
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the October 1 meeting, the Steering Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2004-2009 TIP as requested by VDOT.

On October 1, the Technical Committee was briefed on the final draft FY 2005-2010 TIP, which was released for a 30-day public comment period. The TPB is scheduled to adopt this TIP on November 17.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

On October 1, the Technical Committee was briefed on the final draft materials for the 2004 CLRP, which were released for a 30-day public comment period. The TPB is scheduled to adopt the 2004 CLRP on November 17.

After reviewing many drafts of the interactive CD of the 2003 CLRP document, staff finalized the CD. Staff worked with the contractor to arrange for the replication of the CD, approve a final CD face design, and had the printer affix the CDs to the brochures.

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 October 12, 2004. The Task Forces were briefed on, and staff continued work on, coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation and its contractor PBS&J Inc. on "511" traveler information issues. Ongoing work to update the regional ITS architecture was also a focus. The group received an update on Traffic Signals Working Group activities following a September 24 traffic signals meeting. The group also received a briefing on MOITS-Related Aspects of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Regional Mobility Initiative. Among the topics this mobility initiative addressed were real-time information systems and traffic signal priority treatments for buses. Staff also coordinated with WMATA staff on these efforts, and attended an October 21 meeting.

Staff continued development of the updated regional ITS architecture, including meetings with key agency stakeholders: VDOT on October 8, WMATA on October 21, DDOT on October 22, and MDOT on October 25. These activities also helped prepare for an upcoming November 30 regional ITS stakeholder all-day workshop.

Staff attended and made a presentation on MOITS activities at the Fourth Annual National Capital Region Incident Management Conference in Upper Marlboro, Maryland October 28.

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. This was a major focus of discussions at the October 14, 2004 MOITS Policy and Technical Task Forces joint meeting. Results of a September 27 regional Homeland Security exercise (put together by and involving many public safety agencies beyond transportation) were also discussed. The recently-formed steering committee of senior-level staff from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Departments of Transportation, and WMATA for strengthening regional transportation communications and coordination during incidents met by conference call on October 6. Staff continued to support the steering committee's activities.

Staff attended another of the series of workshops addressing emergency preparedness contingency plans at Northern Virginia Metrorail stations at the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission in Arlington on October 19. Staff also attended a workshop for the Baltimore Regional Protective Action Plan development effort in Hanover, Maryland on October 26.

E. Financial Plan

The financial plan for final draft FY2005-2010 TIP was reviewed and finalized.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No work activities to report during the period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Distributed minutes from the September bike/ped subcommittee meeting, updated web site.
- Prepared a draft scope of work for the FY 2005 Street Smart campaign
- Prepared budget documents and modified agreements for Street Smart funding with the Maryland Office of Highway Safety and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
- Preparation for ADA workshop on November 3rd in Bethesda. Set up on-line registration and took manual registrations, fielded inquiries from registrants,
- publicized the event, met with the lead instructor at Federal Highway, visited the workshop site in Bethesda, prepared hand-outs & CD's.
- Finished the regional priority bicycle and pedestrian projects list.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

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

COG staff discussed data needs for the updates to the Job Access Plan. Staff reviewed previous Job Access Stakeholders Forum materials to begin planning a possible future forum with WMATA. Staff discussed with DTP staff how to involve the Access for All Committee in a review of the current WMATA Job Access Program.

I. Public Participation

The CAC held its regular monthly meeting on October 9. The meeting focused on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, which will be the subject of CAC public meetings this fall and next year. Staff presented a revised version of the PowerPoint briefing developed for use at the public meetings. The committee suggested a number of improvements in the presentation, which will be further refined and shown to other committees at COG.

The CAC has scheduled the first public meeting on this subject for December 8, 2004 at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. The meeting will be co-hosted by Montgomery County Councilmember Michael Knapp.

Pursuant to a CAC suggestion a couple years ago regarding the last CLRP document, the TPB staff has developed a citizen-friendly executive summary of the 2003 CLRP. This brochure was printed and distributed.

The public comment period for the 2004 amendments to the CLRP lasted from October 1 to October 31. More than 1,200 comments were received. The COG/TPB website was extensively refined in anticipation of this public comment period. Based on a suggestion made by the CAC earlier this year, all public comments were posted on the web and could be easily sorted.

The “TPB News” newsletter was written and distributed.

Access for All Advisory Committee

Staff organized and prepared for the TPB and AFA disability awareness event planned for October 20. Eleven travel teams were organized. Staff found volunteers with disabilities to travel with TPB members and solicited members of the press to accompany the teams. Staff designed an “access for all” logo and had buttons made for the event. A website for the disability awareness event was created and included travel team participants and routes, background information on the AFA committee, the Americans with Disabilities Act, National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a new release about the event and other information.

Staff finalized the “B-roll” footage and edited the tape which included rail, bus and pedestrian accessibility feature and challenge in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Large posters of rail, bus and pedestrian accessibility issues were created and were used in the background of the COG Board Room at the press conference. Confirmation packets to all the event participants were mailed and included a personalized letter, name tags, an access for all button, and travel details with contact information for all team members. After the event, a report was created summarizing the event and thank you letters were sent to all participants. The event was well covered by the major newspapers and TV.

J. Annual Report

No activity during the reporting period.

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:

- DTP staff attended and provided technical input for meetings of the transit funding panel appointed by the COG Board, the Board of Trade, and the Federal City Council.
- The DTP Director participated in a one-day meeting of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) to plan the 2005 Spring meeting.
- The DTP Director attended the annual meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) in San Antonio, Texas.

- The DTP Director participated in a two-day meeting on future transit alternatives in Houston, Texas.
- The DTP Director participated in a one-day meeting at the National Academy of Sciences on earmarking of transportation funds.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff distributed the summary report on the conformity assessment of the 2004 CLRP and FY2005-10 TIP to the TPB Technical Committee at its October 1st meeting, which marked the beginning of the public comment period. Copies of the full report were available upon request. Staff prepared a .pdf version of both the summary report and the full report, including the appendices, and placed them on the website for access during the public comment period. Staff also provided briefings on the report to the TPB, MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and its Conformity Subcommittee. Staff reviewed public and interagency comments on the conformity assessment as they were received and began work to prepare responses to them. Staff continued write-up of network development steps and organized flowcharts and back-up files for in-house documentation.

Staff provided status reports to the TPB and Technical Committee on the public and interagency comments received on the project submissions and scope of work for the 2010 8-hour conformity assessment. Staff also discussed this work at meetings of MWAQC's TAC and its Conformity Subcommittee. Following a comments letter from MWAQC supporting the proposed technical approach, the TPB approved the project submissions and work scope.

On the conduct of the work tasks for the 8-hour conformity assessment, staff completed highway and transit network coding steps for the 2010 forecast year network. This work included: coordinating with the GIS staff to produce a highway link ascii file, updating the time-of-day file, updating peak and off-peak transit mode files, updating other network input files (station file, rail-link file, etc.), accuracy checking the built highway network, and successfully building the transit lines through the built highway network.

Staff also began work on preparation of emission rates for year 2010 for use in the air quality conformity analysis of the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 required by EPA's 8-hour ozone rule.

Staff participated in an all day workshop on linking the transportation planning and NEPA processes; it was sponsored by FHWA and FTA and held at AASHTO's offices.

In October COG/DEP staff reviewed MOBILE6.2 emissions factors for both winter and summer emission rates. Staff reviewed inputs and output of MOBILE6 runs for calculating Winter CO emissions rates for network, local and auto-access facilities for years 2025 and 2030.

DEP staff met with DTP staff regarding the air quality conformity assessments of future transportation/land use scenarios for 2030 and attended the Joint Technical Working Group meeting where the information was presented. Staff attended the TPB Technical Committee meeting and TPB meeting in October.

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 October 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 new 8-hour ozone standards. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee and its Conformity Subcommittee. Following work to revisit the execution and documentation of technical procedures developed and applied in preparing the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory, staff identified some necessary minor revisions to the inventory methods; this work is continuing. Staff completed emission estimates with the TPB Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. Staff also continued work on longer term research into refinements to inputs to Mobile6.

Staff analyzed four congestion mitigation and air quality (CMAQ) eligible projects for the District Department of Transportation. Staff provided assistance to the Maryland Department of Transportation in preparing their annual report to the state legislature on Maryland funded transportation emissions reduction measures. Staff updated the TERM Tracking Sheet to incorporate some technical corrections. The Travel Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for October 2004 was cancelled since there were no need for additional emission reduction measures in the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005- FY 2010 TIP to meet conformity.

C. Regional Studies

Staff presented an analysis of the air quality mobile emissions Analysis for the CLRP, CLRP+ and the alternative land use scenarios to the JTWG at their October 15th meeting.

Staff reviewed the transit facility assumptions for the Transit-Oriented Development Land Use scenario with the JTWG at their October 15th meeting.

Staff made revisions to the draft “citizen friendly” version the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study First Phase Results in response to comments received from the TPB Citizen Advisory Committee.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff responded to questions on the Round 6.4a land activity forecasts and TAZ-level data file.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

During October, network development activities included the development of highway and transit networks for 2010, in support of a new 8-hour standard air quality conformity analysis of the FY2005-2010 TIP and 2004 CLRP.

A report documenting network development activities for FY2004 entitled, FY-2004 Network Documentation: Highway and Transit Network Development was distributed at the TPB Technical Committee meeting on October 1, 2004.

Transit network maintenance activities continued with the completion of data processing and electronic catalogues of transit information for 2004 from WMATA and Montgomery County. Updating of transit line files for Fairfax Connector routes was also completed. Effort is continuing to update transit information from the remaining transit providers.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

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 refinement of the roll-out plan to assist GIS users in the migration of all GIS data to the Windows 2000 GIS Server.

Staff provided technical assistance to the network development team in the update of future year networks for this year's CLRP/TIP Update and Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

Staff completed development of a Metrorail node to TAZ look-up table.

Staff began preparatory work for the update of the Regional Street Centerline GIS layer.

C. Models Development

During October, staff began preparation of training materials for the 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 24, 2003. This effort is focused on responding to the recommendations made by that committee as part of its review of the TPB travel demand model.

Staff began a review of available traffic count data for use in developing a design for sampling truck and commercial vehicle traffic. The sampling plan that emerges from this design will be used to collect data for use in the development of new truck and commercial vehicle forecasting models in the future.

Staff also completed work on establishing a mobile emissions post-processor linkage to the Version 2.1 D Draft #50 travel demand model. A memorandum describing the operation and application of the post-processor, together with results from executing it as part of the air quality conformity analysis of the FY2005-2010 TIP and 2004 CLRP, was distributed at the TPB Technical Committee meeting on October 1st.

Finally, staff continues to monitor development of the SUMMIT software package employed by FTA in reviewing transit environmental impact studies. AECOM has been retained to advise staff on restructuring the mode choice modeling process to be SUMMIT compliant.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on the updating of Version 2 travel demand model 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 indefinitely while work continues on travel model development. 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, continues the investigation of current direct access device technology. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's. As new microcomputers are acquired they are being equipped with dual drives enabling the reading of DVD and CD's, and the writing of CD-R/RW's and DVD+/-RW's. The capability to write DVD's is also being incorporated in selected microcomputers currently in service which do not now have that capability. Staff also continues to evaluate portable hard drives as potential back-up devices, with one currently in service in that capacity.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Staff is working with the models development unit to review available traffic count data locations suitable for drawing a sample as part of a proposed spring 2005 count of trucks and commercial vehicles, to be used in the development of a new set of truck and commercial vehicle forecasting models.

Work is continuing on processing the count data from the 2004 Regional HOV Facilities Monitoring project.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff has embarked on preliminary field work as part of the FY 2005 arterial travel time project. This involves driving the routes to be surveyed and collecting physical characteristic information such as number of lanes, number of signals between critical intersections, changes to access, and selecting gathering location for surveyors to meet during the data collection phase. Preparations for the Spring 2005 aerial survey are underway.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

No activity during the reporting period.

2. 2000 Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff received the corrected CTPP Part 3 data for the metropolitan Washington region from the Census Bureau and began running control checks on the corrected CTPP Part 3 data file.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

Staff continued analysis of new Census, WMATA, and other survey data for Regional Travel Trends report.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff completed review of the updated traffic volume data from VDOT and incorporated in the Clearinghouse.

Staff completed development of a detailed traffic volume view capability for the Clearinghouse.

Staff continued the update and enhancement of user interface software for accessing Clearinghouse databases.

Staff attended a FHWA sponsored meeting to discuss the methodologies used by DDOT, MDOT, and VDOT to collect, process and average traffic volume data.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

Staff attended and participated in DDOT HPMS meetings.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

No activity during the reporting period.

Machine Traffic Counts

Staff completed review of the counts received from the consultant for adequacy and reasonableness and transmitted them to DDOT. Staff is in discussion with the District DOT staff regarding FY 2005 counts.

B. Maryland

Program Development

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

Miscellaneous Services

Staff provided the Draft #50 version of the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model to the Transportation Planning Section, Countywide Planning Division, Prince George's County Planning Department, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Staff attended the Maryland MTA MD5/US301 Transit Service Staging Plan Coordination Committee meeting on October 13, 2004, to review highlights of the report "*MD5/US301 Transit Service Staging Plan - Final Report*", October, 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.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff continued with travel demand modeling efforts and completed runs that included four toll scenarios for each of the 2030 8+2 and 2015 8+2 alternatives. In addition, staff worked on data requests associated with the study and began preparing documentation.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff coordinated with MD SHA staff and their consultants regarding the modeling assumptions for electronic toll lane operations on I-270. Following specification of inputs, staff coded the transportation networks to reflect the highway and transit assumptions for 2030 forecast conditions.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff completed another technical memorandum documenting travel demand forecast methods and results and forwarded hard copy and electronic files to SHA's consultants

for organization into the DEIS. Staff also performed land use sensitivity tests for the two alignments and transmitted draft results to SHA.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in October.

Miscellaneous Services

There was no activity to report in October.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Staff continued fall counting work in the I-95/I-395 and I-66 corridors, including counts of hybrid “clean fuel” vehicles.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There was no activity to report in October.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Parking Usage at Metrorail Stations

Staff completed estimating the occupancy of the parking lots and time of day when the lots fill up; the report was reviewed internally and is being modified based on comments. The draft report will be submitted to WMATA in early November.

Transit Modeling Enhancements and Validation

No activity during the reporting period.

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 efforts during this reporting period focused on two tasks. These included: 1) Reviewing the process for development and integration of air passenger trips into the COG/TPB travel demand model, and 2) Analyzing recent air passenger survey data to determine if the Aviation Analysis Zone structure should be revised.

B. CASP 20

Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

Staff revised the draft report summarizing the findings of 2002 Regional Air Passenger Survey in accordance with comments received from the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** did not meet in October 2004.

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee met on October 7, 2004. The emissions reduction goals for the fiscal year have been satisfied. Detailed negotiations are underway with the City of Baltimore to purchase four hybrid electric vehicles, Montgomery County to purchase 6 compressed natural gas buses, and Baltimore Downtown Partnership regarding alternative fueled vehicles in their respective fleets. The next meeting of the oversight committee is scheduled for December 16, 2004.

