

# **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202

Memorandum

**Date:** May 26, 2009

**To:** Travel Management Subcommittee

**From:** Anant Choudhary  
Transportation Engineer

**Subject:** Highlights of the April 21, 2009 Travel Management Subcommittee Conference Call Meeting

The following members participated:

Kanti Srikanth, VDOT  
Jim Ponticello, VDOT  
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County  
Lyn Erickson, MDOT  
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County  
Maurice Keys , DDOT  
Mike Clifford, DTP staff  
Daivamani Sivasailam, DTP staff  
Eulalie Gower-Lucas, DTP staff  
Anant Choudhary, DTP staff  
Erin Morrow, DTP staff  
Yu Gao, DTP staff  
Wenjing Pu, DTP staff  
Sunil Kumar, DEP staff

The conference call meeting was called to order by the chair Kanti Srikanth.

Under agenda item # 2, Jane Posey briefed the subcommittee on the ongoing activities related to the air quality conformity assessment of the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP. She appraised the members on the changes in the network and cooperative forecast. She noted that these changes include zone level change, number of jobs, and redevelopment in DC. She noted that house hold and employment growth is slower as compared to compared to the last round of cooperative forecasting except of the year 2030. She attributed this to the downturn in the economic conditions. She reminded the members about submitting their TERM status reports including Speed Limit TERM by May 26. She further noted that there is increase in the NOx emissions factors and noted that further evaluation is pending. Sivasailam further added if required we may have to adopt any new TERMS to meet the budget if there is any shortfall in meeting the emission budget. Lyn Erickson noted that

MDOT will not be implementing the Speed Limit TERM. Mike Clifford noted that we will have preliminary result for year 2010 by May TPB Technical Committee meeting.

Under agenda item # 3, Daivamani Sivasailam provided update on the vehicle registration data. He provided background information on the registration data analysis. He noted that we update vehicle registration data every three years. He noted that the raw data was obtained from the state air agencies and then VIN decoder software was used to decode VIN numbers. He added that the results obtained from VIN decoder software will be used as an input to the Mobile 6.2 model which include diesel sales fractions and vehicle age distribution as required in the Mobile model. Citing his handouts, he summarized major findings which include changes in the vehicle fleet in various jurisdictions, vehicle fleet age, and fleet size growth for various vehicle categories. He added that the COG's Households Survey report findings show that there is an increase in the transit riders. He also pointed out that the trend shows that until 2004 the light duty truck (LDT) percent was increasing in relation to light duty vehicles(LDV), but after 2004 the trend reversed and LDT percent decreased while LDV percent started increasing. It was observed that in 2004, LDT and LDV constitutes 49 % and 51% of total of LDV and LDT respectively. In 2008 percentage of LDT went down to 40% and LDV percent was increased to 60%. In reply to Tom Biesiadny's question Mike Clifford noted that people are preferring passenger cars over SUV.

Under agenda item # 4, Daivamani Sivasailam provided background information and briefed the members on the current GHG emissions work activities.

Erin Morrow provided a status report on the GHG emissions analysis. She briefed the subcommittee on the GHG emissions reduction strategies and progress made by DTP staff since last meeting. She explained her memo on development of baseline CO<sub>2</sub> and GHG Emissions Inventories. She noted that baseline inventories has been developed considering the available technologies and Department of Energy's Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) will be used as the starting point for scenario assessment of the 'What Would it Take Scenario' the greenhouse gas reduction goals. She explained that the baseline inventory will include reduction from CAFE35, alternative fuel/technology vehicles and TERM Commitments. She further added that the staff has applied a consultant spreadsheet to determine the emissions reductions due to the impact of CAFE 35. The calculation of the emissions reductions from TERM commitments is underway. She informed the members that the staff has been researching how the emissions impact of forecasts for alternative fuel and alternative technology vehicles should be accounted for in the baseline inventory and based on the research staff concluded that alternative fuel/technology vehicles do not need further consideration in the baseline.

Under agenda item # 4, Eulalie Lucas updated the subcommittee on the draft MOVES model which was released on April 9, 2009. She informed the members that the official MOVES model will be released at the end of 2009 and will have to be used for SIP and regional conformity analysis. She also briefed members on EPA workshop held in Baltimore on April 16 and 17, 2009. She explained major differences between Mobile 6.2 and MOVES model. She noted that advantages of MOVES model which include graphical user interface, easy incorporation of large amounts of in-use data from a variety of sources, post-processor capability of producing total emissions for specific areas and time periods, and easily customizable output at many levels at national, county or project level. She also explained the

set of various inputs that are necessary for the MOVES model and which are not needed in the MOBILE 6.2 model such as gradient, speed cycles etc. The committee members agreed to look into the new requirements for MOVES model. It was decided to have further discussion during the May 26, TMS committee meeting to develop a framework for transition to MOVES model from Mobile 6.2 model.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 am.