
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The FY 2006 UPWP as approved by the TPB in March was submitted to FTA and FHWA in April for review and approval.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the April 1 meeting, the Steering Committee approved amendments to the FY 2004-2009 and the FY 2005-2010 TIPs to change or modify funding for projects as requested by VDOT.

At the April 1 meeting, the Technical Committee was briefed on the final project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP and recommended that the TPB approve them for inclusion. At the April 20 meeting, the Board reviewed the public comments received and approved the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the April 1 meeting, the Technical Committee was briefed on the final project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP and recommended that the TPB approve them for inclusion. At the April 20 meeting, the Board reviewed the public comments received and approved the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP.

D. Operations, Coordination/Emergency Preparedness

Management and operations activities

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces held a joint meeting on April 12, 2005.

The Task Forces were briefed on the status of regional ITS architecture development. A full version of the Regional ITS Architecture was posted on the COG/TPB Web site in time to meet the April 8, 2005 federal deadline for such architectures. In coordination with MOITS and member transportation agencies, staff continued work to refine and enhance the architecture.

A meeting of the MOITS Traffic Signals Working Group was held on April 21. The group received a presentation and discussed the ongoing WMATA Transit Signal Priority Study, including a review of regional signal system matrix, introduction and discussion of alternatives for the concept of operations for signal priority, and an overview of priority/preemption detection equipment. The group discussed reactions to the announcement of the results of the national Institute of Transportation Engineers Traffic Signal Operational Self-Assessment, in which many member agencies participated, which took place on April 20. The group also looked ahead to the need to report progress on the regional traffic signal optimization Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM), adopted by the TPB in 2002, by June 2005. Indications were that the goals set in the TERM would be met and exceeded, and staff was to work with member agencies to compile necessary results data by June.

Staff attended a briefing on the release of the Maryland Statewide ITS Architecture at the Maryland State Highway Administration CHART Center in Hanover on April 8. Staff also attended a meeting of the I-95 Corridor Coalition Steering Committee at the CHART Center on April 22, participating in the Committee's discussion of interagency operations coordination.

Emergency Transportation coordination Planning Activities

Staff continued work, begun in FY2004, 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.

Staff worked with University of Maryland and MOITS representatives on continued formation of a "CapCom" regional transportation operations coordination program. On April 12, the Task Forces were briefed on the status of funding and governance developments for CapCom, advised by the MOITS Task Forces, under development by the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology. The concept of the "Mid-Atlantic Communications Interoperability Partnership (MACIP)"

was introduced; a MACIP executive board was to oversee and coordinate a number of interrelated communications and data technology integration efforts.

Staff briefed the MOITS Task Forces on April 12 on the status of the three transportation sector proposals submitted for consideration for FY2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security funding: (1) CapCom; (2) a study of relocation of rail in the Washington region; and (3) components of the WMATA back-up control center. MOITS discussed potential outcomes, but final decisions on these and other applications to the UASI program by the states' Homeland Security Senior Policy Group were not released in April.

Staff supported and participated in an April 21 meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Committee for Strengthening Transportation Communications and Coordination, also referred to as the Ad Hoc CapCom Steering Committee. The Steering Committee focused on the need to develop a brief white paper explaining the CapCom concept for use in future funding discussions by member agency executives, as well as a revised work plan to reflect an anticipated reduction in budget monies available for CapCom's first year. Staff worked closely with the University of Maryland to follow up on the Steering Committee's requests, and to prepare for an update presentation to be given to the TPB at its May 18 meeting.

Staff attended a workshop, part of a monthly series, addressing emergency preparedness contingency plans at Northern Virginia Metrorail stations, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and held at the Fairfax County Emergency Management Center in Fairfax on April 19.

E. Financial Plan

The draft RFP for consultant assistance to conduct the new financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP was presented to the Technical Committee at its April 1 meeting.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

Invitations were mailed and e-mailed for the 16th Annual Public Transit Forum which is sponsored by the TPB Private Provider Task Force. The forum is scheduled for May 24.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

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- Presented to the TPB Technical Committee on the Street Smart Program and Pedestrian Safety in the Washington Region
 - Presented to the Regional TDM Marketing Group on the Street Smart program
 - Prepared agenda, hand-outs, for two meetings of the Pedestrian Safety Working Group, which gave input to the consultant on the development of the 2005 Street Smart campaign
 - Attended a meeting of the bike parking work group.
 - Presented to the TPB on the Street Smart Program
 - Presented to the COG Police Chiefs Committee on the Street Smart program; arranged to have posters and materials distributed
 - Met with the Bike Plan Work group to discuss progress on the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan
 - Met with Andrew Austin to discuss the Bicycle and Pedestrian Project database

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks in April 2005:

- Staff prepared for and hosted Demand Responsive Services Study Steering Committee Meeting.
- Contacted Health and Human Services directors and staff in the region to participate in Steering Committee.
- Organized ideas from facilitated discussion into key focus areas for future study.
- Continued to research best practices from around the country in paratransit and demand responsive transportation.

I. Public Participation

The CAC's monthly meeting on April 14 focused on a discussion of the CapCom Incident Coordination and Communication Center, the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and the proposal to build high occupancy/toll lanes on the Capital Beltway in Virginia. The committee approved a letter regarding the CapCom Center and a resolution on the HOT lane project, which are both attached to this report.

The public comment period was extended to April 16 for the project submissions for the 2005 CLRP, the FY2006-2011 TIP, the FY2006 UPWP and the scope of work for this year's air quality conformity assessment. Information on these items was posted on the TPB website and in the TPB News.

Staff wrote and distributed the “TPB News” newsletter.

Access for All Advisory Committee

During the month of April, staff created a March 31 meeting summary, updated the AFA website, and developed a newsletter style hand-out on the AFA comments on the proposed 2005 amendments to the CLRP for the TPB. These comments were presented by Kathy Porter to the TPB at its April meeting.

A lessons learned letter from Kathy Porter was sent to the TPB members who participated in the October 20 Disability Awareness Day. The Easter Seals Project ACTION newsletter featuring the event was included with the letter.

On April 11, the AFA subcommittee on transportation for low-income populations met. The subcommittee reviewed the barriers and strategies identified at the previous meeting, heard about low-interest loan and car sharing programs, the region bus study and selected strategies through a ranking system that the subcommittee will pursue.

J. Annual Report

A laid-out version of the annual report was distributed to staff for review.

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 participated in a seminar sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation for senior officials from the Netherlands dealing with the potential for expanded application of pricing policies for traffic management.
- The DTP Director participated in several meetings with other COG staff, the COG Metropolitan Development policy Committee (MDPC) and the Planning Directors to discuss the analysis and review of the draft Round 7 Cooperative Forecasts.

TPB Value Pricing Task Force

No activity during the reporting period.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Regarding project submissions and the air quality conformity work scope for the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP, at their respective April meetings staff briefed the Technical Committee and the TPB on comments received on the documents and recommended responses. The Board approved the responses, project submissions and work scope. The scope and conformity table of projects to be coded are available on the COG website.

Staff ran the “tip-up” program which automatically updates the highway network database with projects from the conformity table where only “year”, “facility type”, or “number of lanes” changed. After coordinating with local jurisdictions to clarify certain project definitions, staff completed manual updates to the highway network database. Staff completed coding and clean-up of the 1994 base transit schedules for use as a base in the conformity analysis.

Network coding staff, working with GIS staff, merged the time-of-day links into the highway network database, thus simplifying the management of projects with lanes that vary by time-of-day.

Staff also proceeded with preparing flowcharts and files for data processing (and reviewing Mobile6 and emissions post-processor inputs as reported below under Mobile Emissions Analysis).

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 April TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff relating to requirements for the 8-hour ozone standards and upcoming PM2.5 standards. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee, and an airports emissions control measure working group. Staff continued work to analyze PM2.5 pollutants, emissions characteristics, and Mobile6 inputs / outputs, and continued preliminary work to prepare emissions factors and revise post-processor documentation for the upcoming conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP. This included issuing a consultant task order for assistance in

reflecting new inputs and EPA guidance associated with the Mobile6.2 model version preparatory to executing the emissions development process.

Staff contracted with ESP Data Solutions to decode approximately 40,000 VIN numbers obtained from the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Virginia. The decoding was completed by the firm and a data set was provided to COG staff. Staff is analyzing the data set by comparing it with the registration data files generated for those jurisdictions by air agencies using other methods. The preliminary findings of the analysis were presented to the Travel Management Subcommittee at their April 26, 2005 meeting.

Staff obtained permanent count station data from Maryland and Virginia and developed ratios to convert average annual daily traffic (AADT) to average annual weekday traffic (AAWDT). Similarly, ratios between Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring average weekday U.S. AAWDT were developed. These ratios were developed for use in emissions analysis. A memorandum describing the findings along with recommendations for using the ratios developed was prepared and distributed to the Travel Management Subcommittee.

Staff developed a methodology to estimate particulate matter (PM) emissions from already implemented TERMS and presented the approach to the Travel Management Subcommittee.

Staff performed a study of the impact of gas price increase in the region based on the average fuel economy of the fleet in the region.

The Travel Management Subcommittee met on April 26, 2005, and discussed the schedule and scope of work for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2005 CLRP and FY 2006- FY 2011 TIP. The committee also discussed the newly released PM guidance and methodology for estimating PM emissions benefit, mobile source control measures under development by a MWAQC group for consideration in the 8-hour SIP, and results of the VIN decoder pilot study.

COG/DEP staff ran sensitivity runs to test the effects of different inputs for the MOBILE6.2 modeling. Staff met with DTP staff to discuss MOBILE6.2 inputs to the conformity analysis and inputs to the SIP mobile modeling. Staff contacted state air agencies to update their parameters for the Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) programs for 2005. Staff attended TPB Technical Committee meetings and the TPB meeting in April.

C. Regional Studies

Staff completed the travel demand modeling of the Higher Household Growth in Region scenario and presented the modeling results to the members of the Joint Technical Working group at their April 15th meeting.

Staff completed calculation of land use “Measures of Effectiveness” for the Transit-Oriented Development and the Higher Household Growth in Region scenarios. Staff presented this information to the members of the Joint Technical Working group at their April 15th meeting.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff briefed the TPB Technical Committee on the draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts and the concerns expressed by the District of Columbia Office of Planning staff about the jobs and housing imbalance implied by the draft forecasts, particularly after the year 2020.

Staff began an analysis of the most recent forecasts of employment, population, and housing for additional jurisdictions that are in the TPB’s modeled area but outside the geography for which the COG Cooperative Forecasts are developed.

Staff began an examination of forecast growth in travel into the region across the external boundaries of the modeled area in relation to the draft Round 7.0 forecasts.

Staff continued to work with the Planning Directors on concerns, about the jobs and housing imbalance implied by the draft Round 7.0 forecasts and the development of a methodology to assess the impacts of the new forecasts upon transportation, affordable housing, air and water quality, and other policy areas.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

During April, network maintenance activities concluded with the update of transit line files with current information depicting transit service during the fall and winter of 2004. Highway network development focused on coordination with GIS staff to update the GIS-based highway database to generate time-of-day link attributes. The listing of projects for the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-2011 TIP was completed for use in updating highway networks.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

Staff completed testing of the Oracle 10g Server and Client software.

Staff completed testing the ArcGIS 9 service pack 2.

Staff renewed GIS Server hardware and software maintenance contracts.

Staff completed development of an implementation plan for the new GIS data architecture.

Staff developed standard document template for GIS dataset evaluation and began evaluation of existing datasets.

Staff completed technical assistance to the model development team in the comparison and mapping of DDOT, MD SHA and DDOT traffic count data with Version 2.1D model validation runs.

Staff completed the GIS update of transit walk sheds for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study Higher Households in Region scenario.

Staff continued update of the Regional Street Centerline GIS layer.

Staff met with local government staff to develop the agenda for the next GIS Committee meeting.

C. Models Development

Staff has begun reviewing the nested logit model files and documentation received from Jeff Bruggeman of AECOM, retained to advise on the development of this model. At the request of the Federal Transit Administration, staff has begun work on sensitivity testing of “base” and “build” scenarios using the FTA SUMMIT model. This analysis is being undertaken in several metropolitan areas so that results can be compared and evaluated.

Staff has continued processing the 2000 CTPP demographic data, which will be used to update the household size, income, and vehicle availability models.

D. Software Support

Staff, in coordination with the COG Information Technology System, continues the investigation of current direct access device technology. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's. Staff also continues to evaluate portable hard drives as potential back-up devices, with one currently in service in that capacity. Exploration of server-based system-wide backup procedures is also underway with successful back-up and retrieval of files on a server-based system has taken place.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Staff continued processing data collected last Spring for the regional HOV monitoring project, in preparation for a report documenting the results of this effort. Staff developed software to be used in laptop computer field data collection in the upcoming count of trucks and light commercial vehicles this Spring. Field data collection for this project has begun.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff has completed 70% of the data analysis of the FY 2005 arterial travel time project on selected arterial highways in the region. SKYCOMP has started freeway data collection and has not encountered any problems so far in collecting 50% of the data. All data collection activities are expected to be completed by end of May 2005.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff began research activities related to the development of a large-sample methodologically enhanced activity based regional household survey for the metropolitan Washington region.

2. 2000 Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued analysis and adjustment of the CTPP Part 3 worker flow data by jurisdiction of residence and jurisdiction of work.

Staff continued to respond to questions on the Census Journey to Work data from the 2000 Census.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

Staff began an analysis of regional transit commuting patterns.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

No staff activities to report.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

Staff attended and participated in DDOT HPMS meetings.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

No staff activities to report.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities to report.

Machine Traffic Counts

Three proposals were received in response to the RFP for machine data collection on roads in the District of Columbia; MCV & Associates was selected by the team to perform the data collection. A project initiation meeting was held with the consultant and data collection has commenced.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff coordinated with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2005 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff continued work to provide travel time and speed data for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Department of Park and Planning.

MD SHA / MTA Technical Support

Staff also reviewed documentation reports, e.g., draft environmental impact study, alternatives retained for detailed study, for various project planning studies in Maryland. Staff continued work analyzing select link methods and results using both the Version 2.1C and 2.1D models, incorporating internal review comments into the draft technical memo on the subject.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff completed a memo documenting travel demand modeling results.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

In response to a request from SHA, staff met with them and their consultant to discuss work task scoping for analysis of proposed electronic toll lane operations in the I-270 corridor. Following the meeting, staff continued work to outline a study approach and specific work tasks for a project team effort.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff reviewed and reported to SHA on travel demand results from previous forecast scenarios.

Bi-County Transitway Study

Staff attended the Maryland MTA Bi-County Transitway Project meeting on April 29, 2005, to review the current status of the project and to discuss project alignments to be retained for detailed study.

Staff continued working on studying the FTA's Summit model in preparation for future modeling work and attended a travel forecasting meeting at BMC as a part of this effort.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in April.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff received and reviewed responses to the letter requesting transit changes related to the construction of HOT lanes on the beltway. Staff organized a meeting to finalize the transit inputs related to that project.

Staff continued to evaluate toll scenarios as preliminary modeling work for the 2005 CLRP Air Quality Conformity analysis. Summary statistics such as a model tracking sheet, a VMT summary, and speed, volume/capacity ratio and volume on HOT lanes were analyzed to evaluate the impacts of tolls on traffic condition of HOT lane. Staff estimated individual link volume by trip type on HOT lanes to assess HOV3+ volume change by toll amount.

Staff continued testing the Version 2.1 D 50 travel demand model in application of tolls on the proposed HOT lanes of the Capital Beltway in Northern Virginia.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

All of the count data has been furnished to VDOT as of the end of January. GPS travel time data was transmitted to VDOT in March. All FY2005 activities for this project have now been completed.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

This project has been cancelled by VDOT, and funding has been carried forward into FY2006 for use in the Virginia technical assistance account.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Parking Usage at Metrorail Stations

As requested by WMATA work on this project ended in March and \$47,000 in the project budget was programmed for FY 2006.

A Study on Innovative Ways to Improve Paratransit Services in the Washington Region

The steering committee for the Demand Responsive/Paratransit study was formed and had its first meeting on April 28. TPB staff coordinated with the Human Services, Public Safety and Planning staff at COG to solicit steering committee members representing social service agencies from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Approximately 20 people will be participating in the steering committee which includes a mix of transit, human services, private provider and national persons with disabilities organization representatives.

Preparations were made for the first meeting, including a presentation providing an overview and context for the study, and questions for a facilitated discussion.

Staff continued to review reports and materials on paratransit and coordination issues and conducted interviews with knowledgeable people with local and state governments, WMATA, and national organizations and research groups to gain a better understanding of paratransit operations, system design, and costs, funding and demand. Staff collected information on qualified consultants that may be useful to the study. An analysis of the trends in MetroAccess, Metrobus and Metrorail ridership and costs was conducted.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

- 1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

- 2) Ground Access Forecast Update

Staff continued to analyze the 1998 and 2000 Air Passenger Survey Data and produced several summary tables and maps for staff review at weekly team meetings. These data are being used as a part of the project task to review the current AAZ area zone structure.

B. CASP 20

- 1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey
There was no staff activity during this reporting period.
- 2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

C. Conduct 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey

- 1) The 2005 Air Passenger Survey was conducted from March 6th through March 19th. The data collection phase of this project has been completed.

D. Process Regional Air Passenger Survey

- 1) The key punched survey data files, one per airport and one containing mail backs, were returned from the data entry firm. Staff prepared SAS programs to verify the data included in the returned survey files.

The Aviation Technical Subcommittee did not meet in April.

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee met on April 22, 2005. The committee discussed proposals on: a propane vehicle conversion proposal from Kline and Sons in Baltimore; school bus reflash in Montgomery and Baltimore County; and a fuel maker refueling system project for Baltimore city. All of the projects were tentatively approved for funding with the amount to be determined based on the emissions benefit.