
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2006 UPWP. At the December Technical Committee and TPB meetings, the set of proposed amendments to the budgets and work activities affected by the new planning requirements in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA_LU) were reviewed. The TPB approved these amendments at its December 21 meeting.

Work began on the outline and budget for the FY 2007 UPWP. The outline and budget will be presented to the Technical Committee and TPB in January. The draft UPWP document will be presented and reviewed in February, and the TPB is scheduled to adopt it at its March 15 meeting.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the December 6 meeting, the Steering Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2005-2010 TIP as requested by VDOT and MDOT. At the December 21 TPB meeting, the Board requested that the next phase of the Idea-66 Study, which was included in a December 2 TPB Steering Committee resolution to amend the FY 2005-2010 TIP as requested by VDOT, be considered at the January 18 meeting.

In November, the final versions of the FY 2006-2011 TIP and 2005 CLRP documentation, together with the air quality conformity analysis report, as approved by the TPB were submitted to FHWA and FTA for their review. In a letter to TPB dated December 21, 2006, FHWA and FTA found that the FY 2006-2011 TIP and 2005 CLRP conform to the region's State Implementation Plans (SIP).

At the December meeting, the TPB approved the Call for Projects Document and the schedule for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2006 CLRP and FY 2007-2012 TIP.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

In November, the final versions of the FY 2006-2011 TIP and 2005 CLRP documentation, together with the air quality conformity analysis report, as approved by

the TPB were submitted to FHWA and FTA for their review. In a letter to TPB dated December 21, 2006, FHWA and FTA found that the FY 2006-2011 TIP and 2005 CLRP conform to the region's State Implementation Plans (SIP).

At the December meeting, the TPB approved the Call for Projects Document and the schedule for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2006 CLRP and FY 2007-2012 TIP.

D. Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Planning

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces met on December 13. Staff briefed the Task Forces on the status of development of the regional transportation coordination program. The Task Forces were updated on the proposal to reestablish a Regional Emergency Support Function #1 – Transportation Committee, under the family of regional public safety committees, separate from but continuing to be coordinated with the MOITS planning process and activities, under the newly developed Strategic Governance Structure for Homeland Security Planning in the National Capital Region. MOITS continued shepherding all emergency transportation planning work at least through early 2006. Staff presented information on the FY2006 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) process for submitting proposals for funding, and continued supporting the process by which MOITS members could submit funding proposals, a number of which were discussed in detail at the December 13 meeting. Also, on December 19, staff participated in a project management meeting outlining further changes in the FY2006 UASI process, and began outreach to transportation stakeholders on tying potential project concepts to identified National Capital Region/Department of Homeland Security target capabilities.

Staff continued work on supporting MOITS topic areas in operations, technology, and ITS Architecture. Staff continued follow-up activities from the November 16 presentation to the TPB on the 2002-2005 Regional Traffic Signals Optimization Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM), notably the concept of annual reporting of this information included in the regional "Call for Projects" document for the update of the Constrained Long-Range Plan and Transportation Improvement Program.

Staff attended a meeting of the regional transit Joint Coordinating Committee at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on December 16, in part focusing on WMATA bus information technology architecture in relation to the regional ITS architecture.

Staff continued work from previous fiscal years to support stakeholder discussion of options for strengthening regional emergency communications and coordination in the transportation sector, including discussions of a proposed regional transportation coordination program. These follow the recommendations of the Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM. Staff provided background information and supported discussions of an Ad Hoc Steering Committee for Strengthening Regional Transportation Operations Coordination comprising DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, and WMATA. During November, the Ad Hoc Regional Steering Committee continued working with the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center for expert support to development of a regional coordination program. The Ad Hoc group held a conference call on December 1 and a meeting on December 13 on these issues. TPB staff worked with Volpe staff to support Ad Hoc committee discussions, this month covering a concept of operations and mission needs statement for the program.

E. Financial Plan

Work continued on the financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP. At the November 16 meeting, the Board received a status report from CSI on the analysis for the update which indicates that the region continues to have critical transportation needs that are not funded in the next few years. The Board expressed interest in updating its "Time to Act" brochure which was widely distributed in February 2004 to raise awareness about near term transportation funding needs. At the December 21 meeting, the Board was briefed by CSI on a proposal to prepare a report by May on the progress made in addressing the critical transportation capital needs and funding shortfalls identified in the 2004 brochure. Staff will prepare a scope of work for preparing this report and investigate how to engage CSI in its development.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No staff activities during this reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff gave a presentation to the TPB Technical Committee on the results of the 2005 Street Smart campaign, the status of funding for the 2006 campaign, and activities for the 2006 campaign. Ron Kirby also gave an abbreviated version of the presentation to the TPB. Mr. Kirby reported that Alexandria has offered to host the kickoff event in April in Alexandria at a new pedestrian tunnel under Duke Street, near the King Street Station. The TPB suggested that staff investigate the implications of holding a press conference three times that day on a rolling basis in Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland.

Staff met with the consultants, Design House, to discuss the strategy, activities, and schedule for the 2006 campaign.

Staff worked with jurisdictional staff to update the regional bicycle and pedestrian project database.

H. Human Service Transportation Coordination Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks:

- Reviewed the draft report titled *Improving Demand Responsive Services in the Washington Region*.

I. Public Participation

The CAC's monthly meeting on December 21 included discussions regarding the need for better pedestrian/bicycle coordination at WMATA, potential content for the CAC's 2005 year-end report, and the outcomes of the 2005 CAC elections.

Work began with the two organizations—the Academy for Leadership Foundation and Fitzgerald & Halliday—that have been contracted to assist in conducting public involvement activities for the 2006 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). The activities will include a Community Leadership Institute on transportation issues, website improvements and other improvements in accessibility to long-range plan information. Staff and the consultants held a brainstorming session on December 2 and afterwards refined the task orders for the new public involvement activities.

Staff wrote and distributed the "TPB News" newsletter. The mailing list includes more than 2,300 recipients.

Access for All Advisory Committee

No staff activities during this reporting period.

J. Annual Report

No staff 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:

- Senior DTP staff met with representatives of VDOT, Transurban, and consultants to discuss toll levels and revenue projections for the HOT lanes on the Capital Beltway in Virginia.
- The DTP Director met with staff of the Transportation Research Board to discuss his participation on the advisory committee for the second phase of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP II).
- The DTP Director met with staff of the Federal Highway Administration to discuss future activities under the federal Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP).

L. Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning

This task was newly amended to the Unified Planning Work Program by the Transportation Planning Board on December 21, 2005. Staff worked with staff of the COG Department of Human Services, Planning, and Public Safety on hiring for a new staff position to initiate this new task, transitioning emergency preparedness activities from Task 1.D above.

M. Freight Planning

This task was newly amended to the Unified Planning Work Program by the Transportation Planning Board on December 21, 2005. Staff began preliminary research to initiate this task.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Regarding the conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP with respect to PM_{2.5} directly emitted particles and precursor emissions, staff received and responded to comments related to the PM_{2.5} air quality conformity assessment. Staff presented summary results of the assessment to the TPB at its December 21st meeting. At the meeting, the TPB reviewed the comments, approved the responses to comments, and

adopted the PM_{2.5} air quality conformity determination. Staff finalized the PM_{2.5} supplemental conformity report, and began report production in preparation for distribution to federal, state, and local agencies.

COG/DEP staff coordinated with EPA and the state air agencies on the NO_x Rebuild issue. Staff prepared an agenda for a mobile emissions inventory call to discuss EPA SIP inventory requirements for ozone and PM. Staff prepared a memo regarding the SIP mobile inventories needed for the 8-hour ozone SIP. The MWAQC sent a comment letter to TPB on the results of the PM_{2.5} conformity assessment. Staff attended TPB Technical Committee meeting and the TPB meeting in December.

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 December TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff relating to requirements for the 8-hour ozone standards and PM_{2.5} requirements. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee, its Conformity Subcommittee, its Emissions Inventory Work Group, and in three internal meetings.

Staff initiated work to analyze 8-hour ozone and PM_{2.5} pollutants and emissions characteristics, develop Mobile6 inputs / outputs, and revise post-processor procedures for SIP development. This included consultant task order support for assistance in reflecting new inputs to the Mobile6.2 model, and in executing a revised technical approach to develop mobile source emissions inventories.

Staff continued documentation of the VIN decoding process and it is undergoing internal review. Staff compared age distributions of the 2005 registration data (developed using the VIN decoder) with age distribution developed by VDEQ/VDOT staff. Staff developed RDT files (vehicle age distribution) and diesel sales fractions for light duty vehicles, light duty truck types (1,2,3,4) for Alexandria, Arlington, and Loudoun Counties in Virginia.

Staff revised the TERM analysis instructions which were included as an appendix in the "Call for Projects" document. The document was presented to the TPB Technical Committee during the December Meeting. Staff worked on technical corrections to the particulate matter (PM 2.5) emissions air quality conformity assessment.

C. Regional Studies

Staff completed the network coding and travel demand modeling for the “Region Undivided” scenario.

Staff presented the modeling results of the “More Jobs in Outer Areas” and “Region Undivided” scenarios to the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff developed the work plan for the HOV/HOT/Express Toll Lanes Transportation scenario.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff continued to work with the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee on the update of Regional Activity Centers and Clusters.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Work continued to contact transit providers as part of an update of transit schedules for the fall, which will be used in the next round of TIP / CLRP conformity networks. WMATA and Montgomery County have provided electronic bus timetable files. As of the end of December, data processing to create transit line files for WMATA and most jurisdiction services has been completed. Remaining effort is with outer jurisdictions.

Staff completed highway and transit network file development for a 2009 forecast year. This is the first 2009 network developed for the Version 2 travel model, so it was necessary to create all new input files. This work included review of a highway network generated from the CLRP highway network database, development of peak and off-peak transit mode files, review and extensive update of 2004 time-of-day files to reflect 2009 conditions, creation of transit access files, and preparation of transit walk-shed and walk-link files. Review of travel demand components is underway, and travel demand forecasting results are expected in January.

Staff reviewed inputs to determine the most expeditious means of completing network development steps for a 2008 forecast year.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

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

Staff continued to work with the GIS Committee Executive Committee to discuss upcoming meetings and the Committee's work program for the next several months.

C. Models Development

Staff is continuing the effort to implement a nested logit mode choice model as part of the TPB travel demand model set. It will be implemented for the four trip purposes used in the Version 2.1D#50 model. Effort is being made on three fronts: 1) installing AEMS mode choice and supporting network building routines; 2) developing calibration files from 1994, 2000, and 2002 travel surveys; and 3) implementing transit network coding convention changes, initially for the above years.

Staff continued processing the 2003 External Truck Survey for use in updating the TPB truck models. Staff also continued preparing data to update the demographic models with 2000 CTPP information. Work is continuing on a revised set of external and through trip tables, and on a revised set of airport access trips based on the 2000 Air Passenger Survey.

Using data collected by TPB staff in FY2005, a contractor has progressed through trip generation and distribution in the calibration of a commercial vehicle model. Documentation is under review.

D. Software Support

Staff is supporting the development and execution of the DTP travel demand model using the TP+/Viper software and the Mobile 6.2 Mobile Source Emissions Factor Model in Air Quality Conformity and SIP development. Staff support includes training in application of TP+/Viper and Mobile 6.2 and maintenance of current documentation and user guides for both models. Staff is also monitoring the performance of DTP desktop and laptop 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

Geocoding of the 2003 External Truck Survey continued and is expected to be completed in early January.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff presented a slide show of the FY 2005 aerial survey findings to the TPB Technical Committee in December. Based on comments received a revised slide show was prepared and will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee during the January 2006 meeting. The consultant has been tasked to collect data to quantify the improvements to the Capital Beltway due to the construction of the 2 lane ramp from the Capital Beltway to VA 267.

Staff also hosted a presentation by Maryland SHA staff on a pilot study involving the use of cell phones to collect travel time information.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff continued to work on the design of the pilot survey for the planned activity-based household travel survey for the TPB modeled region.

Staff began development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a survey consultant to conduct the planned activity-based household travel survey.

2. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities to report.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff continued work on updating traffic volume data for Maryland highway network links in the Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the DDOT's monthly HPMS coordination meeting.

Machine Traffic Counts

Preparation for Spring 2006 HPMS count are underway.

Verification and Compliance of HPMS Sections in current Street Centerline File with Field Manual Standards

No staff activities during this reporting period.

Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)

No staff activities during this reporting period.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding FY2006 work program activities. In response to a request by MD SHA, staff outlined a draft schedule for the Western Mobility Study. The study looks at integrating express toll lanes on western end of Maryland's Capital Beltway and I-270, and tying them with the HOT lane system on Virginia's Capital Beltway as specified in the current CLRP. Its limits are American Legion Bridge and I-270.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff provided zonal trip tables from the Air Quality Conformity regional modeling process as used in the conformity determination approved October 19, 2005 by the Transportation Planning Board to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

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.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Project planning activities at COG have not yet been initiated in FY2006.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff executed travel demand modeling for 2000 Validation and 2030 No Build alternatives, attempting to replicate consultants' work for quality assurance. Upon review of modeling results, it was determined that the model set used in the 2030 model run by the MD SHA consultants was not current. An updated model set was transmitted to the consultants for travel demand modeling for 2030.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff delivered final loaded networks estimated from travel demand forecasts of 2030 Corridor 2 Alternative in ICC Study to a project consultant, SHA's consultant. Travel demand forecasts were executed using Round 6.4A land use without the 'CTPP adjustment' for 'no toll' and 'toll' scenarios.

Bi-County Transitway Study

Project planning activities at COG have not yet been initiated in FY2006.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in December.

Miscellaneous Services

Per request staff delivered revised 2010, 2020 and 2030 revenue estimates to management staff and VDOT staff. Staff compared both MWCOG's and VDOT's

assumptions that were used to estimate toll revenues, and reported and delivered the comparison results to management and VDOT staff.

I-95 / I-395 HOT Lane Project

No activity during the reporting period.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Field data collection was completed in November. All travel time runs were completed in December. All data will be transmitted to VDOT in January.

I-66 Feasibility Study Supplemental Data Collection

There was no activity to report in December.

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program

Staff coordinated with NVTC and began processing of detailed transit passenger counts collected by WMATA, PRTC, VRE, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Loudoun County staff.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Demand Responsive Study

A draft report was completed for the study "Improving Demand Responsive Services for People with Disabilities". The report describes the fifteen recommendations divided into the four focus areas of the study: MetroAccess System Design and Management, Communicating with MetroAccess Customers, Additional Transportation Services and Coordination of Specialized Transportation Services. The report also describes the demand and benefits of paratransit, customer concerns and innovative practices for paratransit service. Staff prepared for the final study steering committee meeting on

December 15 which included an exercise for committee members to identify desired outcomes for the recommendations and a presentation on the results of a human service agency survey conducted by the consultant, TranSystems.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

This grant was closed out in July 2005.

B. CASP 20

This grant was closed out in November 2004.

C. Conduct 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey

This project was completed in April 2005.

D. CASP 21

a. Process Regional Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued geocoding the survey trip origin data to transportation analysis zones.

b. Ground Access Element Update

Staff reviewed comments received from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) on the work plan and schedule for updating the Regional Airport System Plan Ground Access Element. Staff also reviewed information on existing facilities and services providing ground access to the region's three major commercial airports as well as identified major highways, transit, paratransit, HOV and other ground access facilities to the region's airports. In addition, for major ground access facilities, staff reviewed and documented current travel times to the airports using the results of the 2003 Ground Access Travel Time Study Update.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** did not meet in December 2005.

Consultant Support

SKYCOMP – Aerial survey of the limited access highway system - \$ 110,000 – ongoing

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis - \$65,000 – ongoing

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

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