
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

In a letter dated May 18, FTA and FHWA approved the FY 2005 UPWP with the finding: "... that all appropriate transportation related planning work is included and that the UPWP meets the Federal requirements for a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive metropolitan planning process."

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the May 7 meeting, the Program Committee approved three amendments to the FY 2004-2009 TIP as requested by VDOT.

Staff prepared an initial version of the FY 2005-2010 TIP document incorporating all project submissions provided by the implementing agencies. The preliminary draft document was distributed for review at the May 7 Technical Committee meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

In continuing work to document the performance of the 2003 CLRP, staff obtained additional data on minority and low-income populations for the metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Additional accessibility maps of the number of jobs within 45 minutes by transit and auto were created. Staff worked with the GIS team to create an automated process to relate accessibility data by transportation analysis zone to demographic data available for Census tracts.

D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

Management and Operations Activities

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces met on May 4, 2004. The group discussed regional ITS architecture activities and traveler information activities, including planned integration of metropolitan Washington traveler information contractual support (for planning activities) into an upcoming Virginia statewide effort.

Staff participated in an advisory role in the Virginia statewide request for proposals (RFP) process to engage a 511 contractor. Following April activities including review of

proposals received and in-person interviews, staff participated in discussions in May regarding contractor selection. Contractor selection was anticipated for June 2004.

On May 11, staff participated in the “Regional Partnerships in Transportation” conference in New York City, addressing multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional collaborative transportation operations efforts, sponsored by New York University and Public Technology, Inc. Also on May 11, staff participated in a site visit and review of the TRANSCOM transportation operations control center in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Emergency Transportation Coordination Planning Activities

Staff prepared materials to support stakeholder discussion of options for strengthening regional emergency communications and coordination in the transportation sector. These follow the recommendations of the revised Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM. The MOITS Task Forces reviewed these materials at their May 4, 2004 meeting. Chairman David Snyder presented the information to the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council on May 6, to the Transportation Planning Board Citizens Advisory Committee on May 13, and to the Transportation Planning Board on May 19.

The MOITS Task Forces also discussed on May 4 the status and outlook of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program, and its relationship to emergency transportation activities.

E. Financial Plan

No work activity during the reporting period.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

The 15th Annual Public Transit Forum was held on May 4. The agenda included an update on private sector transit opportunities in FTA programs and discussions on the proposals under consideration in the reauthorization of TEA-21. The meeting was well attended and provided a good exchange of information on transit plans and prospects among private and public transit providers.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

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- Met with instructors to view the sites for and attended eight half-day Walkable Communities Workshops, held throughout the region during the first week of May.
 - Met with COG Administration Staff to review present and future funding and contractual arrangements for the Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Campaign.
 - Prepared a presentation on the Street Smart campaign, presented it to the District 2, MDOT, ITE meeting.
 - Prepared hand-outs, agenda, staffed, and took minutes for the meeting of the bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee.
 - Presented to the Access for All Committee on the activities of the bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee.
 - Produced progress reports, purchase orders, and assorted paperwork associated with payments and reporting requirements for the Street Smart campaign.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks in May 2004:

- COG/HSPPS staff continued to collect information on workforce demographics and other indicators for inclusion as background information for the Job Access plan, as well as for future regional workforce development projects at COG.

I. Public Participation

The CAC held its regular monthly meeting on May 13. For the second month in a row, the meeting included a discussion with Falls Church Councilmember David Snyder on emergency preparedness. The CAC expressed continuing concern about the need to keep the pressure on the TPB and on transportation agencies to quickly implement needed improvements. The CAC unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the TPB to act expeditiously.

Bob Griffiths of the COG/TPB staff briefed the CAC on the current status of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. The CAC agreed to conduct three outreach meetings later this year in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. on the subject of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.

The "TPB News" newsletter was written and distributed.

Access for All Advisory Committee

In the month of May, staff prepared for the May 20 Access for All (AFA) Advisory committee meeting. Mr. Jim Gallagher from WMATA was invited to present proposed changes to MetroAccess to the committee. A meeting summary of the previous AFA meeting was drafted. An article for TPB news was written on the TPB approved 2003 AFA report and the major recommendations. The AFA 2003 Report was prepared for final printing.

J. Annual Report

Layout and editing for the annual report were finalized.

K. DTP Management

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

- The DTP Director participated in a one-day panel meeting of the Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.
- The DTP Director participated in the final meeting of the VDOT panel formed to advise the Commonwealth Transportation Board on the Fluor-Daniel proposal to build and operate High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the Beltway in Virginia.

TPB Task Force on Value Pricing

Preparations were made for the May 19, 2004 meeting of the TPB Value pricing task force. Meeting highlights for the previous value pricing task force meeting were created. At the previous meeting, the task force had asked that draft principles for a regional system of variable priced lanes be developed. A first draft of principles was created and reviewed by the transit subgroup. After the May 19 task force meeting, the principles were revised and circulated for further comment.

The variable priced lane transportation scenario for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study was further refined and a new map created with an updated list of facilities.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff proceeded with several work tasks for conformity assessment of the 2004 CLRP and FY2005-10 TIP. This included tests of the new Mobile6.2 emissions factor model, discussion with the Planning Directors of potential impacts that the ICC alignments may have on the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts, and the network coding activities.

Staff continued to coordinate highway and transit inputs with various implementing agencies. Staff gathered transit fare information for updates to the bus and fare inputs in the model. Staff continued updating the highway network database and GIS files with project inputs for the conformity analysis. Staff completed the coding of transit routes to reflect December, 2003 conditions for use as a base for the conformity analysis. This work included developing a 2003 highway network and accompanying 2003 transit mode files. Staff produced a 2005 highway network and began accuracy-checking the output network against the conformity project table. Staff began updating the new mode files to reflect 2005 conditions.

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 May TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff and MWAQC committees. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, and its Technical Advisory Committee. Staff completed work on the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory and forwarded data files to COG/DEP for distribution to air agency staff and submittal to EPA. Staff continued work on the preparation of Mobile6 emissions factors for conformity and on longer term research into refinements to inputs to Mobile6.

Staff continued updating the "TERMs under consideration for emissions reduction during conformity assessment of the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP" document. This work will be completed during the middle of June. Staff updated the TERM tracking sheet based on status reports received to date. Staff assisted the consultant under contract to evaluate the effectiveness of the Commuter Connections TERMs by providing technical assistance.

The Travel Management Subcommittee met on May 25, 2004 and was briefed on the status of the conformity analysis of the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP. The subcommittee discussed the status reports, the TERM Tracking Sheet, and reviewed the

list of potential TERMS. As part of the final item, staff briefed the committee on the diesel vehicle retrofit technologies available for implementation. The date for the next Travel Management Subcommittee meeting is June 22, 2004 at 9:00 AM.

In May COG/DEP worked with DTP staff to finalize the mobile inventory portion of the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory. Staff worked on changing the DTP format for mobile emissions to EPA's required NIF3.0 format for emissions inventory submittals. DEP staff met with DTP staff to discuss transit bus emissions in future years in preparation for a WMATA committee meeting regarding future bus purchases. Both DEP and DTP staff attended the WMATA committee meeting and air quality staff responded to questions regarding bus emissions as percent of contribution to the total emissions inventory for the region. Staff prepared and presented information about EPA's 8-hour ozone standard and guidance to the TPB Technical Committee. Staff attended the TPB meeting and various committee meetings during the month and responded to questions about the 8-hour ozone standard and the implementation schedule.

C. Regional Studies

Staff refined the CLRP+ Scenario transit network in response to comments received from the Joint Technical Working Group.

Updated travel demand model results and accessibility plots for the CLRP+ scenario were presented to the Joint Technical Working Group on May 14th. This information is scheduled for presentation to the Transportation Scenarios Subgroup on June 1st.

Staff continued to make upgrades to the Version 2 travel demand forecasting model to enhance the modeling of transit and HOV/HOT facilities in Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study transportation scenarios.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff briefed the Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee on the status of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel Study and the results of the panel's work through the end of April. Staff explained that updated TAZ-level land activity forecasts would be needed for two alternative ICC alignments if the TPB voted to include the ICC in the list project submissions for this year's CLRP/TIP air quality conformity analysis. Staff suggested that the Planning Directors review the work of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel in preparing these updated land activity forecasts for the two alternative ICC alignments.

Staff attended the May 26th meeting of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel and responded to questions on the modifications to the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts that would take into account the land activity impacts of the two ICC build alternatives in this year's CLRP/TIP air quality conformity analysis.

Staff completed development of the updated TAZ-level Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasting land activity databases.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Work has begun on the development of highway and transit networks to be employed in the air quality conformity analysis of the FY2005-2010 TIP and the 2004 CLRP. During May, new GIS-based highway network building software was implemented, and transit networks are being adapted to use the linkages from these highway networks as a starting point.

B. GIS Technical Support

Staff continued to monitor the performance of ArcGIS and Oracle 9i databases and installed all needed security patches and application program updates.

Staff continued research on upgrading the GIS database server to Oracle 10g and ArcSDE 9.0, including the development of metadata for ArcSDE feature classes.

Staff continued the redesign of the comprehensive GIS data model to take advantage of new ArcGIS features and more efficiently manage COG/TPB GIS databases by using ArcGIS geodatabase layers as the main source for users' GIS data.

Staff continued to migrate remaining ArcInfo workstation data from the legacy Unix server to the Windows 2000 GIS server.

Staff continued development of a roll-out plan to assist GIS users in the migration of all GIS data to the Windows 2000 GIS Server.

Staff continued installation of Hummingbird and ArcGIS 8.3 software on individual workstations in response to user requests.

Staff provided Commuter Connections with an updated regional GIS bike network layer for their website.

Staff installed and configured a FireWire drive to incorporate USGS land use imagery into the COG/TPB GIS.

Staff completed modifications of the GIS Master Network database incorporate ICC network link flags to accommodate two alternative ICC alignments in the GIS Master Network database for this year's CLRP/TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

Staff continued to provide technical assistance and instruction to the network development team in preparation for this year's CLRP/TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

C. Models Development

During May, staff continued refining the draft Version 2.1 D travel demand model, incorporating elements which address upgrades to the modeling process in the short term, as detailed in the multi-year "straw man" work program transmitted to the TRB Committee on December 24th. Additional changes to the model were described at the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee meeting on May 21st. At that meeting, the draft model known as Version 2.1 D #18 was released. Work is continuing on refinement of the draft Version 2.1 D model, with the next release to be presented to the TFS at its meeting on July 23rd.

Staff met with William Allen on May 21st to discuss data requirements for supporting a new method to estimate commercial vehicle traffic. This is in response to one of the recommendations flowing from the TRB Committee's letter reports. As part of the Cordon Count work element in the FY2005 UPWP, there will be a major effort to collect data in support of this commercial vehicle model development in the coming fiscal year.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on the revision of Version 2 travel demand model flowcharts, making adjustments in the creation of appropriate flowcharts to reflect the current operation and updates of the Version 2.1, Release D, Travel Demand Model. Development of a file naming convention to enable the identification of files with respect to conformity year and alternative within a given year has been deferred. Investigation of the feasibility of a less-detailed chart of the application process and other types of illustration of the process continues.

Staff, in coordination with the COG Information Technology System, continued the investigation of current direct access device technology which may be applicable as a microcomputer hard drive back-up system to replace the tape back-up system currently in use. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's and portable hard drives

with the addition of snap drives. Currently, a portable hard drive is in use and continues under evaluation, as do DVD's.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Travel time runs for the 2004 Regional HOV Facilities Monitoring project were completed in April, and count field work has been progressing in May. All activities are scheduled for completion in June.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Data analyses have been completed and staff is reviewing the results and preparing the final report. No major changes to the highways under study were observed as compared to the previous survey conducted in 2001.

Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff continued to supervise and direct the geocoding of household travel survey data by temporary staff.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued the review of CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by TAZ.

Staff presented a recommendation to the TPB Technical Committee, the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee and the Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee that technical adjustment factors be applied to base and forecast year employment data for several jurisdictions in the TPB expanded cordon modeled area so that a consistent definition of employment was used in the travel demand modeling process. The recommendation was based on an analysis comparing the CTPP 2000 Census Journey to Work data with COG Cooperative Forecasting base year employment estimates for the year 2000.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No work activity during reporting period.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff continued assembly of new traffic count data for Virginia and review of Census data to be included in the update of Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

Staff attended and participated in DDOT's monthly HPMS meeting.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff completed a review of the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center's final draft report on the D.C. Motor Carrier Management and Threat Assessment Study, submitting comments to DDOT and the Volpe Center.

Database Automation and Application Development

No work activity during the reporting period.

Machine Traffic Counts

Three proposals were received in response to the RFP. A selection committee comprised of DDOT and COG staff met and selected "The Traffic Group" to conduct the counts. The contract was negotiated and finalized. Counts are underway at the 96 locations and are on schedule to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. At the DDOT request, staff is negotiating with the contractor to perform 7-day counts at an additional 20 locations before the end of the fiscal year.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

No work during the reporting period

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2004 work program activities, including a meeting in the MDOT offices to discuss the status of travel demand model refinements and upcoming versions.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff completed work to provide data and summary files in electronic format from corridor locations in Montgomery County, Maryland, surveyed in the Arterial Highway System Performance Monitoring Project to the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Staff continued work to provide the current draft version of the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model and selected highway networks to a consultant for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Staff completed work to provide highway network loaded links files from the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model to a consultant for the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Staff completed work to provide skim files to the Maryland Transportation Initiative, A. James Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland.

Staff attended the Maryland SHA I-95/I-495 Greenbelt Metro Access Study meeting of the study team to present the team's Recommended Alternative for the study to the SHA Administrator, held on May 3, 2004.

MD SHA / MTA Technical Support

Staff reviewed documentation reports, e.g., draft environmental impact study, alternatives retained for detailed study, for various project planning studies in Maryland. Staff also performed work on the ICC project, as described below.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff has continued work on validation efforts with consultants and MD State Highway Administration. The study team is in the process of defining managed lane scenarios assumptions to be modeled by staff using the latest modeling methods consistent with the ICC Study. In addition to the monthly team meeting, staff attended an open house in Montgomery County on May 17, 2004, to help educate the public about managed lanes and their role on Capital Beltway.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff provided travel demand modeling files to MD SHA and held a short training session for MD SHA on using the Viper plotting software.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued development and analysis of travel forecasts for 2010 and 2030 build alternatives and also prepared / analyzed accessibility maps of changes through time and among the different network alternatives. Staff worked closely with SHA's consultants in executing the technical work activities; this included two work sessions to review latest results and to discuss next steps. Staff provided technical support, and delivered outputs from travel demand model runs, to the University of Maryland (for the Economic Impact Study) and to the Maryland Transportation Authority. These work activities were funded under the Maryland Technical Support project, listed above.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

Staff completed work on a sketch level assessment of traffic issues for the Fluor Daniel I-495 HOT lane proposal. A presentation on the results was made in Richmond on May 17th.

Miscellaneous Services

No activities to report.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Processing of all data was completed and transmitted to VDOT in February. This project has been completed.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

At the request of VDOT, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program, with monies carried forward into FY2005, effective with the TPB action taken on March 17th.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No work activity during this reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

At the request of WMATA, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program to make available funds for other projects. The package of changes to the work program was approved at the TPB meeting on March 17th.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

At the request of WMATA, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program to make available funds for other projects. The package of changes to the work program was approved at the TPB meeting on March 17th.

Regional Transportation Financing Plan

This project has been deleted at the request of WMATA to provide funding for a study of near term regional transportation funding needs and availability and project/program priorities. By action of the TPB Program Committee on October 3, 2003 (resolution TPB PR8-2003), \$150,000 was transferred to I.E Financial Plan to conduct the study at a level of \$201,000 (previously programmed in the FY2004 UPWP at \$51,000). The remaining balance of \$20,000 in this WMATA account was transferred to WMATA Miscellaneous Services, increasing its budget from \$8,125 to \$28,125.

Parking Usage at Metrorail Stations

Two proposals were received in response to the request for parking usage monitoring. Daniel Consultants Inc. was selected to conduct the parking counts and the contract was finalized and signed. A meeting was held with the consultant to discuss the logistics, and counts are to start the week after the Memorial Day holiday.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

The revised draft report documenting the procedures used to develop forecasts of local originating air passenger trips from each Aviation Analysis Zone to each of the three commercial airports in the region was presented at the May meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

There was no work activity during this reporting period.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued the data processing phase of this project. This included geocoding of the trip origin addresses to transportation analysis zones and assigning resident-non-resident status codes to the trip records.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

Staff continued to analyze the travel data, including data collected during additional travel time runs for study routes with missing or inconsistent travel data. Staff also produced summary data tables for inclusion the study report. Finally, staff continued to collect transit data from published transit provider information for use in calculating transit times for the study routes.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** met Thursday, May 27th at COG. Agenda items included:

- Update on CONAANDA Activities
- Status report on Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update
- Status report on Ground Access Travel Study Update
- Status report on 2002 Air Passenger Survey

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

Contract with FedEx for the implementation of up to 5 hybrid electric vehicles was finalized and FedEx is expected to sign the contract soon. Regency cabs were released from the contract for two CNG vehicles since the vehicles have been disabled. As per the funding agencies request, the implementation contractor has ceased pursuing CNG projects and is exploring other fuel options. The next meeting of the oversight committee has been scheduled for June 24, 2004.

