
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2006 UPWP.

The outline and budget for the FY 2007 UPWP was 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 January 18 meeting, the Board amended the FY 2005-2010 TIP as requested by VDOT to include the next phase of the Idea-66 Study for I-66 in Arlington and Fairfax Counties.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

Staff began working with consultants on developing a plan website that integrates all the information about the plan in one place. The content for the website will be the pamphlet on the 2005 CLRP "What's in the Plan for 2030?" and will reflect the on-going amendment process in an easy to understand format. The plan website will address CAC recommendation for better plan information and analysis. A draft website developed by the consultants will be reviewed by staff in February.

Staff finalized the "Call for Projects" for the 2006 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

D. Management Operations & Intelligent Systems (MOITS) Planning

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 January, 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 meeting on January 17 and conference calls on January 12 and 26 on these issues. TPB staff worked with Volpe staff to support Ad Hoc committee discussions, this month covering development of a work breakdown structure for the program. Staff also developed for Steering Committee review a proposed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to contract for a Program Implement Manager for the regional coordination program. The RFQ was to be issued in the near future.

Activities undertaken in January by the Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces were focused as the Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) #1 – Transportation Committee for Homeland Security purposes, prior to the planned formation soon of a separate RESF #1 committee under new Task I.L. below. Following Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements, concept papers and initiative plans were developed for the region as proposals for FY2006 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding. RESF 1 participants and staff participated in a series of meetings on January 9, 10, 11, and 31 to address target capabilities identified by the Department of Homeland Security and the region's senior administrative leadership. MOITS also held a meeting on January 17 and conference calls on January 4, 19, and 25 to address transportation-sector input to the overall process. Staff worked with member agencies to help prepare FY2006 UASI materials in advance of a February 3, 2006 regional deadline.

During January 2006, staff also attended and participated in the following events related to MOITS planning:

- The Fifth Annual National Capital Region Incident Management and Homeland Security Conference, Washington, D.C., January 5-6.
- The Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January 22-25. Staff presented on January 22 at a session on “Data for Regional Transportation Operations”, and participated in the TRB Regional Systems Management and Operations Committee and subcommittees.
- The Baltimore Regional Traffic Signals Subcommittee, Hanover, Maryland, January 30. Results of the December 14, 2005 regional traffic signals forum were discussed, and plans begun for the next forum to be held in late 2006 or early 2007.

E. Financial Plan

Work continued on the financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP. On January 28, the working group for the analysis met to review the analysis and outline for the final report. A status report on the analysis will be given to the Technical Committee on February 3. The draft revenue and expenditure forecasts are scheduled to be presented to the Technical Committee and TPB in March.

In response to TPB interest in updating its "Time to Act" brochure, which was widely distributed in February 2004 to raise awareness about near term transportation funding needs, CSI prepared 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 prepared a scope of work for developing this report. The only feasible means to complete the new report in the short-time frame is to utilize CSI, which is in the final stages of completing the analysis for the CLRP. Based upon this justification, the CSI contract was modified to prepare the new report on the progress made.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No staff activities during this reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

The Street Smart Steering Committee met with the consultants, Design House, on January 6 and again on January 26. At the January 6 meeting the group set a schedule, discussed public relations for the campaign, and reviewed the initial creative concepts. At the January 26 meeting the group reviewed the revised creative work.

TPB staff briefed the Transportation Planning Board on the results of the 2005 Street Smart Campaign and proposed activities for 2006. Staff also briefed the COG Police Chiefs Committee on the 2006 campaign and discussed ways in which law enforcement could support the campaign.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee met on January 17 and reviewed the most recent draft of the bicycle and pedestrian plan and heard a presentation on WMATA guidelines for station site and access planning. A schedule was set for completing project submissions for the bicycle and pedestrian plan.

TPB staff met with COG Board of Director's Chair Jay Fiset on January 31 to discuss possible new regional pedestrian and bicycle initiatives.

H. Human Service Transportation Coordination Planning

Staff began working on organizing a human service transportation coordination kick off meeting to be held in March or April.

I. Public Participation

Because the 2006 Citizens Advisory Committee has not yet been appointed, last year's committee convened on January 12. In addition to discussing pedestrian/bicycle coordination issues at WMATA, the meeting focused on end-of-year business. In addition to approving its annual end-of-year report, the CAC approved a set of recommendations on information and analysis improvements in the CLRP and TIP. The recommendations were presented to the TPB at its meeting on January 18.

TPB staff continued to work with two contractors—the Academy for Leadership Foundation and Fitzgerald & Halliday—on efforts to improve public involvement activities for the 2006 Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP). The immediate activities include a Community Leadership Institute on transportation issues, website improvements and other improvements in accessibility to long-range plan information.

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

Access for All Advisory Committee

Staff prepared for an Access for All Committee meeting on January 26. The subcommittee report on transportation for low-income populations was finalized and a presentation prepared for the meeting. A list of proposed focus areas for the AFA in 2006 was created and distributed.

J. Annual Report

There was no activity on the annual report in January.

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:

- The DTP Director participated in an all-day meeting of the advisory Committee of the Strategic Highway Research Program (II).
- The DTP Director participated in a panel discussion of federal guidance on financial restraint for MPO plans at the annual TRB meeting.
- The DTP Director participated as a guest speaker in a meeting at TRB of the advisory panel for the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP).

L. Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning

Staff continued 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, in preparation for initiating this task and 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 continued 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 PM2.5 directly emitted particles and precursor emissions, staff completed report production and distribution. The final report, including unabridged appendices, is located on the COG website.

Staff began preparation of the draft scope of work for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2006 CLRP and the FY2007-2012 TIP. Consideration of steps necessary to assess emissions related to ozone precursors, direct PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursors, and wintertime CO was given.

Staff updated the E-TIP to reflect the “project ID” variable in preparation for receiving inputs to the upcoming conformity analysis. The “project ID” variable links the E-TIP with the GIS highway network database and the conformity project input table.

COG Transportation staff held a coordination meeting with DDOT staff and their consultants to discuss improvement projects on the South Capitol Street bridge and the 11th Street bridge. COG staff provided study area color-coded highway network plots identifying facility type and number of lanes in the current CLRP.

COG/DEP staff coordinated a call with the state air agencies to discuss priorities for modeling SIP mobile emissions inventories. The call was held on January 17 and discussed comparison runs of monthly versus seasonal approaches to creating an annual inventory. Staff revised a memo regarding priority inventories needed for SIP analysis by March 2006. Staff coordinated with the states to get MOBILE6 inputs for ozone season runs and began preparing MOBILE6 inputs for the runs. Staff briefed TPB Technical Committee and TPB regarding EPA's Phase 2 Implementation Guidance for the 8-hour ozone SIP and its impact on transportation planning.

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 January 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's Executive Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee, and in two conference calls of its Emissions Inventory Work Group.

Staff continued work to analyze 8-hour ozone and PM_{2.5} pollutants and emissions characteristics, develop Mobile6 inputs / outputs and software interface, 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, work activities to prepare the 2002 base year emissions inventories of ozone precursors, and comparisons of yearly total emissions inventories of PM_{2.5} and precursor NO_x developed through a monthly versus a seasonal emissions factor approach.

In January staff worked with vehicle registration data from DC, MD & VA to develop diesel sales fractions for the sixteen Mobile 6 vehicle types, excluding motor cycle and HDDV8B which are exclusively gasoline and diesel vehicles respectively. Review of the data revealed that there were no diesel vehicles for a number of years in the light duty truck category. Staff is currently investigating this situation and will have a recommendation in early February.

C. Regional Studies

Staff developed a draft presentation summarizing the results to-date of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study and reviewed this presentation with the Joint Technical Working Group.

Staff held a work session with the TPB on January 18 to present and discuss the results to-date for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, including how the five land use and transportation scenarios studied for 2030 would impact future travel conditions. Staff also discussed how the study results have been used so far, proposed additional scenarios and how the lessons learned might be applied in a real world environment.

Staff continued work on the development and coding of a variably-priced lanes (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.

Staff worked with the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee and the Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee on the development and review of a proposed Round 7.1 update of COG's Cooperative Forecasts of future population, household and employment growth.

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 of 1995, 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 January, data processing to create transit line files for WMATA and most jurisdiction services has been completed. Remaining effort is with outer jurisdictions, particularly Calvert, Frederick, and Charles Counties. Also, processing remains for MARC, VRE, MTA, and Lee Coaches and National Coach commuter bus services.

Staff completed highway and transit network file development for a 2008 forecast year. Starting with the recently completed 2009 network, staff produced all peak and off-peak highway and transit inputs files for the Version 2.1 D #50 travel model. Review of travel demand components is underway, and travel demand forecasting results for this and the 2008 run are expected in February.

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.

A GIS Committee meeting was held on January 26th to discuss plans for the development of a Regional GIS “Data Exchange Hub” and a proposal to obtain UASI funding for development of a consistent Regional GIS base map to be used for emergency preparedness and emergency management purposes.

Staff continued to work with the GIS Executive Committee to plan future GIS Committee meeting and work activities.

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 is developing an ArcGIS process for computing zonal walk shed areas needed to support this model development.

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. The consultant has received comments from staff and

has made some adjustments to the model to include the 'other' employment category in the trip generation step.

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 has been completed. This information will be employed in the Models Development work program in updating medium and heavy truck models.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Based on the comments received at the January TPB Technical Committee meeting staff continued their analysis of the 2005 aerial survey data. The refined analysis would develop a list of significant changes to freeway operations since 2002 and also identify the worst performing segments in the system. The consultant completed additional aerial surveys of the Capital Beltway and analyzed the impact of the additional lane on the exit ramp from the beltway to westbound Dulles Toll Road. The power point presentation from the January meeting will be revised and presented at the February Technical Committee and TPB meetings.

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

Staff began recruitment for a Survey Analyst to work on household travel survey work activities.

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.

Staff began work on updating traffic volume data for Virginia highway network links in the Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff met with DDOT representatives on January 11, 2006 to discuss a request for select link analysis. Following a notice to proceed with a test run, staff executed the test select link run, summarized results and reported findings / implications for internal staff discussion.

Machine Traffic Counts

Staff met with DDOT staff to review the street locations at which traffic volume is to be counted during Spring 2006 as part of the DDOT HPMS program. Staff performed data analysis on the 2005 HPMS counts for DDOT.

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.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff provided data from Rounds 5.2, 6.3 and 6.4a of the COG Cooperative Forecasting process to consultants on the ICC project for the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Staff commenced work to provide data to the Montgomery Department of Park and Planning, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. These data include: (1) inputs and all other necessary files for the execution of the 2005 CLRP/FY 2006-2011 TIP Air Quality Conformity regional modeling process approved October 19, 2005, by the Transportation Planning Board using the COG/TPB Travel Demand Model Version 2.1D #50 and (2) forecasts of population, households and employment from Round 7.0 of the COG Cooperative Forecasting process.

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 (except for the portion of the beltway referenced below under Project Planning Support).

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff attended a travel demand modeling meeting at MTA, Baltimore. Staff worked closely with MTA and SHA consultants during the month of January on making sure that COG/TPB Version 2.1D, #50 is correctly applied by both agencies. MTA consultants were advised that COG/TPB staff were comfortable with the approach of MD SHA consultants. Follow up meeting has been scheduled for February 8 at COG.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff received and began to review the FEIS document.

Bi-County Transitway Study

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

Capital Beltway/ Western Mobility Study

During the month of January, COG/TPB staff worked with MD SHA staff and their consultants on next steps for the study. Network and input preparation for the 2000 validation were completed using the latest set of conformity runs. The schedule for this project, sponsored by both Virginia and Maryland governors, is still under review.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in January.

Miscellaneous Services

COG/TPB staff coordinated with VDOT staff to answer questions about toll revenue estimation methods.

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. Checking of travel time data is nearing completion, and all data now will be transmitted to VDOT in February.

I-66 Feasibility Study Supplemental Data Collection

There was no activity to report in January.

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program

Staff continued processing of detailed transit passenger counts collected by WMATA, PRTC, VRE, and 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

Staff finalized the Demand Responsive study report and prepared it to be distributed to the Technical Committee in early February.

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 presented the draft report and summary of findings for the 2005 Air Passenger Survey to the Aviation Technical Subcommittee for their review and comments. Staff also completed the geocoding of survey trip origin data to transportation analysis zones.

b. Ground Access Element Update

Staff continued to review and document 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. Staff continued to review and document current travel times to the airports using the results of the 2003 Ground Access Travel Time Study Update for major ground access facilities. Staff also began identifying all route segments functioning at Level of Service E or F as inadequate ground access.

In addition, staff met with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority staff to discuss ground access-related studies for Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports. Staff also transmitted a copy of the detailed work plan and schedule to Maryland Aviation Administration for their review and comments as well as requested information on any ground access-related studies underway at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport that could be used to assist in this plan update.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** met Thursday, January 26th. Agenda items included:

- Update on CONAANDA Activities
- Presentation of draft report and summary of findings for the 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey
- Update on recent work to update the Ground Access Element
- Roundtable Discussion on Regional Airport, Airline and Aviation Industry News

Consultant Support

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

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis and

Near Term Funding Needs Report - \$140,000 – ongoing

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

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