

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. PLAN SUPPORT

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2008 UPWP.

Staff revised a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) that identifies the responsibilities of the TPB, the state DOTs and the public transit operators for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process. The Technical Committee and the Regional Bus Planning Subcommittee were briefed on the draft MOU at their meetings in September 7. These committees and the TPB will be briefed on it at their October meetings. All of the parties will then be asked to sign the MOU in December.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the September 19 meeting, the Board amended the FY 2007-2012 TIP to include eight new projects and modify funding for ten projects as requested by VDOT.

A draft set of procedures defining how the MPO will consider and act on TIP administrative modifications and amendments were reviewed at the State Technical Working Group meeting in September. The Technical Committee and TPB will be briefed on these procedures at their November meetings. The Call for Projects document for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 TIP was presented to the TPB in September and the Board will be asked to release them in October.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

A draft set of procedures defining how the MPO will consider and act on TIP and CLRP administrative modifications and amendments were reviewed at the State Technical Working Group meeting in September. The Technical Committee and TPB will be briefed on these procedures at their November meetings. The Call for Projects document for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009 TIP was presented to the TPB in September and the Board will be asked to release them in October.

During the month of September, staff continued to refine environmental maps of the CLRP which show CLRP projects with environmental resources such as wetlands, floodplains and historic sites.

A Draft Call for Projects for the 2008 CLRP and the next TIP was produced in preparation for the September TPB meeting and the October Technical Committee meeting.

D. Financial Plan

Staff reviewed the spread sheets for the revenue and cost estimates in the financial analysis of the 2006 CLRP. These estimates, which are in constant 2006 dollars, will be updated to reflect year of expenditure dollars for the financial plan for the 2007 CLRP.

E. Public Participation

The TPB released its draft Participation Plan for public comment on September 13. The comment period will close on October 28. The Participation Plan is required under the 2005 federal transportation reauthorization (SAFETEA-LU). TPB staff developed the plan over a period of several months, which included public outreach. The Plan also incorporates recommendations included in an evaluation of TPB public involvement activities that was conducted by the firm Circle Point earlier this year.

The September 13 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) included a discussion on the Participation Plan and the new Scenario Study Task Force.

Staff participated in the COG Hispanic Outreach Day on September 13, which hosted more than 30 community leaders.

Staff began planning for upcoming sessions of the Community Leadership Institute for 2008.

The September TPB News was written and distributed.

During the month of September, staff consolidated comments from the Access for All Advisory Committee on WMATA's Draft Language Assistance Plan. The comments were then forwarded to WMATA staff.

Access for All Advisory Committee comments were also drafted, mailed-out to the TPB and AFA Chair Hudgins presented them to the Board on September 19, 2007.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

During the month of September, staff prepared for the TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force and drafted a summary of the meeting. In order to facilitate regional understanding of the differences in industry and regulatory practices, staff also did a comparison of different regional reciprocity agreements and developed a list of questions for jurisdictions to answer about their enforcement practices.

G. Annual Report

The annual report was finalized and sent to the printer.

H. Transportation/Land Use Connection Program

Staff completed an evaluation of the pilot round of the TLC program and developed recommendations for continuing and enhancing the program in FY 2008.

COG signed a contract with the Virginia Department Transportation (VDOT) for \$100,000 in funding for the TLC program through the Virginia Multimodal Grant program. The funding will be used to provide technical assistance to five jurisdictions in Virginia that applied for funding in February during the pilot round of the TLC program. The recipient jurisdictions are Alexandria, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Leesburg (Loudoun) and Manassas Park. Staff began working with the jurisdictions to refine the project scopes before consultant proposals are solicited.

I. DTP Management

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

- The DTP Director met with staff of the Brookings Institute to discuss a study on Metro funding needs and allocation of funding responsibilities
- The DTP Director made a presentation to the Greater Washington Board of Trade Executive Networks program on transportation planning issues in the Washington region.
- Senior DTP staff met with representatives of the Fluor / Transurban team to review travel modeling issues for the I95/395 HOT lane project

2. COORDINATION PLANNING

A. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Staff continued developing CMP components of the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and a CMP technical report, for completion by December 2007. Staff briefed the Travel Management Subcommittee on the CMP on September 25, 2007 and received feedback and direction.

Staff also attended a September 5 meeting of the MDOT Key Performance Area Council at the Maryland State Highway Administration in Hanover, discussing congestion-related performance measurement issues.

B. Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Planning

- The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force and MOITS Technical Subcommittee did not meet during the period. Staff continued work on MOITS program areas noted below.
- Staff undertook continuing support activities for the development of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program and MATOC Steering Committee. The MATOC Steering Committee held a conference call on September 11, 2007, discussing the status of the program and its administration. Administrative processes to set up funding and enter into a contract with a consultant team continued through the period and into October.
- Staff continued work to update the Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture. The Regional ITS Architecture Subcommittee met September 27 to review and provide guidance to the update.
- Staff attended a September 14 meeting at the Maryland State Highway Administration in Hanover, pre-planning for an upcoming Maryland Statewide Transportation Operations Summit. The date of the summit was still to be determined.

- Staff participated in a September 20 meeting on the I-270 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project, held at the University of Maryland-College Park, and coordinated with MDOT/SHA staff on arranging a briefing on the project for the MOITS Technical Subcommittee in October.
- Staff participated in a meeting of the Regional Transit Operators Emergency Preparedness Task Force at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on September 26, discussing interagency and inter-committee coordination.

C. Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Regional Emergency Support Function 1 – Emergency Transportation Committee met on September 18, 2007. The Committee discussed possible upcoming Committee focuses, the status of the National Capital Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan being developed under the auspices of the region's emergency management agencies, and the status of the Urban Area Security Initiative program and funding.

D. Transportation Safety Planning

TPB staff compiled data from the DDOT, MDOT, VDOT and other sources for the Safety Element of the Long-Range Plan, produced an outline and draft materials for the Safety Element. Two candidates for Vice-Chair of the new Safety Subcommittee were identified and expressed willingness to serve. A presentation on the Safety Element of the 2008 UPWP was prepared for the October TPB Technical Committee Meeting.

E. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

At its September 18 meeting The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee discussed possible topics for a Trails Seminar, was briefed on the progress of the bicycle route finding project, the Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety program, outcomes of the Safety Summit, the ADC Bike Map Seventh Edition, the top priority unfunded bicycle and pedestrian projects list and received presentations on the training program for WMATA bus operators and the TPB Public Participation Plan.

Written comments and some additional changes were gathered from Bike/Ped Subcommittee members, edited, and sent to the ADC Map Company for inclusion in the Seventh Edition.

A publicly accessible version of the bike/ped project database was created based on comments at the July meeting and posted.

Information on top priority unfunded bicycle and pedestrian projects was gathered from the TPB member jurisdictions.

F. Regional Bus Planning

During the month of September, TPB staff continued working on the Status of the Region's Bus Systems report, soliciting data and input from the region's transit operators. A draft of the report was presented to the Regional Subcommittee at the September 25 meeting.

Staff continued work on the proposal to conduct a regional on-board bus survey. The status of the proposed survey was presented to the subcommittee at the September 25 meeting. Staff collected data in support of the survey proposal and cost estimate development.

Finally, staff briefed the subcommittee on a Draft Memorandum of Understanding On Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities For the National Capital Region

G. Human Service Transportation Coordination

During the month of September, staff finalized a memo outlining the five recommended projects for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funding, which were presented and approved by the TPB at the September meeting. Staff prepared a letter from Ron Kirby to the grantees confirming the awards and notifying grantees of the next steps required to enter into a contract with COG.

Staff prepared for the Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force meeting on September 20, 2007. The Task Force was updated on the recently-conducted solicitation and JARC and New Freedom project selections. The Task Force made suggestions for conducting the next project solicitation. A meeting summary was prepared.

H. Freight Planning

Staff continued development of freight planning input for the 2007 CLRP for completion by December 2007. Staff also attended a Maryland Statewide Freight Summit in Annapolis on September 10, 2007, with presentations by Members of Congress, senior MDOT officials, and private sector representatives from the freight industry to talk about the state of freight movement in Maryland.

3. **FORCASTING APPLICATIONS**

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff proceeded with several parallel work tasks on the air quality conformity assessment of the 2007 CLRP and FY2008 – 13 TIP, including: development of base year 2002 travel demand, and 2008 and 2009 travel forecasts; preliminary work testing HOT lane toll structures for 2010 to 2030 using the Version 2.2 model; preliminary work to prepare emissions factors and calculate mobile source emissions for required pollutants and forecast years.

Staff worked to update the TERM appendices of the draft *Call for Projects* document for the 2008 CLRP / FY2009 – 14 TIP. Staff participated in two AASHTO / AMPO conference calls discussing proposed comments upon EPA's 'Notice of Proposed Rulemaking' to revise the current ozone health standards.

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 September TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

Staff continued coordination work and technical work activities to develop mobile source emissions inventories for the PM2.5 SIP. This included preparing base year 2002 inventories for direct PM2.5 and PM10, SO2, NH3, and precursor VOC and NOx emissions. Staff executed travel demand forecasts for the 2009 forecast year and began emissions calculations. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC's Executive Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee.

As part of research activities dealing with CO2 emissions, staff continued work with the consultant on the task order to incorporate greenhouse gas estimation procedures explicitly into TPB's existing emissions factor software package. Staff also attended a meeting of the COG Climate Change Steering Committee.

Staff attended a TDM group meeting in September to review and provide comments on a shared-car project evaluation. The Travel Management Subcommittee met on September 25 and members were briefed on the following activities: the status of the ongoing conformity assessment of the 2007 CLRP and the FY 2008-FY 2013 TIP, the proposed schedule for the 2008 CLRP and FY 2009-FY 2014 TIP, the status of the PM 2.5 SIP, activities of the Climate Change Steering Committee, and the proposed congestion management process.

In September COG/DEP staff reviewed mobile inputs and prepared MOBILE6 emissions factors for the mobile PM2.5 inventories (PM10, PM2.5, SO2 and NH3) for the annual PM2.5 State Implementation Plan base year 2002. Staff coordinated with EPA to finalize oxygenated fuel parameter inputs for the 2009 run for the Annual PM2.5 SIP.

Staff prepared mobile emissions factors for the base year 2002 PM2.5 mobile inventories and reviewed the new MOBILE6 interface software for developing the 2009 PM2.5 mobile inventories. Staff attended the TPB Technical Committee and Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting in September.

C. Regional Studies

Staff continued refinement of Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) visualization applications.

Staff continued work on the on the cost analysis for the RMAS alternative transit scenarios.

Staff presented a proposal for the formation of a TPB Task Force on Future Activities of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study (Scenario Study Task Force) to the TPB at its September 19th meeting.

D. Coordination Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff met with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning – Prince George's County (MNCPPC-PG) staff to discuss proposed revisions to the current structure of Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) in Prince George's County. This was done as part of the work activities to develop a new, more detailed TAZ area system for the TPB modeled area. Staff reviewed and began to work with GIS shapefiles for 800 PGTAZ subzones provided by MNCPPC-PG staff.

Staff also began processing TAZ subzone GIS shapefiles submitted by Prince William County planning staff.

Staff discussed the proposed work plan for the "Greater Washington 2050" initiative and proposed next steps with the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) at their September 12th meeting.

Staff also briefed the MDPC on the draft TPB Scenario Study outreach activities and feedback summary report.

4. **DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORK / MODELS**

A. Network Development

The development of highway and transit networks for use in air quality conformity of the 2007 CLRP and FY2008-2013 TIP were completed in September. These networks, depicting 2002, 2008, 2009, 2020, and 2030, meet the new Version 2.2 travel demand model specifications. Newly developed TP+ scripts, which supercede FORTRAN programs used previously, were employed in network building and path checking.

Staff has begun work cataloging 2007 local and commuter bus schedules in preparation for updating the base transit network for use in the next CLRP update in 2008.

The firm of Daniel Consultants, Inc. has begun work providing technical guidance to TPB staff in improving GIS-based applications and protocols for developing and managing transportation networks. As a starting point, staff has furnished documentation to the contractor regarding current practices. This project is ongoing.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

Staff continued testing of the ArcGIS 9.2 software and development of the 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 continued to review the NAVTEQ data for inclusion in the spatial data library and use in the development of new GIS applications.

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

Staff worked with the Executive Committee of the MWCOG GIS Committee to prepare the agenda items and meeting materials for the September 18th Committee meeting. These agenda items included regional use of Pictometry data, increased data sharing among local jurisdictions, and possible funding options for proposed Committee work activities.

C. Models Development

At the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee meeting on September 21st staff reviewed the latest results in testing the new Version 2.2 travel demand model. The major refinement is the use of an increased number of iterations in the equilibrium traffic assignment process, now 60 instead of 20. Model execution time is now roughly double what it had been, and this is leading staff to explore the use of distributed processing to speed up computer run times. Staff is working to update the Version 2.2 documentation to reflect these latest model refinements. The model is now being used in production as part of the Air Quality Conformity assessment of the 2007 CLRP and FY2008-2013 TIP.

Development of a nested logit mode choice model continued, specified by AECOM under contract to TPB staff, working to develop a more streamlined application code for the new model. This model will be part of the next updated travel demand model planned for release in early 2008. Previous problems with estimating the model to match auto person and vehicle trip targets have been overcome, and the model now replicates 2002 base year travel patterns well at the regional level. More detailed review is taking place, including the development of forecast year networks designed for use with the model application. Staff is preparing mechanical modifications to the 2005 and 2030 transit networks such that model testing can continue, with refined coding for these analysis years to follow.

William Allen, under contract to TPB, is proceeding to get updated medium and heavy truck demand models into production. His effort, combined with the nested logit mode choice model described above, will form the two new elements of the updated travel demand model that TPB is planning to release in early 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 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.

5. **TRAVEL MONITORING**

A. Cordon Counts

A report documenting the results of the 2007 Regional HOV Facilities Monitoring project will be prepared as part of scoped activities in FY-2008. In preparation for development of this document, staff has begun processing the data collected in FY-2007. Due to press of other monitoring work program activities, there is no work on this project to report for September. Work should resume in late Fall, processing data from last spring and documenting the results in a report.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff prepared the outline of the proposed, enhanced highway congestion monitoring program, based on the results of the pilot program, and presented the outline to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee at the September meeting. Staff has completed the proposed schedule for the 3rd cycle data collection of the existing arterial highway congestion monitoring program.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis Household Travel Survey

Staff briefed the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) at their September 21st meeting on the status of the 2007 Household Travel Survey (HTS) and other related activities.

Staff met with the HTS contractor on September 25th to review progress to-date and the schedule of work activities for the next three months. Staff also communicated directly with the HTS GPS subcontractor about the status of GPS data collection activities and the delivery of an interim set of HTS GPS data.

Staff provided information about the HTS to the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) in the Boston metropolitan region. The Boston MPO is planning a Household Travel Survey with many of the same methodological enhancements that have been included in our HTS.

Staff continued to manually look up and geocode trip records that could not be automatically geocoded to X-Y coordinates by the survey contractor.

The contractor continued recruitment and interviewing of households randomly selected for participation in the HTS. By the end of September, the contractor has successfully recruited 7940 households for participation in the 2007 HTS and retrieved travel day data from 5,107 of these participating households.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff updated 2001-2006 AADT volumes for Maryland jurisdictions using the new linkages established in last month.

Staff provided updated 2001-2006 AAWDT volume estimates for Maryland jurisdictions to the models development team.

Staff continued development of a new application to map to display Data Clearinghouse traffic volume estimates with an annotation that depicts the year of the traffic count on which the traffic volume estimate is based.

6. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended a meeting of the 14th Street Bridge Corridor EIS Interagency Technical Group.

DDOT Traffic Counts

The contractor has completed data collection and has shipped the counts, which are undergoing quality control check.

Recommend Supplement Traffic Counts

There was no activity to report in September.

FY08 DDOT HPMS Project

Staff began development of an updated traffic volume map for DDOT using current HPMS section AADT volumes. Staff also identified District street segment where traffic volumes had been previously estimated, but were not currently covered by HPMS sample sections. Staff provided DDOT with a draft traffic volume map for the entire District and a map inset showing traffic volumes for streets in the Central Business District area.

Staff began development of a report on recent efforts to improve the quality of the District's traffic data and procedures used in preparing DDOT HPMS submissions to the FHWA.

B. Maryland

Program Development /Management

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding FY2008 work program activities.

Maryland Miscellaneous Services

Staff commenced work to provide loaded highway link files and VMT estimates for the stimulation years 2002, 2010, 2020 and 2030 from the Air Quality Conformity Regional modeling process adopted on June 20, 2007 to a consultant to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Staff began work to provide a copy of the COG/TPB draft Version 2.2 travel demand Model with associated inputs to the Montgomery County, Maryland, Planning Department of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

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 September Transit Modeling meeting at COG.

Project Planning Support

Staff continued work to address SHA's requests for technical services in a number of planning areas, including truck travel, highway needs inventory analysis, traffic impact analysis and training. This included a meeting with SHA in the COG offices to present results for some of the requests and to present work activity status reports on others, including the Managed Lanes project reported below.

Managed Lanes Project

Staff hosted a work session in the COG offices with Maryland DHA representatives. Staff prepared and analyzed estimated-to-observed volume comparisons in each corridor. The comparisons were prepared at the link level and for cutlines. TPB and SHA staff agreed that the study should transition over to the Version 2.2 model for FY2008 planning activities on the project.

Recommend Supplement Traffic Counts

There was no activity to report in the reporting period.

C. Virginia

Program Development

There was no activity to report in September.

Miscellaneous Services

There was no activity to report in September.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Staff conducted multiple-day A.M. counts along a screenline running roughly parallel to Franconia Road (Va. 644). At VDOT's request, travel time runs were conducted in the P.M. HOV-restricted period along the I-95/I-395 corridor in the HOV and non-HOV lanes.

High Occupancy / Toll (HOT) Lane Traffic Analyses

There was no activity to report in September.

Public Safety / Information Pamphlets

There was no activity to report in September.

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program Continuation

There was no activity to report in September.

Recommend Supplemental Traffic Counts

There was no activity to report in September.

D. WMATA

Program Development

There was no activity to report in September.

Miscellaneous Services

There was no activity to report in September.

Accessible Pathways Analysis for MetroAccess Customers

There was no activity to report in September.

Geocode 2007 WMATA Rail Survey Data

There was no activity to report in September.

Geocode 2007 WMATA Bus Passenger Survey

There was no activity to report in September.

7. **CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM**

A. CASP 22

(1) Update Air Passenger O-D Forecasts

No staff activity to report.

(2) Air Cargo Element Update

No staff activity to report.

B. CASP 23

(1) Process Air Passenger Survey

Staff coordinated the updated work plan and project schedule for the processing of the 2007 Air Passenger Survey data with the project team working on the data collection for the 2007 Air Passenger Survey.

(2) Update Ground Access Forecasts – Phase I

No staff activity to report.

Consultant Support

Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. – Technical Assistance – Travel Demand Model Development and Application - \$90,000 – ongoing.

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

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

Daniel Consultants, Inc. – A Project to Improve GIS-Based Applications and Protocols Used to Develop and Manage Transportation Networks - \$75,000 – ongoing.

NuStats – Household Travel Survey - \$2,059,548 – ongoing.