at the stations near MD highways. He went on to say that while it's good overall for proliferating EV usage, it does nothing for the specific goal of encouraging Marylanders to purchase EVs. He concluded by emphasizing that his main point is that most people in MD will charge their EVs at home and at the workplace.

Transportation Sector GGRA (see PowerPoint)

- Colleen Turner
 - **Questions and Comments:**
 - Dave Nemazie asked about a dollar per ton example, as he feels like it would be easier to visualize, on the Policy 4 Scenario slide.
 - Colleen Turner responded by saying its hard to do a dollar per ton example with so many other factors.

- Drew Cobbs stated analysis could be done on older vehicles that create more pollution or what would happen if you bought these older vehicles from the public.
 - Colleen Turner concurred, stating that MDOT should look into this.

Discussion: Recommendations (PowerPoint Slide with MDOT recommendations)

- Susan Payne asked about the estimated impacts of EVs on the electrical grid- would it increase electricity demand?
- Earl Lewis responded by saying this issue will have to be resolved .
- Secretary Grumbles stated that MEA is engaged in this effort to modernize the grid.
- Colleen Turner mentioned that this is a collaborative issue which will need to be worked out.
- Mike Powell noted that plug in peak times are different for each person and situation, and the weather can affect this as well.
- Question was asked in regards to estimating ZEV and what policies we use - are they strict, middle case, or conservative?
- Chris Hoagland stated two different scenarios can be found - one which is ambitious and meets the ZEV mandate and the other which misses by half, but still hitting the overall 2020 goal. He is uncertain on the number of EVs which will be deployed.
- Drew Cobbs asked about the present fleet of EVs verse ones which are individually owned.
 - Colleen Turner responded by saying light duty EVs are the ones where most are individually owned.
- Drew Cobbs then noted that the policy will eventually drive the prices of EVs down.
 - Earl Lewis agreed with Drew Cobbs that the price will come down and become more affordable.
- Statement was made that the world market is booming for EVs such as the largest market which is China and that we need to take a world view on this subject and global sales will drive this price down.
- Elizabeth Bunn stated that we have to look at a combination of regulation and market forces.
- Mike Powell noted that EVs are more expensive and harder to afford.
 - Earl Lewis responded by saying that the prices are coming down.
- Elliott Campbell highlighted that we could be spending more money on the land based side for reductions in the GGRA plan.
- Secretary Grumbles responded by saying we need systematic strategic plans that include the transportation sector alongside the land based sector. He also highlighted that we need smart and strategic investments in EVs as well as charging stations.
- Tom Walz asked about funding and where money for EVs goes?
 - Earl Lewis responded by stating this is helped by the transportation trust fund.
 - Colleen Turner stated the previous presentation shows where the money comes from.
- Drew Cobbs noted that the transportation community is too under-represented at these meetings and this is a concern. He believes we need to reach out to stakeholders that are most directly impacted, such as those living near highways or major roads.
- Colleen Turner then mentioned that the 2019 draft recommendations are on a PowerPoint slide which is available.
- Brian Hug noted that more time is needed to digest these transportation recommendations.

Other business

- Mike Powell stated that this group has to make more recommendations and these need to be thought about between meetings if possible.

Meeting adjourned 12:04