
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The final version of the FY 2004 UPWP was printed and distributed to the TPB, the Technical Committee and interested groups and citizens in October.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the October 3 meeting the Program Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2003-2008 TIP as requested by VDOT. At the October 15 meeting, the TPB approved an amendment to the FY 2003-2008 TIP to add funding for planning and right-of-way for protective and hardship acquisitions for the Intercounty Connector Project as requested by MDOT. It also approved the components that are exempt from the air quality conformity requirement for the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration project as requested by DDOT.

The final draft FY 2004-2009 TIP was released for public comment on October 15, 2003. The TIP is scheduled for approval at the November 17 TPB meeting if the new mobile emissions budgets, which are necessary for the TPB to make an air quality conformity determination, are approved by the EPA. Also on October 15, the TPB released information for public comment for the development of an interim 2003 CLRP and an interim FY 2004-2009 TIP if the TPB approval of the 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP is postponed.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

The final draft maps and lists that depict the major studies, major highway improvements, and major HOV and transit improvements to be included the 2003 CLRP was released for public comment on October 15, 2003. The 2003 CLRP is scheduled for approval at the November 17 TPB meeting if the new mobile emissions budgets, which are necessary for the TPB to make an air quality conformity determination, are approved by the EPA. Also on October 15, the TPB released information for public comment for the development of an interim 2003 CLRP and an interim FY 2004-2009 TIP if the TPB adoption of the 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP is postponed.

D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

No meeting of the MOITS task forces was held during the time period. The MOITS Professional Capacity Building Working Group met on October 27, 2003, and focused on planning future courses. It was suggested to repeat a popular traffic signal optimization course that had been offered in 2001.

Staff also attended and gave input to a meeting on the Fairfax County Transit ITS Strategic Plan on October 7.

EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 – Emergency Transportation Work Group met on October 14, 2003. Staff worked extensively with the consultant team on the project to update the Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan. Focuses in this time period included continued compilation of emergency through-routes maps and associated geographic information systems files for planning purposes; development of multiple “situations” on which to base emergency transportation planning; and improving communications procedures within RESF 1. The work group instructed the staff, as part of the effort, to develop a series of workshops to examine aspects of emergency transportation and evacuation planning. Staff worked extensively with the consultant team to identify the topics of potential workshops, to develop participants’ materials, and to conduct the first workshop on October 29.

Staff help lead a technical workshop on October 7 between the Virginia Department of Transportation, COG transportation staff, and the local jurisdictions of Northern Virginia to help identify emergency transportation through-route roadways in Northern Virginia, as technical background information to revision of the RECP. Work was to continue into November.

Staff continued to assist COG public safety staff (regarding transportation components and parameters) on the update of the regional coordination plan for major snow events. Staff attended and assisted with the Snow Plan exercise and annual meeting on October 16. Also, the Snow Plan transportation working group met on October 20, 2003 to discuss results of the October 16 exercise.

On October 15, staff attended a Maryland statewide workshop at Towson University on a Maryland emergency geographic information system (GIS) under development.

E. Financial Plan

On October 3, the Technical Committee was briefed on the new study to quantify the region's near-term transit and highway funding needs and priorities and to identify specific sources of revenues over the six-year period 2005 to 2010. At the October 3 meeting, the Program Committee amended the FY 2004 UPWP to include the study of near term regional transportation funding needs, funding availability, and project/program priorities to be funded from the WMATA Technical Assistance Program. Staff met with CSI staff to review the scope of work and to identify potential contacts and sources of data for the study. In November, CSI staff will brief the Technical Committee TPB on the progress to date on the study.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No work during the reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Attended a planning meeting for a training session for Federal Employee Transportation Coordinators at EPA. Wrote a presentation to give at the session.
- Attended a planning meeting for Bike to Work Day 2004
- Attended two planning meetings for the COG Transportation Safety Workshop. Gathered electronic and paper mailing lists to publicize the workshop.
- Briefed a Washington Post reporter on bicycle and pedestrian activities in the region, provided follow-up information.
- Attended a Potomac Heritage Trail Caucus in Fairfax
- Attended the kick-off press conference for the Think of the Impact Pedestrian Safety Campaign at the Reeves Center
- Attended a three-day training conference for the Walkable Communities Workshops in San Jose, CA

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks in October 2003:

- COG/HSPPS continued work on the regional Job Access Needs Program Analysis. COG staff also commenced work on the annual update of the Area-Wide Job Access Plan. New data on TANF recipients as well as updates to the project elements of the Job Access program will be included in the updated report.

I. Public Participation

The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee hosted two outreach meetings on October 1 and October 7, and held its regular monthly meeting on October 9.

On October 1, more than 120 citizens and community leaders gathered for the CAC's outreach meeting at the Best Western Hotel in Oxon Hill. Peter Shapiro, who chairs both the TPB and the Prince George's County Council, moderated the meeting. Presentations were made by Prince George's County staff. During the question and answer session, many citizens voiced the feeling that the transportation needs of southern Prince George's County's have been consistently ignored. Discussion focused on numerous projects important to the area.

On October 7, the CAC joined with the TPB's Access for All Advisory Committee for a public meeting that looked at transit-oriented development (TOD) and its implications for the eastern side of the Washington region. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, which was held at St. Luke's Center on East Capital Street near the Benning Road Metro station. TPB Chairman Peter Shapiro chaired this forum. Presentations were made by staff from WMATA and from the planning offices in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County. Participants at the meeting included several mayors and elected officials from nearby jurisdictions. Participants discussed frustration at the slow progress in developing areas around Metro stations, concerns about gentrification and the need for citizens and community leaders to get involved in pushing for appropriate development.

Both public meetings were extensively advertised: more than 1,000 flyers were mailed for each session, and more than 40 media outlets were contacted.

The CAC's monthly meeting on October 9 focused on the 2003 Update of the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). Wendy Klancher and Ron Kirby of the TPB staff gave a briefing on the CLRP.

The public comment period for the 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-09 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) began at the TPB meeting on October 16, 2003.

Access for All Advisory Committee

The TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee met on October 2, 2003. Staff prepared the meeting materials, including a series of maps that showed 2003 draft CLRP major studies, HOV and transit improvements and highway improvements with 2000 Census demographic information. Staff presented these maps to the AFA to review for potential impacts on low-income communities, minority communities and people with

disabilities. A summary of AFA comments on the draft 2003 CLRP was presented to the TPB by Kathy Porter and distributed. Staff also presented the draft 2003 CLRP and Census demographic information to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on October 9.

Comments on WMATA's "Mainstreaming Individuals with Disabilities Onto MetroBus and MetroRail" were drafted and finalized. The comments were presented at the October 2 meeting. Census data on the number of people with disabilities and income levels was summarized.

Staff assisted with the public outreach meeting on October 7 at Saint Luke's Center in the District of Columbia focusing on transit-oriented development (TOD) on the eastern side of the region, co-hosted by the CAC and AFA.

J. Annual Report

Distribution of the 2003 edition of the Region was completed.

K. DTP Management

In addition to the provision of staff support to meetings of the TPB, the Program Committee, and the Technical Committee, the following activities were undertaken:

- The DTP Director gave a presentation on transportation and air quality as part of a panel discussion sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.
- The DTP Director participated in a panel discussion at the annual UCLA meeting at Lake Arrowhead entitled "Transportation Finance – the Missing Link".
- DTP staff participated in the annual meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) held in Washington, D.C.

Value Pricing Task Force

Staff continued to support the TPB Value Pricing Task Force, which met on October 15, 2003. Meeting highlights from September 10 were drafted and the task force goals and strategies to be examined were updated. A summary of parking pricing strategies previously examined as potential transportation emission reduction measures (TERMs) was created. At the October 15 meeting, the task force discussed the proposed regional high occupancy vehicle (HOV) /high occupancy toll (HOT) lane scenario for the TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. A summary of the highlights from the October task force meeting was developed. In preparation for the November task force

meeting, staff gathered information on the existing and planned HOV lane network for 2030 based on the 2003 draft Constrained Long Range Plan.

Staff made a presentation to the Joint Technical Working Group overseeing the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study on the activities of the task force.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff completed all highway and transit networks for the air quality conformity analysis of the FY2004-2009 TIP / 2003 CLRP. The network analysis years were: 2005, 2015, 2025, and 2030.

Staff completed all travel demand and emissions analysis for all forecast years. Staff completed off-line emissions analysis, including bus emissions, local road emissions, and auto access to transit emissions, for each forecast year.

Staff completed a draft of both a summary report and the full conformity report. The summary report was distributed to the TPB at its October meeting, which marked the beginning of the public comment period. Copies of the full report were available upon request. Staff prepared a .pdf version of the full report and placed it on the website for access during the public comment period.

Staff continued highway network database maintenance activities, working with the GIS staff to refine the network coding processes.

Staff continued flowcharting and documentation of the conformity analysis data processing activities.

In October COG/DEP staff assisted DTP staff in setting up the MOBILE6 emission factors for different cases of 2002 and 2005 mobile emissions. Staff briefed TPB Technical Committee and TPB about the status of the revised SIP for March 1, 2004.

In accordance with TPB consultation procedures, staff also forwarded to the consultation agencies and public advisory committees the meeting agenda and a summary memo regarding the October TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff and MWAQC committees. In October staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its SIP Management Task Force, an Executive Committee conference call, a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, and a meeting of its Conformity Subcommittee. Air quality planning activities related primarily to finalization of results and transmittal of materials to be included in the 'severe area' ozone SIP. Staff also continued with emissions inventory development for wintertime carbon monoxide (CO) conditions for 2007 and 2016, for CO maintenance planning requirements.

Staff estimated the emissions benefit of the TERMS implemented after 2000 and updated the TERM Tracking Sheet to reflect the changes. The results were also incorporated in the conformity report. Since no TERMS were needed to offset NOx and VOC emissions to meet the emissions budget the Travel Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for October was cancelled. The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for November 25, 2003. Staff prepared input files needed to generate mobile source emissions inventories for the years 2002, 2005, 2015, 2025, and 2030. Staff prepared emissions plots based on the emissions inventory for the different pollutants.

Air Quality staff assisted DTP in setting up MOBILE6 emission factors for 2025 for the conformity analysis. The Technical Advisory Committee's Conformity Subcommittee met to review the conformity analysis for the FY2004-2009 TIP and the 2003 CLRP.

C. Regional Studies

Staff gave a detailed status report on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study to the Joint Technical Working Group at their October 10th meeting.

Staff presented the proposed methodology and detailed assumptions for the "Coordinated Regional Bus and Transit Service" element of the Region Congestion Management Program for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study to the Joint Technical Working Group on October 10th. This presentation included transmittal of memoranda and other technical documents that described transit networks coded for the CLRP and Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

Staff began development of the CLRP Plus Scenario transit network using information received from the Transportation Scenarios subgroup.

Staff presented some initial travel demand modeling runs and screen line analyses for the 2000 Base, 2030 CLRP and the "More Household Growth in the Region" alternative land use scenario to the Transportation Scenarios subgroup on October 20th.

Staff began preparation of information on the geographic distribution of zero vehicle households, transit commuting modal shares, and transit trip productions and attractions for the "More Household Growth" scenario for the Transportation Scenarios subgroup.

During October, network development activities in support of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study increased in intensity with respect to the “CLRPP Plus” scenario, as final detailed information on bus service characteristics was received from the working group.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff worked with the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee on development of the Econometric Model and Key Factors Assumptions for the Round 7 Cooperative Forecasts.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Activities in October focused on network maintenance activities for FY2004 with the computer processing of WMATA and Montgomery County transit data. Data from other transit providers is being solicited and processed as well. Other maintenance activities included the updating of the highway network database to reflect the latest TIP and Plan elements.

B. GIS Technical Support

Staff continued to monitor the performance of ArcGIS and Oracle 9i databases..

Staff continued to install ArcGIS 8.3 update on GIS user workstations.

Staff continued to provide technical assistance to network development team in update of the CLRPP/AQ Conformity networks and transit walk sheds.

Staff continued work on the update regional bikeways GIS layer. Staff received and reviewed bikeways data from DDOT, Northern Virginia VDOT, Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg, City of Rockville, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Loudoun County.

Staff began the update of the Regional Street Centerline GIS layer with new data received from Montgomery County.

C. Models Development

Much of the staff resources in October focused on support to the TRB model review activities. At the request of the TRB Committee a multi-year “strawman” work program involving models development, travel surveys, and data collection activities was submitted on October 12th. This work program will also undergo review by the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee at its next meeting on November 21st. Other activities undertaken by the staff in October were the following:

- completion of a survey of existing modeling practices at several MPO’s around the country;
- completion of several model sensitivity tests that were requested by the TRB Committee.

Effort continued in October to develop 1) a set of training materials on the application of the Version 2.1C model in the TP+ /Viper software environment and 2) a calibration file to support the airport modeling project.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on the revision of Version 2 travel demand model flowcharts, making adjustments in the creation of appropriate flowcharts to reflect the current operation and updates of the Version 2.1, Release C, Travel Demand Model, work being done as part of the air quality conformity process and development of a file naming convention to enable the identification of files with respect to conformity year and alternative within a given year.

Staff, in coordination with the COG Information Technology System, continued the investigation of current direct access device technology, which may be applicable as a microcomputer hard drive back-up system to replace the tape back-up system currently in use. Currently, the investigation is focusing on USB 2.0 DVD’s and portable hard drives.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Survey forms from the 2003 Roadside Truck Survey were sent for keying to Highland Data Services of Blue Grass, Virginia. A keyed data file has been completed.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff completed preliminary data collection on the arterial highways that would be

studied during this fiscal year as part of the arterial travel time data collection project. Changes were observed on VA 234 and the critical intersections on the corridor will be modified to accommodate the changes. Similarly, Constitution Avenue near the Capitol is under construction to install security barriers and if the work is not completed by the time of data collection, the road will not be studied this fiscal year. The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee did not meet during the month of October. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled when necessary.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

No staff activities.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued to review and tabulate data included in the Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP 2000) - Part 1 "Place of Residence" for the metropolitan Washington region.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

No staff activities.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

No staff activities.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff reviewed the initial draft of the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center's D.C. Motor Carrier Operations and Threat Assessment Study, and submitted comments to Ken Laden of VDOT. These comments were forwarded in writing to the Volpe Center staff after his review. Staff also provided Volpe Center staff with contact information for persons in the trucking industry and state law enforcement agencies in this region.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities.

Machine Traffic Counts

No staff activities.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

There was no activity during October.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2004 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff continued work to provide the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) with source code for (1) the executable files for the COG/TPB Version 2.1/TP+, Release C Model, (2) the COG/TPB Mode Choice Model program in executable form and (3) GIS files for five transit alternatives for 2025 for its work on the Georgetown Branch Rail/Trail Project. Items (1) and (2) were delivered to the MTA's consultant in February, 2003. Work on Item (3) will be completed when the fifth and final transit alternative data is received from a consultant working on the project.

Staff began work to provide land use and transportation modeling data to the following organizations:

1. Montgomery County, Maryland, Department of Park & Planning, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
2. St. Mary's County Government Department of Public Works & Transportation.
3. Prince Georges County Planning Department, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Staff attended the Maryland MTA MD5/US301 Transit Service Staging Plan Coordination Committee meeting on October 2, 2003, to review transit simulations and parts of the draft report “*MD 5/US 301 Transit Service Staging Plan*”.

MD SHA / MTA Technical Support

Staff reviewed documentation reports, e.g., draft environmental impact study, alternatives retained for detailed study, for various project planning studies in Maryland.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

No activity during this period.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

No activity on the I-270 project during this period.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued with several parallel work activities on this project, including developing and testing a new toll methodology, executing travel forecasts for 2030 build alternatives, and coding of the 2030 build alternative in the corridor #2 alignment. Staff also forwarded model output computer files and summary data to SHA’s consultants for their work in postprocessing (peak hour volumes and levels of service analysis) each alternative. Staff also worked closely with SHA’s consultants in executing the technical work activities.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There were no activities to report in October.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in October.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Most roadside work was completed in October, including arterial HOV monitoring in Alexandria. Remaining roadside work involves I-66 in Fairfax County.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There were no activities to report in October.

D. WMATA

Program Development

There were no activities to report in October.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in October.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

There were no activities to report in October.

Regional Transportation Financing Plan

This project has been deleted at the request of WMATA to provide funding for a study of near term regional transportation funding needs and availability and project/program priorities. By action of the TPB Program Committee on October 3, 2003 (resolution TPB PR8-2003), \$150,000 was transferred to I.E Financial Plan to conduct the study at a level of \$201,000 (previously programmed in the FY2004 UPWP at \$51,000). The remaining balance of \$20,000 in this WMATA account was transferred to WMATA Miscellaneous Services, increasing its budget from \$8,125 to \$28,125.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

The draft report documenting the procedures used to develop forecasts of local originating air passenger trips from each Aviation Analysis Zone to each of the three commercial airports in the region was presented at the October meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued editing the keypunched survey data.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

The draft project scope of work was presented at the October meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee. The data collection phase of this project was also initiated in October.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** met on October 16, 2003. Agenda items included:

- Update on CONAANDA Activities
- Presentation of draft report for Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update
- Presentation of draft scope of work for Ground Access Travel Time Study
- Update on 2002 Air Passenger Survey
- Update on CASPXXI Grant Application

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee met on October 9, 2003. The committee discussed the scope of work to fund CNG infrastructure improvement in the Maryland Suburbs and approved it. Marketing activities are underway with University of Maryland, Schwan's, Prince George's County, a number of shuttle operators in Southern Maryland and UPS. The program has achieved the emissions reduction goal (NOx) for 2003.

