

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from the July 8, 2005 Technical Committee Meeting

Approved as written.

2. The TPB Transportation Planning Process Certification Review

Mr. Kirby briefed the Committee on the FHWA and FTA certification review process and reviewed the agenda for the review activities to be held September 15, 19 and 20. He reviewed and commented on the main topics to be addressed over the two day sessions. He focused on financial planning and fiscal constraint as a major area of interest and provided a review of the issues raised during the federal review of the 2004 CLRP. He indicated that in future CLRPs more attention will be given to better documenting the financial plan and assumptions and other key planning activities. The web-based CLRP will make it possible to link and better integrate relevant information on the important topics such as fiscal constraint and air quality conformity. He also said that, as will be covered in the next agenda item, SAFETEA-LU places new emphasis on public involvement in the planning process.

Mr. Kirby referred to the list of 12 questions included in the mailout that the federal review team prepared. He said that TPB staff responses to these questions would be submitted to the federal review team on September 12. Ms. Samarasinghe asked about question 4 regarding how project selection in the TIP process is documented. Mr. Miller said that the response would cite the comprehensive description of the project selection process that is provided the TPB's publication: "A Citizens Guide to Transportation Decision-Making in the Washington Metropolitan Region." Mr. Kirby also commented that for the current TIP a section on the status of major projects would be included.

Mr. Rybeck observed that the current agenda did not include a topic on land-use and transportation planning which was in an earlier draft. Mr. Miller said that in this latest version from the federal review team that topic appears to have been dropped. Mr. Kirby said that this will be corrected and that this important topic will be added in the afternoon of September 20.

3. Briefing on the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

Ms. Klancher gave a PowerPoint briefing on SAFETEA-LU and described provisions for metropolitan planning, the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality program, and road pricing. Many of the provisions will need to be clarified with regulations or guidelines from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Staff reported that at a recent seminar, federal representations stated that the new provision regarding a conformity lapse does not apply to PM_{2.5} (the provision states that a lapse will not occur until one year after the applicable deadline).

More information on SAFETEA-LU, including the PowerPoint presentation is at the TPB website: www.mwcog.org/transportation. Committee members asked about how

Maryland's plans for Express Lanes will fit under the new pricing provisions. Other questions included if state and local plans refer to Master and Comprehensive plans (staff answered yes), what the impact of the addition planning money will be on the work program (staff is working on calculations, priorities will include data collection and cooperative forecasting), and what agency will receive Job Access Reverse Commute funds under the new bill (staff replied WMATA will receive the funding and will be able to sub-allocate it). The Committee discussed high occupancy lane requirements and possible vehicle exceptions.

4. Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2005 Financially Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Following distribution of a September 9, 2005 draft memo from Mr. Clifford to the TPB on the air quality conformity assessment, Mr. Clifford highlighted the contents of the document. The memo summarized the procedures and results of the conformity assessment, which provides a basis for a determination by the TPB of conformity of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006 – 2011 TIP. The Committee then discussed the topic, including the following.

It was noted that, given the dramatic reductions in mobile source emissions through time, more emphasis could be placed on this fact in the report (staff agreed to expand upon this point in the document); why were the emissions budgets slightly different than last year? (the states submitted the region's 'severe area SIP' to EPA in two phases: the first phase budgets, adopted by MWAQC in August 2003, were subsequently found to be 'adequate for conformity' by EPA and were used in previous conformity assessments; the second phase of the severe area SIP, adopted by MWAQC in February 2004 and approved by EPA in Spring 2005, contained these slightly revised budgets, and supersede the earlier ones).

What is the time frame for the 8-hour SIP? (MWAQC's draft schedule is for preparation and submittal of the SIP in late CY 2006; while 2010 is the attainment year and the milestone analysis year for conformity, photochemical modeling and the attainment demonstration will address 2009, since attainment must be demonstrated by June 2010 and therefore controls will need to be in place before then. While 2010 is still an appropriate conformity analysis year for this 'interim period' until budgets are set, staff will need to transition to a 2009 analysis year for the SIP and subsequent conformity analyses).

5. Status Report on Fine Particles (PM_{2.5}) Conformity Analysis if the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-2011 TIP

Mr. Clifford briefly referenced the first mailout item, the scope of work for the PM_{2.5} air quality conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006 - 2011 TIP, and noted that the TPB approved the scope at its July meeting. While the original schedule called for reviewing draft results at the September Technical Committee meeting, transportation staff was still discussing environmental inputs to the Mobile6 model with the air agencies

and COG environmental staff, so draft results would therefore slip to October or November.

Mr. Clifford then highlighted elements of the second mailout item, EPA's guidance document for the preparation of PM_{2.5} inventories. He emphasized that since these inventories represented year long, not daily, emissions totals, much of the focus of the guidance was on how to organize the inputs, e.g., monthly emissions factors, and seasonal travel demand. The Committee then discussed the topic, including the following: how are off-road emissions accounted for? (all emissions sources are included in SIP inventories, but this conformity assessment only deals with on-road mobile emissions).

6. Review of Draft FY2006-2011 TIP

Mr. Pfoutz distributed the revised draft FY 2006-2011 TIP and informed the Committee that it was going to be released for public comment on September 15 at the CAC meeting. He asked for any comments by Monday, September 12.

Mr. Miller reviewed the significant project changes in the 2005 CLRP. He noted that the project description information for the HOT lane project on the Beltway had not changed but that the cost information for the Rail to Dulles project had been updated. He said that the new financial analysis for the 2006 CLRP update is underway and that all project cost information will be reviewed and updated for this analysis. The next meeting of the financial analysis steering group is scheduled for September 27.

Mr. Kirby said that the updated Rail to Dulles project cost information is now consistent with the information provided by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to FTA for its new starts project review process. He also explained that the TPB has explicitly accounted for the funding uncertainties affecting the Metrorail system capacity and levels of service beyond 2010 by constraining transit ridership to or through the core area to 2010 levels in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP. He said that if the new federal and state and local funding for Metro called for in the bill recently introduced by Congressman Tom Davis becomes more definite, it will be possible to remove this transit ridership constraint.

7. Update on Recent Commuter Connections Activities

Mr. Ramfos gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recent gasoline trends and how it has affected TDM programs. He gave some background information on high gasoline prices and the start-up of TDM programs, including Commuter Connections in the 1970's. He also gave statistics on the number of inquiries on the Commuter Connections web site.

Next, Mr. Ramfos discussed recent telecommuting trends including past activities of Commuter Connections and specific impacts of the Metropolitan Telework Resource Center. He also reviewed the Telework Exchange marketing and advertising program and their most recent marketing activities.

Mr. Smith asked how high gasoline prices will affect the regional model inputs. Mr. Kirby stated that this issue will need to be reviewed and considered in the long term.

Mr. Kirby explained how funding for Telework has been in decline and that the private sector has stepped up its effort to promote teleworking in the region. This is very positive for the region and will allow us to take regional credit for any travel behavior changes. Mr. Kirby also stated that one of the issues that needs to be addressed in the region is broadband access and that both the TPB and COG Board's will be addressed on this issue.

Ms. Samarasinghe stated that we need to be careful on endorsing private sector groups because of some of the messages being given by this group and our competing agenda's for various modes. They are pitting telecommuting against transit use. Mr. Kirby stated that this particular group (Juniper Networks) is not concerned with our competing agenda's and that they have even put these ads up in the Metro Stations and on buses.

The Committee then discussed the merits of a recent Washington Business Journal news article on telecommuting. Some of the information in the article was incorrect in terms of the 2001 telecommuting percentage. Mr. Kirby stated that staff was in the process of preparing a response letter to the editor. Mr. Arabia stated that the information regarding the Telework VA program was also incorrect in the article.

8. Report on Work Group Examination of Proposed Improvements for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) Process and Documents

Mr. Austin reported on the outcome of a work group session that was held on July 25 to discuss proposed improvements to the CLRP and TIP processes and documents. The work group decided that the column on the air quality conformity table that is currently labeled "Under Construction or R.O.W. Acquired" would be split into two columns. The work group also discussed the possibility of changing the "Carry Over" figure shown in the TIP document to provide a better financial history. However this proved to be impractical at this time, so that column will remain as is. The work group did agree to add two new items to the project phase codes: "d" for studies and "e" for other. The work group also discussed a range of possible improvements that could be made to the process as it migrates to a web-based format. These included adding information on project managers and hyperlinks to further project information, GIS capabilities and automating the transferal of budget data. Staff will continue to work with members from the work group and others leading up to the implementation of a web-based system.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Adjourn

**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES
ATTENDANCE - September 9, 2005**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DDOT Rick Rybeck

FEDERAL/OTHER

MARYLAND

Frederick Co. Denis Superczynski
Gaithersburg -----
Montgomery Co. David Moss
Prince George's Co. Aaron Overman
Rockville -----
M-NCPPC
 Montgomery Co. Alexander Hekimian
 Prince George's Co. Faramarz Mokhtari

FHWA-DC -----
FHWA-VA -----
FTA Kimberly Goins
NCPC -----
NPS -----
MWAQC -----

MDOT Lyn Erickson
 Glen Smith

COG Staff and Others

VIRGINIA

Alexandria Maria White
Arlington Co. Nicole Lewis
City of Fairfax Alexis Verzosa
Fairfax Co. Tom Biesiadny
 Robert Owolabi
Falls Church -----
Loudoun Co. Arthur Smith
Manassas -----
Prince William Co. Rick Canizales
NVTC -----
PRTC -----
VRE -----
VDOT Kanathur Srikanth
VDRPT Sharmilla Samarasinghe
NVPDC -----
VDOA -----

Ronald Kirby, COG/DTP
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Gerald Miller, COG/DTP
Mark Pfoutz, COG/DTP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Andrew Austin, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP
Jim Yin, COG/DTP
G. Toni Giardini, COG/DTP
Bill Bacon, COG/DTP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Anant Choudhary, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
John Swanson COG/DTP
Wendy Klancher, COG/DTP
Takumi Yamamoto, Turner-Fairbank Highway
 Research Center
Christopher Arabia, VDRPT

WMATA

WMATA Scott Kubly