

# **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board**

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Memorandum

**DATE:** April 15, 2008

**To:** Travel Management Subcommittee

**From:** Anant Choudhary  
Transportation Engineer

**Subject:** Highlights of the February 26, 2008 Travel Management Subcommittee Meeting

The following members participated:

Kanthi Srikanth, VDOT  
Jim Ponticello, VDOT  
Lyn Erickson, MDOT  
Mark Rawlings, DDOT  
Maurice Keys, DDOT  
Carl Winstead, Fairfax County  
Sean Kennedy, WMATA  
Mike Clifford, DTP staff  
Andrew Meese, DTP staff  
Jeff King, DEP staff  
Melanie Wellman, DTP staff  
Daivamani Sivasailam, DTP staff  
Erin Morrow, DTP staff  
Anant Choudhary, DTP staff

The meeting was called to order by the chair and, after introductions, highlights of the November 27, 2008 TMS meeting were approved with the suggestion that the November highlights should also include highlights from the December and January conference calls.

Under agenda item # 1, Melanie Wellman presented the reference material on the congestion management process (CMP). She explained how the implemented strategies are shown in the spreadsheet and how they could be sorted by the user as per their needs. Andrew Meese told the members that the spreadsheet will act as an aid document and will provide guidance for filling the CMP documentation forms for the CLRP. He further explained that the spreadsheet provides a detailed categorization of projects by geography, location, description and other details. He noted that the projects mentioned in the spreadsheet are either ongoing or completed projects in the region. He further noted that the websites cited in the spreadsheet will provide robust and back up information on the listed

strategies. Kanthi Srikanth noted that the strategy numbers on the reference materials may be confusing for those not having the strategy criteria short lists in front of them. The strategy numbers may be misinterpreted as rankings, instead of simply a number corresponding to a particular strategy. In order to avoid any confusion, Mr. Meese stated that those numbers could be taken out of the reference material spreadsheet for the time being and added back in later. The important thing is to have the strategy name in the reference material. Mr. Shrikanth also raised a question as to whether this document could be folded into in the CMP technical report. Mr. Meese responded by stating that the inclusion of the reference spreadsheet in the Technical Report has not yet been considered. However, it is anticipated that the qualitative criteria short lists, a list that categorizes CMP strategies in the region, will be a part of the CMP Technical Report. Mr. Srikanth also suggested taking this form to TPB Technical Committee and Commuter Connection Subcommittee for their review and comments. Mark Rawlings noted that this is a new requirement and endorsed Kanthi's suggestion to take guidance document to TPB Technical Committee. Staff agreed to look into incorporating a standalone agenda item on the CMP document.

There were suggestions to add some description pages to the document prior to circulation. Mr. Srikanth noted some initial comments he had on the reference material spreadsheet, such as the misspelling of the acronym for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. It was also mentioned that other agencies should have the opportunity to review this spreadsheet for not only errors, but important changes. Mr. Srikanth also suggested adding a description on the content of the CMP reference material, and integrating the materials into the 'Call for Project' document. Members agreed on distributing the explanatory memo on CMP to the Technical Committee and with a request to fill up the CMP forms to meet April deadline. Finally, Mr. Meese concluded by stating he hopes to have a draft of the CMP Technical Report for the Travel Management Subcommittee at the next meeting.

Jeff King of DEP under the item # 2 provided an overview of the ongoing activities under the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) on CO<sub>2</sub> and green house gases. He informed the members about the activities of the CCSC including regional goals for various milestone years, development of CO<sub>2</sub> inventory, and policy approach to seek a long term solution to the CO<sub>2</sub> issue. He further informed the members that on February 27, CCSC will decide on the CO<sub>2</sub> goals for the region. Daivamani Sivasailam explained the attachments of his handouts on the likely CO<sub>2</sub> goals for the mobile sources which were presented to the TPB Scenario Task Force at its February 16, 2008 meeting. He informed the members about the proposed goal of 20% reduction by 2020 and 70% by 2050 from the 2005 base year emission. He briefed the members on CAFÉ standards and CO<sub>2</sub> reductions from this program. He explained the CO<sub>2</sub> reductions for 2020 and 2030 scenarios with CAFÉ standard of 35 mpg and 55 mpg. Finally he explained the strategies needed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> which include VMT reduction, alternative fuel and fuel efficient vehicles. Jim Ponticello suggested the need to look at strategies other than VMT reductions. He referred to the VA Governor's initiatives on setting up a climate change committee and goals for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. He noted that 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> is envisaged by the year 2030 from its 2005 level. Kanthi Srikanth informed the members about the energy policy and strategies envisaged by Virginia Commonwealth. Later, Sivasailam elaborated on CO<sub>2</sub> reductions that can be achieved from

the change in travel behavior due to land use and transportation strategies.

Jeff King under agenda item # 3 updated the members on the comments received, proposed responses and changes to the PM2.5 SIP. He noted that there are no changes to the transportation chapter of the SIP. He noted that on February 21, TAC has approved the responses and MWAQC will decide its adoption at its March 7, 2008 meeting. He noted that the City of Alexandria voted against the response; as the City wants a local hot spot analysis requirement placed against the Potomac River power station owned by the Mirant Corporation. The committee decided to hold a meeting or a conference call on March 25.

### **Highlights from December 18, 2007 and January 31, 2008 conference calls**

#### December 18, 2007 conference call:

Participants: Jim Ponticello(VDEQ), Bob Owlabi (FFX County), Lyn Erickson(MDOT), Mark Rawlings(DDOT); COG Staff: Andrew Meese, Melanie Wellman, Daivamani Sivasailam, Anant Choudhary

This conference call was held exclusively to discuss further development of the Congestion Management Process, following up on discussions and requests from the Subcommittee at its November 27 meeting. Under item #1, Andrew Meese went over several documents including the sample version of the CLRP form, a new text version of the CLRP form, and filled-in congestion management forms. Under item # 2 Andrew Meese, explained excerpts of federal regulations on CMP provision. Under item # 3 he discussed ideas for supplementary information to help agencies provide necessary input to the CLRP and CMP. Under item# 4 Andrew Meese explained demand management and operational management CMP strategies and their qualitative criteria.

#### January 31, 2008 conference call:

Participants: Bob Owlabi (FFX County), Lyn Erickson(MDOT), R. Mathews (SHA), Mark Rawlings(DDOT); COG Staff: Andrew Meese, Melanie Wellman, Daivamani Sivasailam, Erin Morrow, Anant Choudhary

Under item #1, Andrew Meese described the CLRP project form. He provided some examples of SOV type capacity project and CMP projects. On a question from Bob Owlabi, he answered that the text in question # 27 will be reworded. Under item #2, Andrew Meese explained the attachment on supplementary information on CMP projects. He described the generic template distributed at the January 08, 2008 Tech. Committee meeting. He informed the members that the due date for the CMP form is April 25, 2008.

On the air quality issue, Daivamani Sivasailam went over the draft work scope and timeline for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-2014 TIP. He informed the members that the TPB will act on the work scope for the upcoming CLRP at its February 20, 2008 meeting.