
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

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

The full draft FY 2005 UPWP was prepared and presented to the Technical Committee and TPB for review in February. At the February 18 meeting, the TPB released the draft FY 2005 UPWP for public comment. The final version will be presented to the TPB for approval at the March 17 meeting.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

On January 7, 2004, the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were transmitted to FHWA and FTA for review. On February 23, 2004, FHWA and FTA approved the TPB conformity determination for the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP and found that “the urban transportation planning process for the National Capital Region is a coordinated, comprehensive, and continuing process.”

At the February 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the project submissions for 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP which were released for public comment and agency review at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on February 12. Responses to public comments will be prepared for presentation to the TPB. The TPB will be asked to approve the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the CLRP and TIP at its March 17 meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

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public comments on the project submissions will be prepared for presentation to the TPB. The TPB will be asked to approve the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the CLRP and TIP at its March 17 meeting.

A summary of the 2003 CLRP was prepared, including the financial analysis, air quality conformity analysis and travel demand results were described. Travel demand data was obtained for the entire TPB modeled area, and staff began quantifying the travel demand forecasts for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is also the air quality planning area for the region.

D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces met on February 10, 2004. The group discussed regional ITS architecture activities, including restart of an architecture working group; the results of a January 30, 2004 Federal Transit Administration-WMATA workshop on regional ITS architecture; and regional needs for architecture development within the next year. The group also discussed results of a January 13 ad hoc subcommittee meeting on traveler information activities met on January 13, including planned integration of metropolitan Washington traveler information contractual support (for planning activities) into an upcoming Virginia statewide effort. An additional meeting of the ad hoc traveler information subcommittee was held on February 20 on these issues.

On February 19, staff met with representatives of George Mason University on potential regional public surveys to be conducted by the university on transportation systems, management, operations, and ITS issues.

The Regional Emergency Support Function (R-ESF) #1 – Emergency Transportation Work Group met on February 10. The focus was to review and finalize the draft Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan. This was in preparation for presentation to the Transportation Planning Board on February 18 and the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council on March 4. Staff continued work based upon stakeholder comments.

Staff participated in a meeting of the Regional Transit Emergency Coordination Group at WMATA on February 11.

Staff participated in a workshop on contingency planning for emergencies involving the West Falls Church Metro Station, at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission in Arlington, on February 17.

Staff attended a joint meeting of the COG Chief Administrative Officers and the Homeland Security Senior Policy Group regarding Urban Area Security Initiative Funding on February 25.

E. Financial Plan

On February 6, the Technical Committee and the TPB Program Committee were briefed on a draft brochure to quantify the region's near-term transit and highway funding needs and priorities over the six-year period 2005 to 2010. The Technical Committee provided comments and suggestions which were reviewed at the Program Committee. As directed by the Program Committee, staff worked with CSI staff to finalize the text and tables for the brochure. One thousand copies of the brochure were printed.

On February 18, the *Time to Act* brochure was released at a press conference where the TPB officers and representatives of WMATA and the state transportation implementing agencies spoke. The brochure was featured in a *Washington Post* article and covered on several TV and radio programs. It was also distributed to the Washington region Congressional delegation, the Council of the District of Columbia, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Virginia General Assembly. The brochure can be seen on the COG web site.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No work during this reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Prepared handouts for a meeting of the Safety Task Force of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. Worked with consultant and task force members to refine and modify the materials for the Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign.
- Coordinated planning for the Walkable Communities Workshops with the local coordinators.
- Attended a meeting of the Bike to Work Day steering committee.
- Gathered data and entered project data into the regional bicycle and pedestrian project database.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks:

- Continued work on the annual update of the Area-wide Job Access Plan. COG staff also initiated research on best practices and innovative approaches to Job Access and Reverse Commute projects.

I. Public Participation

The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee held its regular monthly meeting on February 12. Because the new appointments for the 2004 CAC had not yet been made, members of last year's committee met. Participants at the meeting discussed the TPB's "Time to Act" brochure and offered suggestions on how the campaign might be enhanced and what follow-up might be effective. Participants also decided that a public outreach meeting should be scheduled for April.

The public comment period for the project submissions for the 2004 amendments to the CLRP and the FY2005-2010 TIP began on February 12. Public comments were received by mail, by e-mail, and through public comments at the TPB meeting.

The "TPB News" newsletter was written and distributed.

Access for All Advisory Committee

An AFA subgroup meeting on transit services for people with disabilities held on February 3, 2004. The subgroup discussed WMATA's Regional Paratransit Task Force and developed a list of comments and questions to be submitted to the task force. Staff participated by invitation in the Regional Paratransit Task Force meetings on February 9 and February 17, 2004.

The 2003 AFA report to the TPB was drafted based on the discussion and review of the near-term recommendations and 2004 focus areas approved by the AFA at its January 22, 2004 meeting. In addition, staff prepared a summary of the January 22, 2004 meeting.

J. Annual Report

Text for the 2003 report was written, reviewed and sent to the designer.

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 made a presentation before the Senate Finance Committee in Virginia on transportation funding needs.
- The DTP Director made a presentation before the Homeland Security Committee of the Montgomery County Council on coordination of transportation evacuation procedures.
- The DTP Director participated in a meeting of the Transportation and Environment Committee of the Greater Washington Board of Trade to discuss coordination of transportation evacuation procedures.

TPB Task Force on Value Pricing

Staff continued to develop materials to describe the draft regional high-occupancy vehicle/high-occupancy toll (HOV/HOT) scenario developed by the Task Force on Value Pricing for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. A map showing the proposed expanded network was updated, along with the description and assumptions for the scenario.

The February 18, 2004 TPB Task Force on Value Pricing meeting was rescheduled to March 17, 2004 because the "Time to Act" press conference was scheduled for the same time and date.

Staff contacted national experts on parking pricing to find out about regional experiences in the U.S. with a parking impact fee, such as the commuter parking tax, previously analyzed as a transportation emission reduction measure (TERM).

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff coordinated activities related to summarizing travel demand and emissions statistics for various CLRP reports. Staff continued highway network database maintenance activities, working with the GIS staff to refine the network coding processes. Staff

continued documenting and flowcharting the conformity analysis process for the 2003 CLRP/FY2004-09 TIP.

Staff updated the draft work scope for the air quality conformity analysis, presented it to the Technical Committee and distributed it to the TPB.

Staff received inputs for the air quality conformity analysis from all implementing agencies. Inputs were reviewed and changes from last year identified. Staff created a table showing significant changes and developed summaries for each significant change project. These items were combined with project description sheets and distributed to the TPB. Staff completed the highway and transit portions of the draft conformity table. The significant change information was available at the beginning of the public comment period, and updated for the TPB meeting.

Staff presented the list of future-year transit assumptions to the TPB Technical Committee for review, and coordinated subsequent updates with various regional transit providers.

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 February 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 a meeting of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, and its Technical Advisory Committee. Air quality planning activities related primarily to continued work on tasks associated with the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory and with provision of travel data to air agency staff for their preparation of EPA's 2002 National Emissions Inventory.

During the month of February progress was made on two work program items. The items were refinement of vehicle registration and vehicle miles of travel information used as input to the Mobile 6 model and investigation of a potential emissions trading program. Under the former, progress was made with respect to Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) decoder software, and under the latter, identification of three potential emissions trading programs. Staff reevaluated the emissions reduction goals of all the Commuter Connections implemented TERMS using the Mobile 6 model emissions factors. This information was included in the draft FY 2005 Commuter Connections work program. The programs will be evaluated against these goals and not the goals set at the time of adoption using Mobile 5b emissions factors.

The Travel Management Subcommittee met on February 24, 2004. The subcommittee discussed 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP Solicitation Document, the schedule for submission of TERM status reports, and the conformity assessment schedule. Staff briefed the subcommittee members on the two work program items, namely, refinement of input data to the Mobile 6 model, and the research activities into emissions trading. The tentative date for the next Travel Management Subcommittee meeting is March 23, 2004.

In February the COG/DEP met with DTP staff to discuss the mobile inventory for the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory. Air Quality staff held conference calls to discuss the new inventory format and roles of the states, COG DEP and COG DTP regarding development of mobile inventories for new pollutants, such as Particulates. DEP Air Quality staff attended TPB Technical Committee meeting and the TPB meeting.

C. Regional Studies

Staff continued coding of the CLRP Plus Scenario transit network.

Staff continued to work with DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA and local jurisdiction staff to develop and refine that transit and highway facility assumptions for "More Household Growth in Region," "More Jobs in Outer Areas," and the "Region Undivided" land use scenarios.

Staff reviewed initial modeling results of the "More Households in the Inner Areas and Clusters" land use scenario with the Transportation Scenarios Subgroup and the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff began 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.

During February, network development activities in support of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study continued with respect to the "CLRP Plus" scenario, reflecting final detailed information on bus service characteristics received from the working group. Peak and off-peak catalogues describing the transit services in this scenario were presented to members of the transportation scenarios subgroup. Peak and off-peak transit line files have been constructed and edited for coding errors. Efforts are now focused on developing transit speeds for new and modified bus routes, and for Rapidbus and priority bus services.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff continued to work with the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee on development of the Econometric Model and Key Factors Assumptions for the Round 7 Cooperative Forecasts.

Staff attended the February 24th meeting of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel.

Staff reviewed preliminary Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts received from local jurisdictions with Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee and the Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

The development of transit line files depicting peak and off-peak service for the year 2003 is nearing completion. Other maintenance activities continued with the updating of the highway network database to reflect the latest TIP and Plan elements.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

Staff installed necessary hardware, security and application patches on the GIS database server and created emergency repair and boot disks.

Staff re-installed the Enterprise Management Console to correct errors created by the network upgrade to Active Directory.

Staff updated the network settings for several GIS users in coordination with the IT group's migration to Active Directory Service.

Staff installed ArcGIS 8.3 and Hummingbird Communications software on user workstations as requested.

Staff began research on upgrading the GIS database server to Oracle 10g and ArcSDE 9.0.

Staff completed implementation of requested changes to GIS Master Network database for update of the CLRP/AQ Conformity networks and transit walk sheds.

Staff began modification of GIS application programs to enable additional highway link splits for base year and intermediate year networks in the GIS Master Network database.

C. Models Development

During February, staff continued making refinements to the Version 2.1 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. The material in this work program was reviewed with the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) at its meeting on January 23rd. Staff is working to get an updated draft Version 2.1D model ready for public release at the March 19th meeting of the TFS.

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 C, Travel Demand Model, work being done as part of the air quality conformity process. 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.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

During February, staff continued geo-coding the completed, keyed survey data obtained in the 2003 truck external roadside survey.

In preparation for the spring 2004 regional HOV monitoring project, staff sent requests for bus and rail patronage counts to the appropriate transit service providers in the region's HOV corridors.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff completed data collection on all of the arterial highways that are being studied during this fiscal year as part of the arterial travel time data collection project. Data are undergoing review for accuracy and thoroughness. Make-up data collection will be performed on routes where additional data required to meet statistical requirements. The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee did not meet during the month of February 2004. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled when necessary.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff began preparations for the geocoding of household travel data collected in the spring of 2003.

Staff responded to a data requested received from MNCPPC-Prince George's County for household travel survey data.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued to review of CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by TAZ received in January.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities.

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 continued to provide advice to the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center on the D.C. Motor Carrier Management and Threat Assessment Study.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities.

Machine Traffic Counts

There was no activity during this reporting period.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

During February, staff continued processing of data collected in Spring 2003.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2004 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff continued work to provide transportation modeling data and current land activity data from the COG Cooperative Forecasting process to the following organizations:

1. Maryland Department of Planning.
2. Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Staff began work to provide current land activity data from the COG Cooperative Forecasting process to a consultant to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Staff provided COG regional TAZ geography in GIS format and Round 6.3 land activity data from the COG Cooperative Forecasting process to a consultant to Cecil County, Maryland, government.

Staff began work to provide data and summary files for recently surveyed corridors that were part of the Arterial Highway System Performance Monitoring Project to a consultant to the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

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.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff attended three Capital Beltway meetings at Maryland State Highway Administration in Baltimore. The study team is in the process of defining managed lane scenarios that may need to be modeled by staff.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

No activity on the I-270 project during this period.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued analysis of travel forecasts for 2010 and 2030 build alternatives. Staff continued work to identify and to analyze forecast results according to the measures of effectiveness criteria. Staff transmitted data files to University of Maryland staff for their conduct of an economic impacts analysis.

Staff forwarded model output computer files and summary data to SHA's consultants for their work in postprocessing (peak hour volumes and levels of service analysis) forecast year alternatives. Staff worked closely with SHA's consultants in executing the technical

work activities. Staff also met with MDOT to discuss the specifics of the ICC project description to be forwarded to COG/TPB as an element of the 2004 CLRP / FY2005-10 TIP.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

Staff discussed proposed technical assistance work activities for FY2005 with VDOT staff.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in February.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Processing of all data was completed and transmitted to VDOT in February.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There were no activities to report in February.

D. WMATA

Program Development

There were no activities to report in February.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in February.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

There were no activities

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.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

Staff presented the revised draft report documenting procedures used to develop forecasts of local originating air passenger trips from each Aviation Analysis Zone to each of the three major commercial airports in the Baltimore/Washington region at the February meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued the data processing phase of this project.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

Staff prepared and reviewed preliminary study results.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** was met Thursday, February 26th at COG. Agenda items included:

- Update on CONAANDA Activities
- Presentation of revised draft report for Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update
- Status report on Ground Access Travel Study Update
- Update on 2002 Air Passenger Survey

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee did not meet during February 2004. The contracts with Priority One and Document Systems were finalized and vehicles were purchased and introduced into service. The next meeting of the oversight committee will be scheduled for March 2004.

