

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

September 15th, 2017 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Minutes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Mike Powell, Jim Strong, Tom Ballentine, Larry Kasecamp, Gerrit Knaap, Ben Hobbs, Les Knapp, Colleen Turner, Colby Ferguson, Chris Rice, Elliott Campbell (for Christine Conn), Arjun Makhijani, Susan Payne, Tom Walz, Luke Wisniewski (for Tad Aburn), Earl Lewis (MDOT), Larry Liebesman (Citizens' Climate Lobby), Jessica Langerman (Citizens' Climate Lobby), Kanti Srikanth (MWGCOG), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), David Costello (IEER), Dorothy Morris (MDOT), Alicia Moran, Todd Lang (Baltimore Metropolitan Council).

Phone Attendance: Susan Barnes (for Mike Remsberg), Colby Ferguson, Mark Kresowick (Sierra Club MD), Mark Breslow (Climate XChange), Donald Goldberg.

1. Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM
- Introductions were made around the room and on the phone

2. Panel Speakers and Transportation Discussion

- presentations given by Colleen Turner (MDOT) and Kanti Srikanth (MWCOG) can be found under the meeting materials on the Commission's website
- most effective strategies were emphasized by Kanti as (1) pricing of fuel and (2) improving operational efficiency (e.g. traffic signal coordination, time/route of travel)
- it was clarified by Kanti that they do not yet have data regarding a cost-benefit analysis of these strategies to determine the most economically efficient.
- regarding the recommendations presented within MDOT's presentation:
 - Slide 19: no concerns were expressed with these bullets as presented
 - Slide 20: no concerns were expressed with the proposed change as presented
 - Slide 21: Arjun stated that it seems as though other countries are moving towards banning new petrol vehicle sales, and proposed that a ban be studied. Earl voiced that it is likely to move forward as such naturally anyway, but would be difficult to actually ban (Chris Rice supported this statement). The point was tabled and there was no further discussion on this revised recommendation.
 - Slide 22: Chris Rice requested that propane vehicles be added to the analysis. There was no further discussion on this revised recommendation.
 - Slide 23: It was clarified that MDOT's objection to this proposal was not to increasing ridership, but to the specific goal presented, and it was therefore determined that the recommendation could be revised to reflect looking at methods of increasing mass transit ridership. It was also requested that autonomous vehicles and ride-sharing be included as well. There was no further discussion on this revised comment.

3. Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation

- the presentation given by Citizens' Climate Lobby can be found under the meeting materials on the Commission's website.
- a brief discussion followed the presentation
 - Larry clarified that, in Massachusetts, the fee was imposed on generators but credited to avoid double-counting in relation to the RGGI program
 - Ben Hobbs stated that generators should not be included for Maryland's consideration

- Arjun expressed concerns regarding the dividend creating a low-income cash flow issue, and would like to see this taken up more in depth next year but not in the current report
- Larry expressed that the recommendation language (his slide 18) could be altered to just a consideration, but it may be worth including the general concept since things are progressing quickly.
- Luke suggested we could include a reference, as written, in the 2018 work plan, which do still go to the Commission early next year.
- Earl agreed that he would be more comfortable moving this discussion to next year.
- Ben Grumbles agreed, noting that since we were not able to arrive at a consensus yet, it may be best referenced in the work plan for more research.

4. Public Comment

- Mark Kresowick of the Sierra Club expressed concern that they had not been able to review or follow along with MDOT's transportation recommendations. It was pointed out that while they had not been placed in a stand-alone document, all recommendations being discussed were included in MDOT's presentation and the slides were available on the Commission website prior to the meeting date.

12:45PM Meeting Adjourned