

Fairfax County Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) CECAP Working Group Meeting Notes

Transportation and Development Subgroup

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Held electronically via WebEx and Mural

Fairfax County held a CECAP Working Group Transportation and Development Subgroup meeting on January 28th, 2021 from 6:00-8:00pm. The meeting was held electronically via WebEx and included a brainstorming session using Mural, an online whiteboard.

Recordings of each meeting and meeting materials [are available online](#).

These meeting notes capture the general activities conducted and discussions that occurred during the meetings. These notes should be viewed in conjunction with the presentation and meeting materials, found at the link above.

Sign-in & Tech Check (Logan Pfeiffer, ICF)

Logan Pfeiffer from ICF provided Mural assistance and tutorials as requested by participants.

Legal Requirements/Roll Call (Candace Cronin, ICF)

A script was read to cover several legal requirements for holding electronic meetings. The script was revised and shortened in response to feedback in coordination with the County Attorneys. The script included conducting a roll call identifying all CECAP Working Group members in attendance and where they were attending from. It was noted that to conduct this meeting electronically, the meeting needs to be clearly audible, publicly accessible, and compelled by emergency circumstances. It was established that this meeting could not be held in person due to the COVID-19 emergency, and that therefore it could instead be held electronically via audio-conferencing. It was also established that this meeting is necessary to move forward the Working Group's functions.

Welcome & Meeting Overview (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. Meeting objectives included reviewing outcomes from December subgroup meetings, continuing the

discussion around strategies, and setting the stage for prioritization of strategies. [See the presentation slides for more detail.](#)

Review of December Subgroup Meeting (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin provided an overview of outcomes from the December Energy Subgroup meeting. During that meeting, the Working Group used Mural to brainstorm considerations for three categories, Technology & Action, Implementation, and Impact (Cost/GHG/Equity), for the following transportation and development strategies:

- Strategy 7: Increase Electric Vehicle (EV) Adoption
- Strategy 8a: Support active transportation
- Strategy 8b: Support public transportation
- Strategy 8c: Support efficient land use and transportation demand management (TDM)

The group also began brainstorming considerations for Strategy 9: Increase fuel economy and use of low carbon fuels for transportation.

See the [December Transportation Subgroup Meeting page](#) for more detail, including meeting minutes, presentation slides, the WebEx recording, and the Mural board used for brainstorming.

Review of Strategies (Adam Agalloco, ICF)

Adam Agalloco provided an overview of strategies 9-12, and provided some context on the three brainstorming categories (technology and action, implementation, and impact)

- Strategy 9: Increase fuel economy and use of low carbon fuels for transportation.
- Strategy 10: Reduce the amount of waste generated and divert waste from landfills and incinerators.
- Strategy 11: Responsibly manage all waste streams.
- Strategy 12: Support preservation and expansion of quality natural resources.

Brainstorming on Mural Board (Candace Cronin, ICF)

The Working Group used Mural to brainstorm considerations for transportation strategies 9-12.

[Click here to view the closed Mural board.](#)

Networking Break

Working Group members were given a 10-minute break for networking and discussion via the public and private chat functions of WebEx.

Review and Revise Strategies (Candace Cronin, ICF)

The Working Group reviewed the transportation, development, and waste strategies and discussed the following questions:

- Should any strategies be revised, and how?
- Should anything be added?
- Should anything be removed?

Discussion:

Comment: Pricing trash by the pound was something Fairfax County tried about 25 years ago, and it was shut down by folks who use disposable diapers. It might still be a good option, but we'll have to think about different groups.

Comment: As electric vehicles get bigger and bigger, electric vehicle mobility should include both light duty and heavy-duty vehicles. Infrastructure for electric charging stations should be included as well.

Comment: With transportation, commercial vehicles and heavy trucks don't seem to be included.

Response: They are included. We will be more inclusive with the language in Strategy 7 and 9 to better communicate the different types of vehicles we want to include.

Comment: Strategy 7 and 9 are great for vehicles, but strategies for aviation are missing.

Response: In response to earlier input from the Task Force, aviation is included in the Fairfax County greenhouse inventory conducted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG). There is a role for aviation to increase fuel economy and use of low carbon fuels for transportation, so this is an area we can build out more, potentially under Strategy 9.

Comment: Right now, we are seeing a lot of different delivery modes, and some new ones like drones are right around the corner. We need to consider that as we look at our aviation space and transportation network.

Comment: When we reduce prices or add incentives, we need to make sure it is an incentive that people across the board can access.

Comment: Not everyone owns a vehicle, so including other transportation modes in incentive structures is essential.

Comment: Low carbon fuels come with their own set of different pollutants and infrastructure, so I would suggest we look at this as only a transition strategy to get to all renewable. There are some low carbon fuels like hydrogen that are very low

on the pollutant scale, so we need to be really careful about the definitions here. Some states use credits, and I'm very opposed to credits to get to zero carbon.

Response: We will consider revising the wording for Strategy 9 to refer to low and no carbon fuels and be more explicit about what it includes.

Comment: Can you clarify what is meant by transportation demand management (TDM)? Is there a better phrase that you might use to communicate it?

Response: It is about how folks make decisions, as opposed to infrastructure. TDM is promoting and finding ways to have more public transit and more car sharing. That could look like limiting parking in a certain part of town. That's a great point about the accessibility of the language, and we will definitely think about that.

Comment: Defining what quality means is too much of a judgement call and may eliminate what one person thinks is quality if another person disagrees. A really key word is missing here, restoration.

Response: Great points. We were trying to get at things like invasive species that we might not want to preserve, and there are also opportunities to improve spaces, but you make a good point.

Comment: The word "streams" in Strategy 11 may be confusing to the public.

Comment: Strategy 11 is more than just trash; it also encompasses wastewater.

Comment: Strategy 12 should have the term biodiversity. That is one of the definitions of quality, such as native plants, mature trees, and protecting species.

Response: Great points. We have some wordsmithing to do for these measures. There might be language to be leveraged from the Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Plan.

Comment: Strategy 11 should be more than responsibly managing waste; it is about reducing waste and moving towards a more sustainable use of our resources (e.g., biodegradable and sustainable materials).

Comment: For Strategy 12, we should focus decision makers on looking county-wide, particularly when we are talking about intact forests, which are a scarce resource. We should also think about how we can prioritize benefits for maintaining forests in the county.

Comment: For Strategy 9, we should expand local opportunities for green open space and placemaking so that people don't have to drive to access those resources, and there are potential small business benefits there as well.

Setting the Stage for the Next Meeting (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin set the stage for the next meeting, in which Working Group members will select prioritization criteria and values, prioritize strategies and actions, and discuss sector-specific goals.

Wrap Up and Next Steps (Candace Cronin, ICF)

Candace Cronin reviewed the meeting outcomes and next steps, including the following:

- February 2021: Public survey and meetings
- March 2021: Third round of Working Group subgroup meetings to finalize and prioritize strategies and sector-specific goals.

Feedback was requested via the WebEx chat and cecapoutreach@fairfaxcounty.gov on the meeting, communications, and opportunities for participation. Comments received via WebEx chat are recorded in the WebEx transcript, [available here](#).