
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Staff began reviewing the current program to identify if certain activities need to be modified or deferred to FY 2005.

Staff prepared the preliminary budget and outline of work activities for the FY 2005 UPWP. The draft outline and budget will be reviewed at the January Technical Committee and TPB meetings. The draft FY 2005 UPWP will be presented to the Technical Committee and TPB for review in February, and the final version will be presented to the TPB for approval at the March 17 meeting.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the December 5 meeting, the Program Committee approved an amendment to the interim FY 2004-2009 TIP as requested by VDOT.

At the December 17 meeting the TPB approved the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP. These documents will be submitted in January 2004 to FHWA and FTA for review and approval. The interim 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were approved by FHWA and FTA in early December.

The TPB and Technical Committee were briefed on the proposed schedule and draft solicitation document for the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP and air quality conformity analysis. The TPB will be asked to approve the final solicitation document at its January 21, 2004 meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the December 17 meeting the TPB approved the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP. These documents will be submitted in January 2004 to FHWA and FTA for review and approval. The interim 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were approved by FHWA and FTA in early December.

The TPB and Technical Committee were briefed on the proposed schedule and draft solicitation document for the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP and air quality

conformity analysis. The TPB will be asked to approve the final solicitation document at its January 21, 2004 meeting.

D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces met jointly on December 9. The Task Forces discussed MOITS professional capacity building activities; traffic signals activities including the status of the traffic signal optimization Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM); Traveler Information activities including a report from the Virginia Statewide 511 Conference, the DC and Regional 511 Study, the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System project, and ongoing public-private partnership activities; and ITS Architecture Activities, including upcoming Northern Virginia ITS Architecture training and Federal Transit Administration Regional ITS Architecture training.

The Traffic Signals Working Group met on December 8 to discuss the status of the signals TERM, emergency preparedness issues for traffic signal operations, and training opportunities.

Staff attended the Northern Virginia ITS Architecture training in Falls Church, Virginia on December 10.

EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 – Emergency Transportation Work Group on December 3, 2003 held the third in a series of three emergency transportation planning workshops. The workshops examined a particular transportation emergency, and participants' input was taken to help update the Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan. Overall work also continued on revising the REETC document. The Emergency Transportation Work Group also met on December 18 to review the draft revised REETC Annex.

On December 22, staff held a work session with representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation on regional emergency through route mapping.

On December 25, staff participated in the second of a series of workshops hosted by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission in Arlington, Virginia, to develop rail-bus

coordination emergency contingency plans for key Northern Virginia Metrorail stations such as the Pentagon and Rosslyn.

E. Financial Plan

On December 5, the Technical Committee was briefed on progress for the 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. Staff met with CSI staff to review the coordination with the implementing agency staffs and the data compilation activities and to discuss how to address data issues. On December 17, CSI staff presented a briefing to the 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:

- Staffed a meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Task Force to plan the FY 2004 Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign.
- Attended a teleconference to plan the Walkable Communities Workshops to be held in May, 2004.
- Attended a planning meeting for Bike to Work Day 2004.
- Met with a representative of the Virginia DMV regarding DMV funding for the Street Smart campaign.
- Spoke to the TPB Technical Committee on the region's top unfunded pedestrian and bicycle projects.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

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

- COG/HSPPS continued work on the annual update of the Area-Wide Job Access Plan. Staff contacted state human service agencies for current data on TANF recipients in the region. COG/HSPPS staff is working with WMATA staff to include current Job Access projects in the updated plan.

I. Public Participation

The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee held an outreach meetings on December 3 and held its regular monthly meeting on December 11.

The CAC's outreach meeting on December 3 focused on Arlington County's efforts to revitalize Columbia Pike, including improved transit services and more pedestrian-friendly urban design. These enhancements are intended to return the Pike to a more traditional "mainstreet" environment. Approximately 40 participants came to learn about this project and whether this type of revitalization can be a model for the Washington region. Presenters included Arlington County Board Member Chris Zimmerman, Tim Lynch of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization and consultant Geoff Farrell.

The CAC's last monthly meeting of the year centered largely on a discussion of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) in Maryland. Sam Raker, from the office of Maryland Secretary of Transportation Robert Flanagan, presented the CAC with an overview of the study process for the project, including its need and purpose and the alignments that are under study. CAC members engaged Mr. Raker in a lively conversation, which was reported to the TPB.

The CAC prepared an end-of-the-year report that was distributed to the TPB. The report contained a synopsis of activities in 2003 and a description of "lessons learned" that should be useful for next year's committee.

The "TPB News" newsletter was written and distributed.

Access for All Advisory Committee

In the month of December, staff prepared for the TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Subcommittee meeting on improving transit information for limited English speakers that met on December 11, 2004. A matrix summary of what progress has been made on the AFA recommendations to improve transit information for limited English speakers was created. AFA subcommittee comments on WMATA's video on how to use the transit system for limited English speakers were submitted to WMATA. Staff drafted a meeting summary of the November 20 AFA meeting. A meeting with WMATA marketing staff and Commuter Connections staff was held on December 15 to discuss improving and advertising phone services for translated transit information.

Staff finalized the PowerPoint presentation and talking points on AFA recommendations for improving transit services for people with disabilities in preparation for the December

17 TPB meeting working with John Hudson and Kathy Porter who presented the AFA recommendations to the TPB at the December 17 meeting.

J. Annual Report

Preparation began for the 2004 Region.

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 participated in a meeting at VDOT as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on the Flour-Daniel proposal to build High-Occupancy Toll lanes on the Capital Beltway in Virginia.
- Senior DTP and HSPPS staff attended and participated in the first meeting of an expert land use panel reviewing the likely impacts of building the Inter-County Connector on development patterns in Maryland.

Value Pricing Task Force

To assist the TPB Value Pricing Task Force, staff updated the map showing the regional High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) / High Occupancy Toll (HOT) scenario for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS), based on task force discussions at the November meeting and subsequent facility requests from task force members. Several transportation pricing experts were consulted about regional experiences with implementing a parking impact fee. A meeting summary of the November 19, 2003 task force meeting was drafted.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Following EPA's adequacy determination of the region's severe area SIP mobile budgets (effective 12/31/2003), the TPB approved the air quality conformity assessment of the 2003 CLRP and FY2004-09 TIP, effective 12/31/2003. Staff made minor updates to

finalize the conformity report, and transmitted copies to the federal agencies. Staff continued technical documentation of the analysis process and continued highway network database maintenance activities, working with the GIS staff to refine the network coding process. Staff participated in another meeting with members of the TPB Peer Review Panel to discuss proposed research activities to develop updates to TPB's travel demand modeling process.

MWAQC sent a comment letter to TPB regarding the conformity analysis for the FY2004-2009 TIP and the 2003 CLRP.

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 December 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 December staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its SIP Management Task Force, its Executive Committee, and a meeting of its Technical Advisory Committee. Air quality planning activities related primarily to finalization of results and documentation of materials included in the 'severe area' ozone SIP. Staff continued work on tasks associated with the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory.

Staff completed a draft memo documenting the procedures used to revise the TERM Tracking Sheet. Staff completed documentation of the TCM benefits by 2002 for the Rate of Progress Plan. Staff met with a consultant team hired by Commuter Connections to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented TERMS by 2005 and explained the methodology used to estimate the benefits prior to adoption of the TERMS. Staff completed the TERM analysis and reporting sections of the solicitation document which were presented to the TPB Technical Committee during its December meeting.

The Travel Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for December 2003 was not held. The subcommittee will meet on January 27, 2004 if necessary.

In December the COG/DEP staff worked on the mobile inventory for the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory.

The staff talked to EPA Region 3 about the use of TCMs, the definition of TCMs and "voluntary measures," and if voluntary measures that are also mobile measures must be used to reduce the mobile emissions budget, if credit for the measures is taken in the SIP.

DEP Air Quality staff attended TPB Technical Committee meeting and the TPB meeting. Staff briefed the DTP staff on issues involved with the adequacy determination of the mobile budget. EPA published its adequacy determination of the region's MOBILE6 budget adequate in the Federal Register on December 16, 2003.

C. Regional Studies

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

Staff worked with DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA and local jurisdiction staff to develop that transit and highway facility assumptions for "More Household Growth in Region" land use scenario.

During December, network development activities in support of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study continued with respect to the "CLRP Plus" scenario, reflecting final detailed information on bus service characteristics received from the working group. Peak and off-peak catalogues describing the transit services in this scenario will be presented to members of the transportation subgroup in January.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff continued to work with the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee on development of the Econometric Model and Key Factors Assumptions for the Round 7 Cooperative Forecasts. Staff asked the members of the Subcommittee to review the multiple job holding and in-commuting assumptions going into the econometric model for Round 7.

Staff attended the December 17th meeting of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Activities in December continued with network maintenance activities for FY2004 with the computer processing of transit data from regional transit providers and the development of transit line files using this information, depicting service for the year 2003. Other maintenance activities continued with 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 installed security and application patches on the GIS database server.

Staff replaced a failing hard on the GIS database server and rebuilt the index for the array driver to ensure optimal performance of the hard disk array.

Staff continued implementation of requested changes to GIS Master Network database for update of the CLRP/AQ Conformity networks and transit walk sheds.

Staff completed the update of the Regional Street Centerline GIS layer for Montgomery County.

C. Models Development

During December, staff continued to support activities relating to the TRB Committee reviewing the TPB travel demand model. A more detailed multi-year “straw man” work program was prepared and transmitted to this committee on December 24th. This material will be reviewed with the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee at its meeting on January 23, 2004. The proposed work program addresses each of the comments made by the TRB Committee in its first letter report last September.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on: (1) 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 (2) and development of a file naming convention to enable the identification of files with respect to conformity year and alternative within a given year. Investigation of the feasibility of a less-detailed chart of the application process and other types of illustration of the process are under way.

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. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's and portable hard drives with the addition of snap drives.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

During December, staff began geocoding the completed, keyed survey data obtained in the 2003 truck external roadside survey.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff completed collection of all preliminary data on the arterial highways to be studied during this fiscal year as part of the arterial travel time data collection project. Temporary personnel were recruited and trained in the use of laptop computer as well as a pocket computer and the GPS system. Arterial travel time data collection commenced during the second week of December and is proceeding according to schedule. Staff met to discuss the recalibration task of the freeway speed/density model and developed a plan. The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee did not meet during the month of December 2003. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be held on January 27, 2004 if necessary.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

No staff activities.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff updated the 2000 CTPP TAZ to COG/TPB 2191-TAZ conversion table for the modeled region. Staff began tabulation and initial mapping of the CTPP 2000 Part 1 – Place of Residence data by TAZ.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff started and completed development of quality control procedures for incorporating comprehensive traffic count data into the Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse.

Staff completed update of Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse traffic count data for Maryland.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

No staff activities.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff received a draft copy of the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center's *D.C. Motor Carrier Management and Threat Assessment Study – Phase II Preliminary Findings*, and began preparing comments for submittal to DDOT and the Volpe Center in January.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities.

Machine Traffic Counts

No staff activities.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

During December, staff began processing of data collected in Spring 2003.

B. Maryland

Program Development

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

Miscellaneous Services

Staff met again in December with implementing agencies and their consultants to review the status of ongoing corridor studies in the region.

Staff participated in an Agency Field Tour by the Maryland Transit Administration of the Bi-County Transitway Project DEIS study corridor on December 2, 2003.

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 on the project 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 coding and executing travel forecasts for 2030 build alternatives, and developing 2010 travel forecasts for no-build and build alternatives. Staff participated in a December meeting of the ICC Travel Demand Task Force at SHA's offices in Greenbelt. 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 December.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in December.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

With the completion of all remaining travel time runs, all data collection was concluded in December. Processing of this data has begun.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There were no activities to report in December.

D. WMATA

Program Development

There were no activities to report in December.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in December.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

There were no activities to report in December.

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 on the Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update was revised in accordance with comments received from 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

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

Staff began preparing preliminary results for the Ground Access Travel Time Study.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** did not meet in December 2003.

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee met on December 11, 2003. The committee decided to put the CNG infrastructure upgrade plan on hold. The implementation team was asked to develop a white paper of technologies (short term and long term) for achieving the emissions reduction goal of the advanced technology vehicle program. The program has achieved the emissions reduction goal (NO_x) for 2003. The next meeting of the oversight committee is scheduled for the second week of February 2004.

