
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The amendments approved by the TPB in March to the work statements and budgets for three projects were transmitted to the funding agencies.

The FY 2005 UPWP was submitted to FTA and FHWA for review and approval in April.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the February 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the project submissions for 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP which were released for public comment and agency review at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on February 12. Because additional information on the submissions was received after February 12, the TPB Program Committee on March 5, 2004 decided that the public comment period should be extended by releasing the updated project submission information at the CAC meeting on March 11, 2004. The extended public comment period closed on April 10, 2004. Staff reviewed the hundreds of comments received to date and prepared responses to them. At the April 21 meeting, the TPB was briefed on responses to the more than 2,500 comments received through April 10. Copies of the comments received were posted on the TPB web site.

The TPB approved the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the CLRP and TIP at its April 21 meeting. Staff prepared the initial draft of the TIP document for review at the May Technical Committee meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the February 18 meeting, the TPB was briefed on the project submissions for 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP which were released for public comment and agency review at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on February 12. Because additional information on the submissions was received after February 12, the TPB Program Committee on March 5, 2004 decided that the public comment period should be extended by releasing the updated project submission information at the CAC meeting on March 11, 2004. The extended public comment period closed on April 10, 2004. Staff reviewed the hundreds of comments received to date and prepared responses to them. At

the April 21 meeting, the TPB was briefed on responses to the more than 2,500 comments received through April 10. Copies of the comments received were posted on the TPB web site.

The TPB approved the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the CLRP and TIP at its April 21 meeting.

Staff completed a summary of travel demand and the cooperative forecasts for the 2003 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) in 2005 and 2030, based on the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Maps of congestion levels in 2002 and 2030 were created in GIS based on Skycomp, Inc. data and travel demand forecasts for the 2003 CLRP. This information will be published in the Region Magazine and will also be used in the 2003 CLRP plan document.

An assessment of accessibility measures for the 2003 CLRP was initiated. The accessibility forecasts were compiled and control totals verified. Staff created large maps in GIS of accessibility to jobs by auto and transit in 2005 and 2030 for the MSA. A comparison of accessibility measures being used in other studies was conducted and differences investigated.

D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

Management and Operations Activities

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces met on April 13, 2004. The group discussed regional ITS architecture activities and traveler information activities, including planned integration of metropolitan Washington traveler information contractual support (for planning activities) into an upcoming Virginia statewide effort. An associated traveler information steering committee meeting was held on April 22 to provide metropolitan stakeholder input to the Virginia effort.

Staff participated in an advisory role in the Virginia statewide request for proposals (RFP) process to engage a 511 contractor. Staff reviewed the proposals received, and participated in a review meeting in Richmond on April 19 and attended oral presentations by proposers in Richmond on April 30. Contractor selection was anticipated for June 2004.

Staff participated in the American Planning Association annual conference in Washington, D.C. April 24-28.

Emergency Transportation Coordination Planning Activities

Staff prepared materials for the review and approval of the revised Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors on April 14, 2003. Staff supported follow-up activities, including development of a paper describing options for strengthening regional emergency communications and coordination in the transportation sector. Staff distributed a draft of this paper on April 8, for review by the MOITS Task Forces and the TPB on April 13. Staff also supported presentation of the REETC Annex and associated issues to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee on April 15.

The MOITS Task Forces at the April 13 joint meeting discussed the request for developing information on communications strengthening, and other follow-up activities to the completion of the REETC Annex. The MOITS Task Forces also discussed on April 13 the status and outlook of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program, and its relationship to emergency transportation activities.

E. Financial Plan

No work during the reporting period.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

The agenda for the 15th Annual Public Transit Forum was prepared and mailed to the participants. The forum will be held on May 4.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Worked with local coordinators and instructors to plan and prepare logistics for 8 half-day Walkable Communities Workshops to be held the first week of May.
- Prepared applications for funds for the FY2005 Street Smart campaign to the Maryland Office of Highway Safety and the Virginia DMV
- Helped plan the April 5 Street Smart kick-off press event and prepare hand-outs, attended the event, gave two live television interviews and one live radio interview.
- Produced progress reports, purchase orders, and assorted paperwork associated with payments and reporting requirements for the Street Smart campaign.

- Presented to the TPB Access for All Advisory Committee on the activities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

H. Access to Jobs Planning

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

- COG/HSPPS staff gathered information on workforce demographics and other indicators for inclusion as background information for the Job Access plan, as well as for future regional workforce development projects at COG.

I. Public Participation

The CAC held its first public forum of the year on April 28. The meeting featured presentations on the four light rail lines that are being planned for the District of Columbia, with particular emphasis on the Anacostia demonstration line, which is scheduled to be in operation by 2006. Greg Walker of WMATA was the main presenter. DC Councilmember Phil Mendelson and DDOT's Alex Eckmann also spoke. The meeting was held at the Benjamin Orr Elementary School, 2200 Minnesota Ave, SE. Approximately 20 people participated, mainly from neighborhoods east of the Anacostia that are near the school.

The CAC held its regular monthly meeting on April 15. The meeting included presentations on emergency preparedness and the 2003 report of the Access for All Advisory Committee. Recognizing the urgency of the issues at hand, members of the CAC felt the TPB must be urged to act on the emergency preparedness issues. The CAC passed a motion expressing this urgency.

The public comment period for the project submissions for the 2004 amendments to the CLRP and the FY2005-2010 TIP ended on April 10. Public comments were received by mail, by e-mail, and through public comments at the TPB meeting. A memorandum responding to the comments was prepared and distributed to the TPB.

The "TPB News" newsletter was written and distributed.

Access for All Advisory Committee

The final AFA report was presented to the TPB by Kathy Porter on April 21, 2004. Staff participated by invitation on the WMATA Regional Paratransit Task Force and reviewed the recommendations being forwarded to the WMATA board.

A review of WMATA's video on how to use the bus and rail system for Limited English speakers was organized and comments solicited.

J. Annual Report

Layout and editing for the annual report neared completion.

K. DTP Management

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

- The DTP Director participated in two meetings of the VDOT Task Force addressing the Fluor Daniel proposal for High Occupancy toll lanes on the Capital Beltway, including a public comment period.
- The DTP Director participated in a panel discussion on emergency preparedness at the annual NASTO meeting in Washington, D.C.
- The DTP Director gave a presentation on transit and land development in the Washington region at a seminar at the National Building Museum.
- The DTP Director gave a presentation on the MPO process at the annual meeting of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

At its April meeting the TPB approved the project submissions to the 2004 CLRP and FY2005-10 TIP and the scope of work for the associated air quality conformity assessment of the plan and program. Staff also presented to the Planning Directors the

ICC project submissions and the conformity work scope to discuss potential impacts that the ICC alignments may have on the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts.

Staff continued to coordinate highway and transit inputs with various implementing agencies and began updating the highway network database and GIS files with the project inputs for the conformity analysis. Staff continued updating the transit network files to reflect December 2003 schedule information. Staff began updating the time-of-day files to produce separate am, pm, and off-peak highway networks. The network development and GIS teams reviewed variables and removed those that are not required in the Version 2 modeling process. Staff updated time-of-day and network build control files to reflect the removal of these variables while stream-lining the network build process.

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 April TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff and MWAQC committees. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, and its Technical Advisory Committee and also in a meeting of the MWAQC

officers and representatives from the state air and transportation agencies, to discuss planning for the 8-hour ozone standard. Air quality planning activities related primarily to continued work on tasks associated with the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory and research into refinements to inputs to Mobile6.

Staff completed the conversion of 2002 Mobile emissions from the Severe Area SIP format to the Periodic Emissions Inventory (PEI) format. These data summaries were forwarded to DEP for review by the MWAQC TAC. Staff also completed one test of EPA's Mobile6.2 model for year 2005 and will continue testing and documenting changes for other milestone years.

Staff worked on a number of work program items during the month of April 2004 and the progress achieved on the different items follows. Staff developed new factors to update the emissions reductions estimate of TERMS under consideration for emissions reduction during the conformity assessment of the 2004 CLRP and the FY 2005-2010 TIP. Staff assisted the District of Columbia Department of Transportation staff in analyzing a number of CMAQ projects. Staff continued their investigation on the feasibility of using VIN decoder to develop vehicle registration data for Mobile 6 input. Staff presented the findings at the April TPB Technical Committee meeting.

The Travel Management Subcommittee met on April 27, 2004. The subcommittee was briefed on the 8-hour ozone standard released by the EPA and the implications to conformity analysis in the region. The subcommittee discussed the status of the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 air quality conformity assessment. Staff provided an update on the TERMS under consideration for the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP. Finally the subcommittee was briefed on the vehicle registration data research task. The date for the next Travel Management Subcommittee meeting is May 25, 2004 at 9:00 AM.

In April COG/DEP staff worked closely with Department of Transportation Planning staff to prepare the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory for 2002, the documentation for the mobile inventory, and also worked on changing the DTP format for mobile emissions to EPA's required NIF3.0 format for emissions inventory submittals.

COG/DEP staff held a quarterly meeting with Commuter Connections to coordinate marketing schedules and activities. Staff prepared and delivered presentations about changes to the 2004 air quality forecasting procedures to Commuter Connections and the Travel Management Committee. Staff prepared and presented information about EPA's 8-hour ozone standard and guidance to the TPB Technical Committee and other committees. Staff attended the TPB meeting and various committee meetings during the month and responded to questions about the 8-hour ozone standard, and implications of court rulings on the air quality plan (Sierra Club v. EPA).

C. Regional Studies

Staff completed the coding of the CLRP+ Scenario transit network and reviewed this network with the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff performed an accessibility analysis of the CLRP and CLRP+ transit and highway networks and presented this analysis to the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff performed some initial travel demand modeling of the CLRP+ Scenario and presented the results of this analysis to the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff continued to work with DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA and local jurisdiction staff to develop and refine that transit and highway facility assumptions for all alternative land use scenarios.

Staff continued to make upgrades to the Version 2 travel demand forecasting model to enhance the modeling of transit and HOV/HOT facilities in Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study transportation scenarios.

Assumptions made in the “CLRP+” transit networks depicting peak and off-peak services were reviewed with the Joint Technical Working Group at its meeting on April 16th. More detailed statistics describing transit route miles, route minutes, number of vehicles used, and average speeds are to be developed for presentation at a later date. Also reviewed were the initial results of testing the CLRP+ scenario with the draft Version 2.1 D travel demand model, as well as initial results of transit and highway accessibility analyses for this scenario.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff reviewed some accessibility data prepared for the ICC Land Use Expert Panel and wrote a technical memorandum on the assumptions and procedures used to develop this data.

Staff briefed the Planning Directors’ Technical Advisory Committee on the status of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel Study and the results of the panel’s work through the end of March. Staff informed the Planning Directors that updated TAZ-level land activity forecasts would be needed for two alternative ICC alignments if the TPB voted to include the ICC in the list project submissions for this year’s CLRP/TIP air quality conformity analysis. Staff suggested the Planning Directors may want to review the work of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel in preparing these updated land activity forecasts for the two alternative ICC alignments.

Staff worked with local jurisdiction planning staff to prepare the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasting TAZ-level data file.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

Work has begun on the development of highway and transit networks to be employed in the air quality conformity analysis of the FY2005-2010 TIP and the 2004 CLRP.

B. GIS Technical Support

Staff continued to monitor the performance of ArcGIS and Oracle 9i databases and installed all needed security patches and application program updates.

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 the redesign of the comprehensive GIS data model to take advantage of new ArcGIS features and more efficiently manage COG/TPB GIS databases by using ArcGIS geodatabase layers as the main source for users' GIS data.

Staff continued to migrate remaining ArcInfo workstation data from the legacy Unix server to the Windows 2000 GIS server.

Staff began development of a roll-out plan to assist GIS users in the migration of all GIS data to the Windows 2000 GIS Server.

Staff continued installation of Hummingbird and ArcGIS 8.3 software on individual workstations in response to user requests.

Staff completed modification of GIS application programs to enable additional highway link splits for base year and intermediate year networks in the GIS Master Network database.

Staff continued to provide technical assistance and instruction to the network development team in preparation for the update of the GIS Master Network database as part of this year's CLRP/TIP Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

C. Models Development

During April, staff continued refining the draft 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 24th. Additional changes to the model are in preparation and will be reviewed with the TFS at its meeting on May 21st.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on the revision of Version 2 travel demand model flowcharts, making adjustments in the creation of appropriate 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. 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, continued the investigation of current direct access device technology which may be applicable as a microcomputer hard drive back-up system to replace the tape back-up system currently in use. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's and portable hard drives with the addition of snap drives. Currently, a portable hard drive is in use and continues under evaluation.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Travel time runs for the 2004 Regional HOV Facilities Monitoring project were completed, and count field work got underway.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Data analyses are under way and the project is on schedule with a draft report to become available for internal review by the third week of May 2004. The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee did not meet during the month of April 2004. The review responsibilities of the subcommittee have been assigned to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee starting in fiscal year 2005.

Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff completed the preparation of the 2003 household travel survey data for geocoding and temporary staff began the geocoding of this survey data.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued the review of CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by TAZ.

Staff prepared a presentation that analyzed the CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by commuting mode and presented this analysis to the TPB Technical Committee.

Staff prepared an analysis comparing the CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by jurisdiction to Cooperative Forecasting base year employment estimates for the year 2000. This analysis recommended that technical adjustment factors be applied to Cooperative forecasting base and forecast year employment data for several jurisdictions in the TPB expanded cordon modeled area so that a consistent definition of employment was used in the travel demand modeling process.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff continued assembly of new traffic count data for Virginia and review of Census data to be included in the update of Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

Staff attended and participated in DDOT's monthly HPMS meeting.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff began reviewing the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center's final draft report on the D.C. Motor Carrier Management and Threat Assessment Study.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities.

Machine Traffic Counts

Three proposals were received in response to the RFP. A selection committee comprised of COG and DDOT staff met and selected "The Traffic Group" to conduct the counts. The contract was negotiated and finalized.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

Processing of transit count data was underway.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2004 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff continued work to provide data and summary files in electronic format from corridor locations in Montgomery County, Maryland, surveyed in the Arterial Highway System Performance Monitoring Project to the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Staff completed work to provide all input data required to execute the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model Version 2.1D (DRAFT # 16) for three time periods for the simulation years 1994, 2000, and 2030 to the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Staff began work to provide the current draft version of the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model and selected highway networks to a consultant for the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Staff began work to provide highway network loaded links files from the COG/TPB Travel Forecasting Model to a consultant for the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Staff provided 1994 Household Travel Survey data and documentation to the Maryland Transportation Initiative, A. James Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland. Work continues to provide skim files and HOV trip tables.

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. Staff also performed work on the ICC project, as described below.

Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff began work on corridor validation with consultants and MD State Highway Administration. The study team is in the process of defining managed lane scenarios assumptions to be modeled by staff using the latest modeling methods consistent with the ICC Study.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff completed travel demand modeling work for the I-270 Managed Lanes Analysis using the modeling methods employed in the ICC Study. Staff has transmitted the results to consultants working on the study.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued development and analysis of travel forecasts for 2010 and 2030 build alternatives. Staff forwarded model output computer files and summary data to SHA's consultants for their work in postprocessing (peak hour volumes and levels of service analysis) the forecast year alternatives. Staff worked closely with SHA's consultants in executing the technical work activities; this included a work session in April in the COG offices to review latest alternatives results and to discuss next steps. These work activities were funded under the Maryland Technical Support project, listed above.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

At the request of Mr. Pierce Homer, staff began work on a sketch level assessment of traffic issues for the Fluor Daniel I-495 HOT lane proposal. This work is to be completed by the middle of May.

Miscellaneous Services

No activities to report.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Processing of all data was completed and transmitted to VDOT in February. This project has been completed.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

At the request of VDOT, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program, with monies carried forward into FY2005, effective with the TPB action taken on March 17th.

D. WMATA

Program Development

Staff processed a data request from WMATA.

Miscellaneous Services

At the request of WMATA, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program to make available funds for other projects. The package of changes to the work program was approved at the TPB meeting on March 17th.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

At the request of WMATA, this project was deleted from the FY2004 work program to make available funds for other projects. The package of changes to the work program was approved at the TPB meeting on March 17th.

Regional Transportation Financing Plan

This project has been deleted at the request of WMATA to provide funding for a study of near term regional transportation funding needs and availability and project/program priorities. By action of the TPB Program Committee on October 3, 2003 (resolution TPB PR8-2003), \$150,000 was transferred to I.E Financial Plan to conduct the study at a level of \$201,000 (previously programmed in the FY2004 UPWP at \$51,000). The remaining balance of \$20,000 in this WMATA account was transferred to WMATA Miscellaneous Services, increasing its budget from \$8,125 to \$28,125.

Parking Usage at Metrorail Stations

A request for proposal to count vehicular traffic entering and exiting paid metrorail parking lots was issued in April. A pre-proposal meeting was held to answer questions and three consultants attended the briefing. WMATA staff assisted COG staff in preparing additional clarifying materials regarding the parking facilities. Proposals are due the first week of May, 2004.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

Staff continued to revise the draft report documenting procedures used to develop forecasts of local originating air passenger trips from each Aviation Analysis Zone to each of the three major commercial airports in the Baltimore/Washington region to include the updated forecasts for Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued the data processing phase of this project. This included geocoding of the trip origin addresses to transportation analysis zones and assigning resident-non-resident status codes to the trip records.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

Staff continued to review the preliminary study results, including conducting additional travel time runs for study routes with missing or inconsistent travel data. Staff also analyzed the travel data and produced summary data tables. Finally, staff began collecting transit data from published transit provider information for use in calculating transit times for the study routes.

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

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The Program Oversight committee met on April 22, 2004. Contracts with Schwan's Food Service, and United Parcel Service were finalized and signed by all parties. The committee discussed refueling station infrastructure and potential technologies for continuation of the program. The next meeting of the oversight committee has been scheduled for June 24, 2004. Staff attended a diesel vehicle retrofit workshop held in Baltimore on April 29, 2004.

