

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Memorandum

Date: December 23, 2008

To: Travel Management Subcommittee

From: Anant Choudhary
Transportation Engineer

Subject: Highlights of the November 25, 2008 Travel Management Subcommittee Meeting

The following members participated:

Kanathur Srikanth, VDOT(Chair)
Jim Ponticello, VDOT (phone)
Mark Rawlings, DDOT (Phone)
Howard Simons, MDOT (Phone)
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County (Phone)
Ronald Mitchell, DDOT
Lyn Erickson, MDOT
Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County
Mike Clifford, DTP staff
Daivamani Sivasailam, DTP staff
Jane Posey, DTP staff
Eulalie Gower-Lucas, DTP staff
Erin Morrow, DTP staff
Anant Choudhary, DTP staff

The meeting was called to order by the chair Kanathur Srikanth of VDOT and after introductions, highlights of the October 21, 2008 TMS minutes were approved.

Under agenda item # 2, Jane Posey briefed the subcommittee on the schedule for the air quality conformity assessment of the 2009 CLRP and FY 2010-2015 TIP which was included in the "Call for Projects" document presented to the TPB at its October TPB meeting. She informed the members that the DTP staff is asking for the project inputs from the local and state agencies by the December 5, 2008. She noted that the public comment period is scheduled for January and the TPB would approve the project inputs in February. The draft conformity report will be released for public comments at the June CAC meeting. The public comment period for conformity assessments will end on July 11 and TPB is schedule to approve conformity assessment in July 2009. She further added that if there is any slippage in the schedule then the conformity assessment will be approved in September.

Later, Kanti Srikanth provided an update on VDOT projects inputs. He told the members that the VDOT has sent out a list of projects that were included in the current conformity document to their engineering and construction department for any updates. He noted that there is a possibility of cut in capital projects approved in July and they should have some update by December 5th. He noted that the projects which are in pipeline will get priority however, they do not have clear picture yet about the cuts in capital projects. Jane Posey noted that we will have to restart public comment process if there is any major updates to projects and affects network. Lyn Ericson also provided an update on MDOT projects. She noted that she will know any change to the projects by the end of the 2008 calendar year and they are hopeful that MDOT will be able to provide any changes before due date for public comments. On Howard Simons's question, Mike Clifford noted that any update after public comment period can be incorporated as a technical corrections and such issue rest with TPB's discretion. Kanti Srikanth added that the NOVA has asked the local jurisdictions for a list of the projects to be submitted to the Federal Government as a part of stimulus package. Lyn Erickson also apprised the member on the ready to go type and design built type of projects which can be the part of fiscal stimulus package.

Under agenda item # 4 Daivamani Sivasailam described the list of discussion items and briefly explained task 1, 2 & 3 under CO₂/GHG work program. Eulalie Gower-Lucas briefed the members on her memo on the annual CO₂ network and local emissions inventory for year 2010, 2020 & 2030. She noted that staff is using a new post processor which can also provide CO₂ equivalent emissions. She noted that her memo compares the CO₂ emissions using 2.1 version travel demand model and 7.0 land use data with the CO₂ emissions obtained using 2.2 travel demand model with 7.1 land use inputs. Sivasailam added that the travel demand model does not capture emissions on local roads and estimation of which is done using off-line analysis. Gary Erenrich pointed out that many of the measures are related to speed and facility type and model does not recognize variation in speed by hour of day. In reply Mike Clifford noted that the mobile model gives the emissions corresponding to the one speed and the staff is using off-line calculation and data from the University of California at Riverside estimating benefits from such TERMS. He however noted that the off-line emissions are very small in percent terms as compared to the network emissions. He noted that the comparison of emission shows that the local and network emissions in year 2030 is lower than the 2002 emissions. This discussion ended on the note that the staff will complete the emission inventory by adding emissions from auto access, school and transit bus emission using off line analysis.

Sivasailam briefed the members on the document prepared on the analysis of GHG reduction measures which were listed in the draft Climate Change Report. He stated that this document lays a framework to evaluate and quantify greenhouse gas reductions from the recommended measures from the draft Climate Change Report. Erin Morrow further described one such measure called Early Vehicle Retirement program. She explained in detail its methodology, assumptions, emissions benefits and cost effectiveness. Gary Erenrich suggested estimating ozone precursors along with CO₂ emission benefits. In reply Sivasailam noted that CO₂ emissions benefits are cumulative and the cost effectiveness will be much different than the cost effectiveness for ozone precursors. He agreed to show VOC & NO_x emissions separately. Jim Ponticello argued that that it may be an overestimation of benefits if the emission benefits credits are taken for the years after the vehicle retirement year. Sivasailam noted that DTP staff will look into this issue and its assumptions.

Further Sivasailam briefly described remaining measures which falls under scenario analysis, transit programs and policy measures. He added that the measures under scenario analysis fall under What Would It Take analysis. Mike Clifford elaborated Climate Change Measure A.1.ii – “Promote Adoption of Clean Vehicles, Including CAL LEV II.” He noted that this is an important measure and will bring significant emission benefits. Gary Erenrich noted that this is a policy measure and we have to see what we can do within state and local governments. He also added that we also need to see benefits from CNG and hybrid buses which can also be a part of such a measure. Sivasailam apprised the members about Commuter Connection programs such as vanpool and car sharing program. In the end Kanti Srikanth asked the members to send their comments on the measures to DTP staff.