
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2006 UPWP.

A final draft of the FY 2007 UPWP was reviewed at the March 3 Technical Committee meeting and adopted by the TPB at its March 15 meeting. The FY 2007 UPWP will be submitted to FTA and FHWA in April for review and approval. Staff also prepared and submitted to DDOT, MDOT, and VDOT the documentation for their FY 2007 Section 5303 Unified Technical Studies Grant Applications for the Washington Metropolitan Region.

In a Transportation Planning Certification Summary Report dated March 16, 2006, FTA and FHWA determined that the transportation planning process of the TPB meets federal planning requirements and jointly certified the TPB transportation planning process. The report, which contains 9 commendations and 16 recommendations, will be presented to the Technical Committee on April 7 and to the TPB on April 19.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the March 3 meeting, the Steering Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2006-2011 TIP to fund repairs to the 14th Bridge and include two projects as requested by DDOT.

At the March 3 meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed the project submissions for 2006 CLRP and the FY 2007-2012 TIP. These submissions were released for public comment and agency review at the CAC meeting on February 9. At the February 15 meeting, the Board was briefed on some of the project submissions. However, because additional information on the submissions was received after February 9, the Board decided to extend the public comment period by releasing the updated project submission information at the March 9 CAC meeting. This extended public comment period will close on April 10. At the March 15 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the project submissions.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the March 3 meeting the Technical Committee reviewed the project submissions for 2006 CLRP and the FY 2007-2012 TIP. These submissions were released for public comment and agency review at the CAC meeting on February 9. At the February 15 meeting, the Board was briefed on some of the project submissions. However, because additional information on the submissions was received after February 9, the Board decided to extend the public comment period by releasing the updated project submission information at the March 9 CAC meeting. This extended public comment period will close on April 10. At the March 15 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the project submissions.

Staff reviewed project inputs for the 2006 CLRP and created individual maps for each significant new project.

D. Management Operations & Intelligent Systems (MOITS) Planning

Staff continued supporting the work of the Ad Hoc Steering Committee for Strengthening Regional Transportation Operations Coordination comprising DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, and WMATA. Staff finalized the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for COG to contract for a program manager. The RFQ was issued on March 10, 2006 with a deadline of April 7 for responses. Staff held a pre-proposal conference on March 23 to enable potential bidders to ask clarifying questions about the RFQ. Staff also continued working with the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on their preparatory work for the program, in March providing input to Volpe's development of a draft final program management plan. The Steering Committee met on March 14 to discuss the above issues.

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Traffic Signals Working Group met on March 8. The group discussed:

- Feedback from the November 16, 2005 briefing to the Transportation Planning Board traffic signal optimization in the region. Staff began working with member agencies on the transportation operations annual report now requested by the TPB by September 2006 as a part of its long-range plan "Call for Projects".
- Results of the 2005 Baltimore Regional Traffic Signals Forum and the outlook for a next forum, slated to be a combined Baltimore-Washington regional forum, in early 2007.
- Electric power backups for traffic signals.

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- Regional compilation by staff of each agency's data files from their computer-based traffic signal optimization activities, to determine feasibility of regional summarization and mapping of this information.
 - A briefing from Hesham Rakha of Virginia Tech on the university's signal preemption/prioritization studies.

The MOITS Policy and Technical Task Forces met on March 14. The Task Forces discussed:

- The FY2006 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) process, notably that the region's UASI applications (including a number of transportation-sponsored proposals) were submitted to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on its March 2 deadline.
- Reestablishment of a Homeland Security Regional Emergency Support Function #1 – Transportation Committee and program separate from MOITS (also discussed in Item I.L. below).
- A prototype demonstration of the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS), under development on behalf of the region by the University of Maryland.
- Results of the March 8 Traffic Signals Working Group meeting.

Staff undertook planning and preparatory work on the above items throughout the month.

Other March 2006 MOITS staff activities were as follows.

- Staff participated in a kickoff workshop for the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety plan, at the Maritime Institute of Technology in Linthicum Heights on March 21. Staff followed up with continuing work on Washington region transportation safety planning.
- Staff participated in a visioning workshop for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Management and Operations Strategic Plan, at the Maryland State Highway Administration in Hanover on March 30.

E. Financial Plan

Work continued on the financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP. On February 28, the working group for the analysis met to review the data and analysis and for the final report. Because all of the revenue and expenditure forecasts were not available more time will be needed to complete the review and analysis. A status report on the analysis was given to the Technical Committee on March 3 and to the TPB on March 15. The next meeting of the working group is April 4. The draft revenue and

expenditure forecasts are scheduled to be presented to the Technical Committee and TPB in April.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

Staff began planning the agenda for the Seventeen Annual Public Transit Forum to be held on May 9.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

The Bike Plan Work group met on March 2 to review the latest draft of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Based on input from the bike plan work group, DTP staff made revisions to the plan, completed gaps in the project database based on information at hand, and created maps showing the plan projects. DTP staff attended a meeting of the Bike to Work Day Steering Committee on March 8, and a mandatory workshop for the Street Smart program on March 9. DTP staff worked with the consultant on the Street Smart campaign launch, and attended the kick-off press conference in Alexandria on March 21.

Based on input at the March 21st meeting, TPB staff further revised the draft bicycle and pedestrian plan, and mailed the revised plan to the TPB Technical Committee for review at its April 7 meeting.

TPB staff submitted an application for funds for the 2007 Street Smart program to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

H. Human Service Transportation Coordination Planning

In the month of March, staff prepared for a human service transportation kick off meeting. Staff attended the FTA public meeting on this topic on March 23. Research was done on how the FTA Section 5310 programs have worked in the past with State DOTs. Information was gathered on how FTA 5307 funds have been distributed among transit agencies in this region.

Staff is involved in the WMATA MetroAccess Ad-Hoc Committee and helping to facilitate recommendations by reviewing best practices to improve MetroAccess service. This activity is a follow-up to the work done by the Access for All Committee and the Demand Responsive study.

I. Public Participation

The CAC's meeting on March 9 included a discussion with TPB Chairman Michael Knapp who spoke with the committee about opportunities for improved public involvement and other new TPB initiatives. John Swanson of the COG/TPB staff briefed the committee on this year's planned improvements in public involvement. He said the activities would focus on education, input and improved information. Andrew Austin briefed the CAC on project submissions for the CLRP.

Staff unveiled a new CLRP homepage (www.mwcog.org/regionaltransportationplan) that features user-friendly information on the current plan and the latest project submissions. The clarified information on project submissions was the subject of a PowerPoint briefing and handout materials that Andrew Austin presented to the TPB, the CAC and the Technical Committee.

The public comment period on the CLRP project submissions was extended through March to April 10. The comment period was announced in a mass emailing, at the CAC meeting, at the TPB meeting and on the new website.

TPB staff continued to work with two contractors—the Academy for Leadership Foundation and Fitzgerald & Halliday—on efforts to improve public involvement activities. The immediate activities with these contracts include the development of Community Leadership Institute (CLI) on transportation issues, website improvements and other improvements in accessibility to long-range plan information. The CLI will take place in two half-day sessions on April 26 and 29.

J. Annual Report

Staff began initial planning for the annual report.

Staff wrote and distributed the "TPB News" newsletter. The mailing list includes more than 2,300 recipients.

K. DTP Management

In addition to the provision of staff support to meetings of the TPB, the Steering Committee, and the Technical Committee, the following activities were undertaken:

- The DTP Director gave a presentation on transportation financing issues at the annual meeting of the International Bridge Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA).

- The DTP Director gave a presentation to staff and visitors at the World Bank on the metropolitan planning process in the United States.

L. Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning

In December 2005, the TPB amended the Unified Planning Work Program to create this transportation emergency preparedness task, separated from its previous placement as part of the overall MOITS task I.D. above. Staff continued worked on transitioning emergency preparedness activities from Task 1.D by undertaking background research, holding a number of internal staff discussions, meeting one-on-one with key member agency stakeholders, and attending a number of regularly scheduled meetings of transportation, police, fire, and emergency management agency committees. Preparations began for forming a new Regional Emergency Support Function #1 – Transportation Committee to provide an interface between transportation and emergency management agencies and activities. Staff prepared for a Regional Emergency Support Function #1 (RESF #1) – Transportation workshop to be held in April to kick off the effort, as well as preparing for the start of regular committee meetings in May.

M. Freight Planning

This task was newly amended to the Unified Planning Work Program by the Transportation Planning Board in December 2005. Staff continued background research and preliminary planning on this task.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Following revisions to the scope of work for the air quality conformity assessment of the 2006 CLRP and FY2007 – 12 TIP to reflect the fact that the Planning Directors would not be developing Round 7.1 Cooperative Forecasts on a schedule consistent with the CLRP update this year, staff presented the updated version to the TPB Technical Committee and the TPB at their respective March meetings. The updated scope was also released at the March TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting for an extended 30 public comment period. Staff also discussed the scope at the March meetings of MWAQC, its Technical Advisory Committee and its Conformity Subcommittee.

Staff received and reviewed a draft PM2.5 hotspot analysis for the Intercounty Connector. Staff corresponded with MD SHA to concur with their assessment that, based

upon EPA's recent final rule regarding qualitative assessment of PM_{2.5} hotspots, there are no such issues with the project.

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 March TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff, primarily relating to requirements for the 8-hour ozone SIP. Staff participated in meetings

of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee, and its Conformity Subcommittee, and in three meetings / conference calls of its Emissions Inventory Working Group.

Staff continued work to analyze 8-hour ozone and PM_{2.5} pollutants and emissions characteristics, develop Mobile6 inputs / outputs and software interface, and revise post-processor procedures for SIP development. This included continued consultant task order support for assistance in reflecting new inputs to the Mobile6.2 model. TPB staff executed travel demand modeling work for 2008 and 2009 forecast years. As part of these modeling activities, staff developed miscellaneous trip tables using straight line interpolation between 2005 and 2010.

Staff developed vehicle age distribution and diesel percentages for the District of Columbia and Maryland and transmitted the results and the documentation to each air agency for review and comment. Based on comments received from the air agencies, staff revised the method of calculating vehicles belonging to the 25th and older model years of the age distribution mix. Staff also revised the method for assigning heavy duty vehicles to school and transit bus fleets and light duty diesel truck categories 1, 2, 3, and 4 to the different light duty truck categories when aggregating the 28 vehicle type data to 16 vehicle type data. The methodology and the results were discussed with representatives of the air agencies in a conference call.

Staff developed the Mobile 6.2 inputs including hourly temperature, relative humidity, and fuel parameters required to conduct a sensitivity analysis of the monthly versus a three season approach in developing annual fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) inventories. Annual PM 2.5 inventories using the seasonal (three seasons) and monthly approaches were developed and after internal review were forwarded to DEP staff and presented to the TPB Travel Management Subcommittee.

The Travel Management Subcommittee met on March 21, 2006 and discussed the following items: a) 2006 CLRP and FY 2007- FY 2012 TIP Conformity work scope and schedule, b) 8-Hour Ozone SIP schedule and work activities including mobile source inventories, and mobile source control measures under consideration, c) methodology for analyzing PM 2.5 emissions benefit from TERMS, and d) Status report on developing the vehicle registration data, and diesel vehicle percentages. The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for Tuesday April 25, 2006, if necessary.

Staff participated in a review of proposals for a survey of non-road transportation construction equipment. The purpose of the survey is to identify heavy duty retrofit candidates eligible for FHWA CMAQ funds. DTP staff, along with DEP staff and state air agency and state DOT staff, comprised the selection committee that reviewed proposals from four respondents to the February 7, 2006 RFP. The selection committee met multiple times to discuss the proposals and follow-up questions to the bidders, before selecting the winning proposal.

COG/DEP staff coordinated with the states in analyzing 2005 registration data and Diesel Sales Fraction data. Several discussions were held with the states to finalize approval of the vindecoder data. Staff attended TPB Technical Committee and TPB meetings in March.

C. Regional Studies

Staff continued work on the development and coding of a variably-priced lanes (HOV/HOT/Express Toll Lanes) Transportation scenario.

Staff completed work on calculation airport and inter-city bus and rail accessibility measures of effectiveness (MOEs) for the five alternative land use and transportation scenarios.

Staff reviewed the land use and inter-city bus and rail accessibility MOEs with the Joint Technical Working Group on March 17th.

Staff continued work on the water-quality indicators (imperviousness) and began work on the air quality MOEs.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff continued to work with the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee on the update of Regional Activity Centers and Clusters.

Staff worked with the DC Office of Planning on Round 7.0a updates to COG's Cooperative Forecasts of future population, household and employment growth to reflect land use changes relating to the recently approved design of the Washington Nationals stadium and associated infrastructure improvements to be included in this year's update of the TPB's Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Work continued to update transit files and catalogues for the fall of 2005, which will be used in the next round of TIP / CLRP conformity networks. Staff has completed transit line coding for WMATA Metrobus routes, as well as services provided in most TPB jurisdictions. Processing is continuing for Frederick, Calvert, and Charles Counties, as well as for MARC, VRE, MTA, Lee Coaches and National Coach commuter bus services. This processing has been delayed due to the need to develop networks to support a new nested logit mode choice model under development in the Models Development work program. All updates for the 2005 transit network are expected to be completed in April. Staff completed the development of highway network files for 2005 during March.

TPB staff worked with FAMPO and BMC staff to coordinate conformity inputs. The Washington DC-MD-VA region's networks include all regionally significant projects from FAMPO's and BMC's approved long range plans. Jurisdictions in the TPB's modeled network area from FAMPO's region include Stafford County, Spotsylvania County, and the City of Fredericksburg. Jurisdictions in the TPB's modeled network area from BMC's region include Howard County, Anne Arundel County, and Carroll County.

Staff continued to review and make technical corrections to the conformity tables.

B. GIS Technical Support

Staff continued to monitor the performance of ArcGIS 8.3 and Oracle 9i databases.

Staff continued to update ArcGIS software from version 8.3 to 9.1 and worked with COG Information Technology staff to resolve operability issues between the ArcGIS version 9.1 updates and the Microsoft XP (Service Pack 2) operating system.

Staff continued implementation of the updated spatial dataset library and accompanying metadata.

Staff began work on developing a GIS software application to enable transportation planners and others to more easily identify and code transit walk shed area for potential new transit station locations that are being studied and analyzed using the COG/TPB Version 2.1D travel demand forecasting model

Staff transmitted the proposed MOA on a minimum essential dataset for a consistent Regional GIS base map to be used for emergency preparedness and emergency management purposes to local jurisdictions for signature.

Staff worked with the GIS Executive Committee to submit a request for one million dollars in UASI funding to assist local jurisdictions in preparing a consistent Regional GIS base map to be used for emergency preparedness and emergency management purposes.

Staff began recruitment for a GIS Analyst/Coordinator.

C. Models Development

Staff continued development of a nested logit mode choice model, gaining familiarity with the file handling requirements specified by AECOM under contract to TPB staff.

Work continues to check model results with transit survey data for 2000 (regional bus survey) and 2002 (Metrorail survey), as well as testing the model in a forecast mode for a year 2030 projection. Staff is continuing the development of an ArcGIS process for computing zonal walk shed areas needed to support this model development, with completion targeted for April.

Staff completed processing the 2003 External Truck Survey for use in updating the TPB truck models. Staff also completed preparing data to update the demographic models with 2000 CTPP information. Work is nearing completion on a revised set of external and through trip tables, and on a revised set of airport access trips based on the 2000 Air Passenger Survey. These are among several elements being incorporated into an updated travel demand model for release later this year.

Using data collected by TPB staff in FY2005, a contractor has progressed through trip generation and distribution in the calibration of a commercial vehicle model. Documentation is under review. The consultant has received comments from staff and

has made some adjustments to the model to include the 'other' employment category in the trip generation step.

D. Software Support

Staff is supporting the development and execution of the DTP travel demand model using the TP+/Viper software and the Mobile 6.2 Mobile Source Emissions Factor Model in Air Quality Conformity and SIP development. Staff support includes training in application of TP+/Viper and Mobile 6.2 and maintenance of current documentation and user guides for both models. Staff is also monitoring the performance of DTP desktop and laptop hardware and software and the operation of the DTP plotters in coordination with the COG Office of Technology Programs and Services (OTPS) as appropriate.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Field work began in mid-March on the 2006 Central Employment Area Cordon Count. This activity will continue through most of the spring.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff developed the work tasks to conduct the Spring-2006 off-peak and weekend freeway congestion monitoring and selected SKYCOMP to perform the work as a sole-source contractor. An application for flight restriction waiver was filed with Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Staff developed the outline of a pilot approach to expand coverage of the arterial congestion monitoring program. The program would collect speed/travel time data using volunteer drivers who would collect the data during their commute to and from work. The details of the program were presented to the TPB Technical Committee during the March meeting.

The FY 2006 arterial travel time project is underway and data have been collected on 50% of the routes. All data collection activities are scheduled to be completed by April 2006.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff completed work on the design of the pilot survey for the planned activity-based household travel survey for the TPB modeled region and presented this proposed design to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee on March 17th.

Staff continued development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a survey consultant to conduct the planned activity-based household travel survey.

Staff continued recruitment for a Survey Analyst to work on household travel survey work activities.

2. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities during the reporting period.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff continued work on updating traffic volume data for Maryland and Virginia highway network links in the Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the DDOT's monthly HPMS coordination meeting.

Machine Traffic Counts

Staff released the RFP for the Spring-2006 HPMS machine counts in the District of Columbia and four proposals were received in response to the RFP. The selection committee met during the last week of March and selected MCV associates of Virginia to conduct the counts.

Verification and Compliance of HPMS Sections in current Street Centerline File with Field Manual Standards

No staff activities during this reporting period.

Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)

No staff activities during this reporting period.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding FY2006 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff commenced work to provide GPS-based travel time and speed data in electronic form, collected for corridors in Montgomery County, Maryland, to a consultant for the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

MDOT Training/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 during the reporting period.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff participated in the March Transit Modeling meeting at MWCOG, and provided recommendations to MTA and SHA regarding use of latest planning assumptions for models and land activity.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued review of the FEIS document.

Bi-County Transitway Study

Project planning activities have been carried over (reprogrammed) to FY2007.

Capital Beltway/ Western Mobility Study

No activity during the reporting period.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

Per request staff prepared copies of a map illustrating traffic movements around the DC cordon line, as follow-up to DDOT's 'select link' project.

Miscellaneous Services

There was no activity to report in March.

I-95 / I-395 HOT Lane Project

This project has been completed. There was no activity to report.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

All data collected in the fall monitoring effort were transmitted to VDOT in February. Some additional data collection will be conducted in the spring.

I-66 Feasibility Study Supplemental Data Collection

There was no activity to report in March

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program

Staff continued processing and statistical analysis of Northern Virginia auto and transit counts collected in the fall of 2005.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Demand Responsive Study

There was no activity during the reporting period.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

This grant was closed out in July 2005.

B. CASP 20

This grant was closed out in November 2004.

C. Conduct 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey

This project was completed in April 2005.

D. CASP 21

a. Process Regional Air Passenger Survey

Staff completed the geo-processing for the 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey. The results of the geo-processing were presented for review and comments at the March meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

b. Ground Access Element Update

Staff completed a technical memorandum that documents work completed under Task 1 of this project: Review current ground access facilities,

services, activity levels and planning. The draft technical memorandum was presented for review and comments at the March meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** met Thursday, March 23rd. Agenda items included:

- Update on CONAANDA Activities
- Presentation of the geo-processing for the 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey
- Presentation of the draft technical memorandum documenting work completed under Task 1 (Review of Current Ground Access Facilities, Services, Activity Levels and Planning) for the Regional Airport System Plan Ground Access Element Update
- Roundtable Discussion on Regional Airport, Airline and Aviation Industry News

Consultant Support

SKYCOMP – Aerial survey of the limited access highway system - \$ 110,000 – ongoing

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis and

Near Term Funding Needs Report - \$140,000 – ongoing

Academy for Leadership Foundation – Public Involvement \$50,000 – ongoing

Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc. – Public Involvement \$50,000 – ongoing