

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the work activities in the FY 2007 UPWP. In a May 29 letter, FTA and FHWA approved the FY 2008 UPWP.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the May 16 meeting, the Board was briefed on comments received and recommended responses on the project submissions for the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 TIP, which at the April 18 meeting the Board decided that more time was necessary to review the VDOT submissions. At the May 16 meeting, the Board approved the submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 TIP.

Staff worked with DOT and FHWA staff to organized a meeting on June 5 in Fredericksburg, Virginia to review and address TIP development and amendment issues.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the May 16 meeting, the Board was briefed on comments received and recommended responses on the project submissions for the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 TIP, which at the April 18 meeting the Board decided that more time was necessary to review the VDOT submissions. At the May 16 meeting, the Board approved the submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-2013 TIP.

Staff prepared for a May 18, 2007 meeting of the Regional Taxicab Regulators. The group finalized the proposed mission statement for approval by the TPB. The proposed mission statement was revised and mailed-out to the Technical Committee. Staff also worked with the chair of the group on making a presentation to the TPB Private Providers Task Force.

D. Management Operations & Intelligent Systems (MOITS) Planning

- *MOITS Task Forces Support:* The MOITS Task Forces met on May 8, 2007, and discussed the following items. Staff undertook preparatory and follow-up for the meeting.
 - Received a briefing from Maryland State Highway Administration consultant Joel Ticatch on the ongoing "I-270 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM)" Project. This project had received a special federal grant, and was developing a concept of operations for information sharing and multi-modal management of this corridor. Lessons learned could be applied to other corridors in the region.
 - Staff developed and the Task Forces reviewed a second draft memorandum addressing an article from *Traffic Technology International* magazine entitled "Most Wanted: Traffic Management's Magnificent 10" on the most successful technologies for traffic management. This was in response to a March 21 request from the Transportation Planning Board to review the article and provide recommendations to the TPB on the topic, and was to go to the TPB for its June 20 meeting.
 - Updated the status of other MOITS tasks noted below.
- *Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program [formerly the Regional Transportation Coordination Program (RTCP)]:* The MATOC Steering Committee met on May 17.
 - With official signatures on the agreement documents complete, the group discussed annual budget authorization paperwork, the proposed issuance of a new request for qualifications (RFQ) for consultant support, and the plans for a special TPB Work Session on the MATOC program, which the group agreed to schedule for June 20.
 - Staff finalized the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultant support for the MATOC Program. The RFQ was issued by COG on May 24 with a deadline for receipt of proposals of June 25, 2007.
- *Liaison with Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning:* Staff participated in the May 22 meeting of the Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) – 1 Emergency Transportation Committee, and coordinated with COG public safety staff on related activities. See Task I.L. below for more information.
- *ITS Architecture:* The MOITS Regional ITS Architecture Working Group met on May 8. Work continued on the short-term update and planning for the long-term update of the Regional ITS Architecture. Staff also attended training sessions for the Northern Virginia Region ITS Architecture in Arlington, Virginia on May 2 and 3.
- *Traffic Signals:* The MOITS Traffic Signals Working Group met on May 30, discussing follow-up items from the March 14 conference, including practices for setting yellow

time on signals, pedestrian countdown signals, and light-emitting diode (LED) use in signals.

- *Traveler Information:* No activity to report for this period.
- *Transportation Safety:* Staff continued work on a new regional transportation safety element of the long-range transportation plan (CLRP), for anticipated completion in fall 2007. This work will be supported by a separate, expanded work task in the FY2008 UPWP starting July 1, 2007. Planning continued for a regional transportation safety planning forum to be held June 6. Staff also attended a transportation safety summit at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council on May 9. Additional safety activity for this period is reported under Task I.G., "Bicycle and Pedestrian Program", below.
- *Performance Measurement:* Staff presented a draft outline of a proposed Congestion Management Process CMP report at the May 4 TPB Technical Committee, in preparation for enhanced work on this topic in FY2008. Staff also presented on the CMP topic at the May 15 Commuter Connections Subcommittee regarding the interest of the CMP in transportation demand management alternatives such as those addressed in Commuter Connections programs.
- *Member Agency Activities:* No activity to report for this period.
- *Additional Activities:* Staff participated on a May 31 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Operations Work Group conference call. The call addressed draft federal guidebooks on regional transportation systems management and operations, and on the CMP.

E. Financial Plan

Work continued on the final touches for the internet version of the TIP. This new "TIP" will be utilized by the implementing agencies for the development of the FY 2008-2013 TIP.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

The Eighteenth Annual Public Transit Forum was held on May 22. The forum was informative and well attended by private transit and taxicab operators, staff from public transit agencies, and paratransit operators from throughout the region.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

TPB staff attended the kick-off meeting for the Maryland Bicycle Pedestrian Partnership program in Hanover, MD.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee met on May 15 and was briefed on the progress of the bicycle route-finding web site project, the Street Smart program, and a proposed public interface for the Bicycle and Pedestrian project database. The Subcommittee also agreed to update the underlying project database, which is over a year old. Full plan updates will be done every four years. The Subcommittee was also briefed on the new Safety planning area for the TPB work program.

TPB staff revised the draft White Paper on Pedestrian and Bicycle Wayfinding in the Washington Region, and presented it to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee for comment. The Subcommittee discussed the draft paper and made comments. A final draft based on those comments will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee. The Subcommittee agreed that the next training session should address the topic of Best Practices in Bicycle and Pedestrian Wayfinding. Subcommittee suggested that broad guidelines could be developed for best practices in pedestrian wayfinding, but counseled against detailed guidelines or standards.

TPB staff discussed plans for the latest edition of the ADC Bike Map with the ADC map company.

TPB staff briefed the TPB on the Street Smart program, and plans to expand it to twice per year.

TPB staff wrote a draft RFP for a consultant for the Street Smart campaign.

TPB staff attended the Bike to Work rally at Freedom Plaza on June 18.

TPB staff held a Bike to Work Seminar for Employers at the downtown DC BID on June 21.

TPB staff attended a meeting of the Making Walking and Crossing Streets Safer Committee in Baltimore on May 30.

H. Human Service Transportation Coordination Planning

During the month of May, staff worked on advertising the solicitation for New Freedom and JARC grant proposals. A brochure on the grant programs was finalized and printed. A mailing with a letter from Ron Kirby and the brochure was completed to approximately 500 people. Staff developed a large e-mail list and a short succinct message about the solicitation for grant proposals. A website was created devoted to the application process. Staff prepared for and conducted three pre-application conferences that gave potential applicants the opportunity to learn about the pre- and post-application process. Approximately 40 individuals attended these conferences held in May.

Staff worked with COG's legal counsel to finalize the required FTA Certifications and Assurances and Title VI letter. Staff worked with FTA representatives to process the two planning grants through TEAM and get questions from the pre-application conferences answered. The list of frequently asked questions on the website was updated. An evaluation form for the pre-application conferences was developed.

Staff reviewed the 5310 applications from D.C. and Maryland and provided a memorandum describing the consistency of the applications with the TPB Coordinated Plan. The applications were ranked based on the TPB's selection criteria in the Coordinated Plan.

In May, staff made several presentations on the TPB Human Service Transportation Planning process for the TPB's Private Providers Task Force, Taxicab Paratransit Limousine Association's Spring conference and the Community Transportation Association conference. Staff also prepared for a presentation at a coordination summit hosted by the Atlanta MPO.

I. Public Participation

Staff conducted an outreach session on the TPB's scenario study on May 14 for the Frederick Area Committee on Transportation. Staff made a presentation on the scenario study to the Prince George's County staff at M-NCPPC on May 22. Staff began working on a draft report on the outreach meetings, which will be presented to the TPB in July.

Staff developed a first draft of the new TPB Participation Plan, which is required by the SAFETEA-LU. The Participation Plan was circulated internally and refined.

The firm Circle Point produced a final draft report evaluating the region's public involvement for transportation planning. This report is being used as input for the Participation Plan.

The May 10 meeting of the CAC included a discussion with TPB Chair Cathy Hudgins, an update on the Constrained Long-Range Plan and a continued discussion on the development of the TPB's new Participation Plan.

Staff continued preparations for the next TPB Community Leadership Institute, which will held on June 20 and 23. The participants for this next session of the institute will be community leaders and activists who work with immigrant groups.

The May TPB News was written and distributed.

TPB Access For All

Staff finalized the AFA report “Improving Transit Information for Limited English Speakers” and prepared the report for distribution to the Technical Committee. A presentation was made to the Technical Committee and changes incorporated into the report. The report was then presented and endorsed by the TPB at the May meeting. A letter from Cathy Hudgins was finalized and the report was distributed to the transit agencies in the region.

J. Annual Report

Staff wrote articles and text for the annual report.

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 met with representatives of the British Embassy to discuss experience with congestion pricing in London as compared to the high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane proposals moving forward in the Washington region.
- The DTP Director met with representatives of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project Team to discuss options for the use of the 11th & 12th lanes once the new bridge opens in August 2008.

Staff developed descriptions for three Transportation Planner II/III positions and got the final approvals for the recruitment authorizations. Ads were developed and run in the Washington Post and posted on the APA website, Craigslist and for COMTO (Conference on Minority Transportation Officials). Resumes were reviewed, screening calls made and over six interviews were scheduled.

L. Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Regional Emergency Support Function-1 – Transportation (RESF-1 – Transportation) Committee provides an interface between transportation and emergency management agencies and activities; separate its previous home under the MOITS task I.D., and is staffed by staff from COG’s Department of Human Services, Planning, and Public Safety.

The Committee held its regular monthly meeting on May 22, 2007.

During the May 22 meeting, the Committee discussed the upcoming submission of transportation related emergency preparedness concepts for the FY07 US Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program.

The Committee also finalized participation requirements for the RESF-1 Operators Subcommittee to be established in July 2007 and its relationship to the MATOC Program. Additionally, there was further discussion on the upcoming Operation Fast Forward III, an operational transportation related exercise to take place following festivities on the National Mall on July 4th, 2007. Finally, the Committee received a presentation regarding the NCR Interoperability Program.

Staff undertook planning, preparatory, and follow-up work on the above items throughout the month, consulting frequently with the Chair and Vice-Chairs. Staff continued attending a number of regularly scheduled meetings of transportation, police, fire, and emergency management agency committees throughout the month.

M. Freight Planning

The Contractor continued and finalized work on the study to enhance freight considerations in regional transportation planning. The freight study advisory group and staff met with the consultant team on May 24, 2007 to provide final comments on the report.

N. Transportation/Land Use connection (TLC) Pilot Program

Consultants began work on all five TLC technical assistance projects:

- Montgomery / Prince George's Counties, Langley Park/Takoma Park Pedestrian Study
- St. Charles Urbanized Area, Urban Roads Standards
- Fairfax County, Levels of Service Around Transit Oriented Development
- Prince William County, Scoping Assistance for BRAC Impacts
- District of Columbia, Potomac Avenue Metro Station Area Scoping

Staff oversaw the development and execution of contracts for each project. Staff also coordinated and participated in meeting throughout the region on each of the projects.

The TPB continued working with Reconnecting America, a national organization that is providing technical assistance for the TLC program. Reconnecting America provided guidance on the technical assistance projects and the TLC website.

Staff worked with web designer to assist in the development of the TLC Clearinghouse. Staff continued the collection and organization of content for the TLC Clearinghouse website, working with the web designer in the development of the structure and functionality of the site.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

At its May meeting the TPB approved the draft scope of work for the air quality conformity assessment of the 2007 CLRP and FY2008 – 13 TIP. Staff produced a detailed schedule of work tasks for the analysis, and began highway network development procedures.

The TPB approved the scope of work for the amendment to the 2006 CLRP to include a new interchange at US340/15 and Jefferson Technology Park in Frederick, Maryland. Staff updated 2010, 2020, and 2030 forecast year networks to include the project, and produced travel demand and emissions estimates. Staff prepared draft summary results for presentation to the Technical Committee and the TPB in June.

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

Staff continued work on the mobile source portion of a CO₂ inventory associated with regional greenhouse gases. Staff responded to data requests from consultants and state air agency staff. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee, its Emissions Inventory Subcommittee, its Air Quality Conformity Subcommittee, and in the inaugural meeting of COG's Climate Change Steering Committee. Staff attended a mobile sources workshop sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA).

Staff reviewed literature dealing with methods to estimate green house gas emissions from mobile sources. Using EPA's Mobile 6.2 model staff developed annual CO₂ emissions (which is one of the green house gases) for milestone years 2002, 2010 and 2030. Annual emissions for 2005, and 2020 were interpolated. These draft results were shared with the newly created Climate Change Steering Committee and the TPB Technical Committee. The Travel Management Subcommittee did not meet during the

May, 2007, however the subcommittee was apprised of work program activities through email.

COG/DEP staff continued to work on PM2.5 inventories using MARAMA and VISTAS 2002 and 2009 inventories for modeling regional haze. Mobile source PM2.5 precursors were discussed at the Technical Advisory Committee. Staff prepared a preliminary greenhouse gas inventory for the Washington region and met with transportation staff to discuss mobile CO2 emissions. ERG and NuStats submitted a Draft Final Report of the Nonroad Transportation Construction Equipment Survey in May. DEP staff held a conference call with the TAC Conformity Subcommittee to discuss the TPB Technical Committee meeting, and attended TPB Technical Committee and TPB meetings in May.

C. Regional Studies

Staff continued development of the prototype visualization applications using the Sketchup and Google Earth Pro software and began development of a web-based flash presentation.

Staff gave an outreach presentation on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study to the Frederick Area Committee on Transportation on May 14th and the MNCPPC-Prince George's County staff on May 22nd.

Staff continued to work on the drill down analysis of transit ridership modal shares at the corridor level and jurisdictional level accessibility analysis for the first phase Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study land use and transportation scenarios.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff completed the update and mapping of the Cooperative Forecasting data for Regional Activity Centers and Clusters.

Staff continued to work with local jurisdiction staff to obtain and review their draft TAZ-level 7.1 forecasts of population, households, and employment.

Staff continued to work with the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee and several local jurisdictions on proposed revisions to the current 2191-Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) area system.

Staff began development of GIS shape files of the proposed revisions to the 2191-TAZ area system.

Staff continued the processing and analysis of the Dunn and Bradstreet small area employment data for 2005 by jurisdiction and TAZ.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Having completed coding of 2006 transit line files in the new TP+ TRNBUILD format for use with the Version 2.2 travel demand model, staff has begun development of TIP and Plan networks for use in air quality conformity of the 2007 CLRP and FY2008-2013 TIP.

Staff has also begun a review of new TAZ boundaries being developed for the region to provide greater detail within activity centers, around transit stations, and in other developing areas. This new zone structure is planned for use in travel forecasting in the next few years.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

Staff researched the system requirements for ArcGIS 9.2 and began development of an implementation plan to upgrade our GIS software from Version 8.3 to Version 9.2.

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

Staff attended the MD MSGIC executive committee meeting to increase GIS coordination among COG and state and local government agencies in Maryland.

C. Models Development

Staff is continuing development of a nested logit mode choice model, specified by AECOM under contract to TPB staff. Model execution time has increased substantially from that experienced with normal production modeling however, and staff is continuing work to develop a more streamlined application code for this new model.

Staff shared results of additional sensitivity tests conducted using the new Version 2.2 model with the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee on May 18, 2007. More tests are planned for review by the subcommittee at the next meeting on July 20, 2007.

Documentation of commercial vehicle data collection and model development as part of the Version 2.2 travel model was presented at the May 18, 2007 meeting of the TPB

Travel Forecasting Subcommittee by William Allen as part of his contract with TPB. Mr. Allen is beginning work to update the TPB medium and heavy truck demand models as well. The truck models update will continue into FY-2008.

D. Software Support

Staff is supporting the development and execution of the DTP travel demand model using the Cube/TP+ software and the MOBILE6.2 Mobile Source Emissions Factor Model in Air Quality Conformity and SIP development. Staff support includes training in application of Cube/TP+ and MOBILE6.2 and maintenance of current documentation and user guides for both models. Staff is also monitoring the performance of DTP desktop and laptop microcomputer 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

Travel time data collection has been completed for the 2007 Regional HOV Facilities Monitoring project. Traffic counts for the project continued in May and will be completed in June.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

The draft report on the findings of the arterial highway routes for this year's scheduled routes has been completed and is being reviewed internally. Staff completed analyzing the Commuter Connections ridesharing database and the regional travel demand model database, and identified potential destinations of volunteer drivers for the enhanced arterial highway congestion monitoring program. An information packet for volunteer drivers was prepared. Volunteer drivers from COG staff have been recruited and are testing the equipment and other aspects of the program. The Travel Forecasting Subcommittee was briefed on the status of the project.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

The contractor continued recruitment and interviewing of households randomly selected for participation in the 2007 Household Travel Survey. The contractor successfully recruited 3,360 households for participation in the 2007 HTS and had retrieved travel day data from 2,307 of these household by May 31st.

Staff monitored survey progress and reviewed the contractor's initial geocoding of trip origins and destinations.

Staff continued to coordinate with staff from the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) and MDOT on the addition of 4000 household samples in the Baltimore region to the 2007 HTS.

2. Regional Travel Trends Report

Staff continued work on the draft Regional Travel Report.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff continued processing updated traffic volume data received from DDOT and VDOT.

Staff began work on developing the requirements and sampling plan for an enhanced metropolitan area-based sample of counting locations for the TPB modeled area.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff participated in DDOT's monthly HPMS coordination meeting and continued to assist DDOT staff in preparing the data needed for its June 15th HPMS submission.

Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)

COG's contractor has started data collection activities to provide 3 day counts at 160 locations and 7 day classification counts at 27 locations.

Regional Household Travel Survey Collection

This project will fund a portion of the data collection for the regional household travel survey of approximately 10,000 households in the TPB modeled region as described in work activity IV.C.1.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2007 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff commenced work to retrieve data from the Arterial Performance Monitoring Project and GPS samples from the ongoing Household Travel Survey Pre-Test and Survey, when available, for the corridors in Montgomery County, Maryland, most recently surveyed in 2006 and 2007.

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. Staff participated in the May Transit Modeling meeting at COG.

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

No activity this month.

I-270/Corridor Cities Transitway Study

No activity this month.

Bi-County Transitway

No activity this month.

US 301 Nice Bridge

No activity this month.

Project Planning Support

Following last month's request from SHA for technical services in a number of planning areas, TPB and SHA staff met at COG to outline data and technical assistance responses to each work area.

Managed Lanes Project

Staff completed the documentation of the first round of validation based on the simulated volumes and extensive count-consolidation based on two different sources: COG networks and MD SHA on-line count database. Additional adjustments may be necessary and more validation runs may follow.

Regional Household Travel Survey Collection

This project will fund a portion of the data collection for the regional household travel survey of approximately 10,000 households in the TPB modeled region as described in work activity IV.C.1.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in May.

Miscellaneous Services

There was no activity to report in May.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

There was no activity to report in May. At the request of VDOT, some additional data collection will be performed during spring 2007.

VA I-95 / I-395 HOT Lane Project

Staff continued work to analyze O – D matrix patterns using the detailed study area network developed for the project.

Public Safety / Information Pamphlets

By action of the TPB at the March 21, 2007 meeting, this project has been deferred until FY 2008. Resources were carried forward into FY 2008.

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program

No activity during the reporting period.

Regional Household Travel Survey Collection

This project will fund a portion of the data collection for the regional household travel survey of approximately 10,000 households in the TPB modeled region as described in work activity IV.C.1.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Develop WMATA's Geo-Spatial Information Capabilities to Enhance Regional Planning

No activity during the reporting period.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 21

(1) Process Regional Air Passenger Survey

No staff activities to report.

(2) Ground Access Element Update

Staff finalized the draft Airport Ground Access Element Update report.

(3) Ground Access Element Update

B. CASP 22

(1) Update Air Passenger O-D Forecasts

Staff received updated terminal area forecasts from MWAA and began the processing of Updating Regional Air Passenger Origin-Destination forecasts.

(2) Air Cargo Element Update

Staff followed up on requests for copies of recent air cargo studies conducted at BWI and Dulles.

Consultant Support

SKYCOMP – Mid-day and Weekend aerial survey of the limited access highway

system - \$ 84,000 - ongoing

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis and

Near Term Funding Needs Report - \$10,000 – completed

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

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

CirclePoint — Evaluation of Public Involvement Activities \$75,000 – ongoing

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – Review of Regional Freight Planning - \$55,000 – ongoing

MCV Associates – 3 day and 7 day classification counts at 187 locations throughout D.C. –

\$ 100,000 - ongoing

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. – Technical Assistance – Travel Demand Model

Development and Application - \$150,000 – ongoing

AECOM CONSULT, INC. – Technical Assistance – Transit Modeling - \$24,500 – ongoing

William Allen – Technical Assistance – Business/Commercial Modeling - \$24,500 – ongoing