

**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES  
ATTENDANCE - March 5, 2004**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

DDOT -----  
Damon Harvey

VDOA -----

**WMATA**

**MARYLAND**

Frederick Co. -----  
Gaithersburg -----  
Montgomery Co. David Moss  
Prince George's Co. -----  
Rockville -----  
M-NCPPC  
Montgomery Co. Alexander Hekimian  
Prince George's Co. Faramarz Mokhtari  
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WMATA Lora Byala

**FEDERAL/OTHER**

MDOT Fatimah Hasan  
Mike Haley  
BJ Berhanu

FHWA-DC -----

FTA Deborah Burns

NCPC -----

NPS -----

MWAQC -----

**VIRGINIA**

Alexandria Jim Maslanka  
Arlington Co. Harriet Dietz  
City of Fairfax Alex Verzosa  
Fairfax Co. Robert Owolabi  
Mike Lake  
Falls Church -----  
Loudoun Co. Art Smith  
Manassas -----  
Prince William Co. Rick Canizales  
NVTC Jana Lynott  
PRTC Karen Waterman  
Tim Roseboom  
VRE Tamara Ashby  
VDOT Kanathur Srikanth  
Grady Ketron  
VDRPT Sharmila Samarasinghe  
NVPDC -----

**COG Staff and Others**

Ronald Kirby, COG/DTP  
Gerald Miller, COG/DTP  
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jim Hogan, COG/DTP  
Robert Griffiths, COG/DTP  
Mark Pfoutz, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Eulalie Gower-Lucas, COG/DTP  
Andrew Austin, COG/DTP  
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP  
Michael Freeman, COG/DTP  
Anant Choudhary, COG/DEP  
Beth Lowe, COG/DEP  
Paul DesJardin, COG/HSPPS  
Bill Bacon, COG/DTP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Randy Carroll, MDE  
Tim Nutter, NVTA  
Andy Szakos, Fairfax County  
Jim Wamsley, FCSG  
Harry Sanders, ACT

# **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD**

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from February 6 Technical Committee Meeting**

Minutes were approved as written.

### **2. Briefing on Project Submissions and Comments Received to Date for the 2004 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and FY2005-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Staff distributed a new handout relating to significant changes. Mr. Kirby discussed the timing of the NEPA process relative to the input of projects into the conformity analysis. He stated that it is common practice, and appropriate, to have projects undergoing the NEPA process and simultaneously included in the air quality conformity analysis.

Mr. Kirby stated that it was likely that the public comment period for inputs to the air quality conformity analysis would be extended. He noted that the full conformity table had not been made available to the public and the TPB at the beginning of the comment period, and that changes had been made to the significant change table. The new approval date for inputs would be April. The matter would be discussed at the Program Committee meeting in the afternoon. Mr. Kirby asked everyone to review the conformity table, which would be mailed out to the TPB.

Mr. Mokhtari asked about the new dates for the public comment period. Mr. Kirby stated that the expected revised date for close of the comment period would be April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hasan asked about some transit study projects which were not listed in the conformity table. Mr. Kirby noted that studies were listed at the back, and that of most immediate concern were projects that need to be coded into the conformity networks. Ms. Byala asked which projects had changed in the significant changes table since the TPB meeting. Ms. Posey stated that the main issue was that the entire conformity table had not been made available at the beginning of the public comment period. She indicated that a couple of projects in Virginia had been added to the significant changes table.

Mr. Hekimian noted that the dollar amount from MdTA bonds in the ICC funding plan did not fall within the range of available funds. Ms. Hasan indicated that she did not know the details about the funding, but that the issue would be discussed in a letter to the TPB. Mr. Srikanth noted that the total funding needed could be met by the amount in the ranges shown on the funding plan. He also reminded that group that corrections to the conformity table should be submitted to Ms. Posey and Mr. Miller by Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> in order to be included in the TPB mailout.

### **3. Briefing on the Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment, 2004 CLRP and FY2005-2010 TIP**

Mr. Clifford spoke to the draft "Air Quality Conformity Assessment: Scope of Work" dated 2/25/04, which was included in the Committee's mail-out package and a two page memo entitled "Proposed Updates to Draft Work of Scope for Air Quality Conformity Assessment of 2004 Constrained Long range Plan (CLRP) and FY2005-10 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)" dated 3/5/04, which he distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Clifford summarized key items in the work scope including the use of Round 6.4 Land Use Forecasts, execution of the 'Version 2.1D' Travel Model, and emission factors methods developed and applied in the SIP and 2003 CLRP conformity process. He also mentioned that Maryland DOT has requested that the ICC project be included in the analysis with two potential alignments. With Maryland technical services funds, TPB will perform an additional conformity analysis to include the second ICC corridor.

The Committee then discussed the topic, including the following: What is the Planning Directors relation to the expert land use panel and when will the review begin? (TPB staff has regularly attended these meetings discussing the Round 6.4 Land use. It was announced in these meetings that Prince Georges's County will be revising its land use forecasts to consider the ICC. The states are also considering the ICC's impacts. When the states' land use panel releases its findings, the data will be shared with local planning directors. If COG receives the updates by late April, there should be time to modify Round 6.4 forecasts in time for the upcoming air quality conformity analysis); will the TPB's air quality conformity determination adoption listed on the schedule as July 21, 2004, be postponed to the next TPB meeting in September? (With the approval of the TPB Program Committee, the current air quality conformity schedule will be updated to reflect adoption in September); Since the scope deals with only the one hour ozone standard, how will the eight hour standard be addressed? (In April, we expect to receive from EPA the non-attainment designations and associated conformity requirements. Once staff knows what the new conformity rules require, we will develop a set of works tasks. EPA has indicated the cost burdens should be minimal.); how will fuel prices be estimated? (Recent sharp increase in gasoline prices could be used to create a new baseline. The consumer price index should be used for long range growth trends.)

### **4. Review of the Amendments to the FY2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Miller distributed a copy of a page from the FY 2004 UPWP for work activity IV C. Household Travel Survey which indicated a proposed amendment: the removal of the spring 2004 data collection for the survey with a funding reduction of \$370,000. Mr. Griffiths explained the rationale for the proposed amendment. He said that the funding would be carried over to the same work activity in the FY 2005 UPWP and be used to conduct a significant pretest of a survey design of a methodologically enhanced activity-based travel survey. The Committee recommended that TPB approve the proposed amendment to the FY 2004 UPWP.

## **5. Review of Draft FY2005 UPWP**

Mr. Kirby commented on the uncertainty of the budget information for the new work program due to the fact that the federal reauthorization of TEA-21 was still being debated in Congress. Mr. Miller reviewed the final draft FY 2005 UPWP in the mailout pointing out the changes in budget levels and work activities compared to the current work program. He reviewed the estimated funding totals and noted that the budget level was based upon preliminary information from the DOTs. He said that because the pending federal appropriations levels have not been finalized by Congress, the FY 2005 UPWP budget levels from the DOTs will have to be revised in the future. Mr. Kirby noted that if the total budget is increased that the additional funding would be used for the household travel survey.

Ms. Byala distributed a draft of a proposed project for the WMATA Technical Assistance Program in the FY 2004 and FY 2005 UPWPs. The project would determine parking lot usage at Metrorail stations in June and in the fall following the anticipated increase in parking fees. She also distributed a draft of a FY 2005 project to support transit travel modeling enhancements and validation. Mr. Kirby said that staff would work with WMATA staff to review and finalize these project proposals for the mailout for the March 17 TPB actions on the FY 2004 and FY 2005 UPWPs.

Ms. Lynott asked about the NVTC request on how the cordon count methodology could be changed to improve the monitoring of transit and HOV performance at the corridor level. Mr. Kirby said that cost estimates for ways to address this level of monitoring will be prepared so the Committee can consider it. Ms. Lynott also said that NVTC was preparing an RFP to update the 2020 plan in Northern Virginia and the RFP includes travel modeling requirements. Mr. Kirby said that staff would review it and provide comments.

The Committee recommended that TPB approve the FY 2005 UPWP.

## **6. Review of Draft FY2005 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP)**

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Committee that the draft FY05 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP) was released for public comment by the TPB at their February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also stated that the Commuter Connections Subcommittee endorsed the FY05 CCWP at their February meeting.

He added that staff was able to make a detailed presentation to the TPB regarding the FY05 draft CCWP. He then handed out an updated chart of the list of mitigation measures that was on Page 16 of the draft document. Mr. Sivasailam discussed the changes in the chart with regards to the emission impacts of each of the Commuter Connections TERMS.

Mr. Ramfos then spoke about the three maps displayed that were also presented to the TPB. One map showed the Commuter Connections database registrants, the next map showed the Guaranteed Ride Home program registrants and FY03 program users, and the last map showed employers who were participating in the Employer Outreach program.

Mr. Hekimian asked if the applicants to Commuter Connections were broken out by those living and working in each jurisdiction and what the participation of employers were in each

jurisdiction. Mr. Ramfos stated that he does have a breakdown of Commuter Connections registrants broken out by origin and destination and that Commuter Connections also produces a quarterly statement of employers offering high level TDM programs by jurisdiction.

Ms. Lowe asked why there was only a two year effort for the Expanded Telecommuting TERM. Mr. Ramfos stated that the TERM was adopted by the TPB two years ago to address the eight ton emissions overage facing the region. The efforts of the TERM would be folded into the Telework Resource Center after COG's FY05. A footnote would be added to the table on page 16 pointing this out.

Next, Mr. Srikanth asked why the Employer Outreach for Public Sector was not shown on the List of Mitigation Measures chart. Mr. Ramfos replied that VDOT elected to have the program implemented by Arlington County this fiscal year and it was removed from the Commuter Connections Work program.

The Committee recommended that the TPB approve the FY05 CCWP.

## **7. Spotlight on Local Transportation Activities: The Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative**

Mr. Kirby introduced the proposal to have the Committee receive regular briefings from local government staff on current transportation activities and projects underway in their jurisdictions. He noted that the TPB has been interested in briefings on such activities in the past.

Mr. Marcus explained that he, Ms. Pourciau of DDOT, and Mr. Change of Fairfax County had developed the proposal. He had raised the idea at the February TPB meeting and said that Board members were interested in it. He said that it would spotlight more short-term, on-going activities and help share experience. Mr. Maslanka said that it could be helpful to share experiences on technical and data problems. Ms. Hasan said it was a good idea and that written materials on the projects were needed to share.

Mr. Kirby suggested that the Committee could try it for a few months and that members will have to assess whether a briefing on an activity is relevant for other areas and is something that could be suggested to the TPB Program Committee for presentation at the TPB. Mr. Marcus said that he would lead the organization of the presentations and that they may not be every month. He noted that he would make the next presentation on either a pedestrian accessibility analysis or a pedestrian safety program in Rockville. Mr. Hekimian said that he was interested in the latest research on factors such as housing density that justify different types of transit services such as regular bus, bus rapid transit and light rail.

Mr. Kirby suggested that future presentations could be by Mr. Hekimian's on these transit factors and by DDOT staff on the light rail demonstration.

Mr. Szakos provided an informative power-point briefing with 14 slides on the Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative in Fairfax County. The briefing was followed by numerous positive comments on the presentation and a variety of questions on the components of the project with responses from the speaker.

Several members raised questions about the use of the term bus rapid transit (BRT) to describe the bus service improvements. They commented that BRT refers to a much different type of service, for example, as the service currently operated in the Dulles Corridor. Mr. Kirby commented that these types of enhanced bus services will be common in the future throughout the region. He suggested that a group should be set up to improve how future bus services are represented in the regional bus networks.

Ms. Lynott commented that it was a good presentation but wondered if the TPB would be interested in the level of detail. Mr. Kirby suggested that a briefing for the TPB must be much shorter and give a few general points.

Mr. Srikanth suggested that for the TPB that the local presentations could be looked at for common themes and from a regional perspective. He said that a workshop before the TPB meetings might be good for presenting two or three local examples on the same topic such as where light rail would work.

Mr. Szakos commented that Arlington County is doing bus service improvements on Columbia Pike and that he thought it would be better for a TPB presentation to hear about more than one local example.

Mr. Marcus thanked the Committee for its comments and for trying the proposal.

## **8. Update on Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study**

Mr. Griffiths reported that the TPB Technical Committee Transportation Scenarios subgroup had met on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the status of the coding of the CLRP+ network, to refine the list of additional transportation facilities to be assumed for the "More Household Growth in Region," "More Jobs in Outer Areas," and the "Region Undivided" land use scenarios and to review some initial modeling data for the "More Households in the Inner Areas and Clusters" land use scenario.

Mr. Griffiths further reported that now that the coding of the CLRP+ network was almost complete, modeling of the CLRP+ transportation scenario with the Round 6.3 Cooperative Forecasts and the alternative land use scenarios would begin. Some results of the modeling of the CLRP+ transportation scenario are expected to be available for review at the April Joint Technical Working Group meeting and the May TPB Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Griffiths stated that it was planned to take a report on the analysis of the CLRP+ transportation scenario with the Round 6.3 forecasts and alternative land use scenarios to the TPB in June.

Mr. Griffiths concluded his report by stating that the next meeting of the Joint Technical Working Group was scheduled for Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm.

## **9. Other Business**

None.

## **10. Adjourn**



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