
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). At the February 4 meeting, the Steering Committee approved an amendment to the program to modify the tasks and budgets for three work activities. Staff also consulted with VDOT and WMATA staff to identify work activities and budgets in the technical assistance programs to be carried over into the FY 2006 UPWP.

The draft FY 2006 UPWP document was presented to the Technical Committee and TPB for review in February. The final version will be presented to the TPB for approval at the March 16 meeting.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the February 4 meeting, the Steering Committee approved amendments to the FY 2004-2009 and the FY 2005-2010 TIPs to change or modify funding for several projects as requested by VDOT.

At the February 4 meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed the project submissions for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP. Staff reviewed and summarized the submissions, which were released for public comment and agency review at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on February 10. The public comment period will end on March 12. At the February 16 meeting, the Board was briefed on the submissions. The Board will be asked to approve the projects for inclusion in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP at its March 16 meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the February 4 meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed the project submissions for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP. Staff reviewed and summarized the submissions, which were released for public comment and agency review at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on February 10. The public comment period will end on March 12. At the February 16 meeting, the Board was briefed on the submissions. The Board will be asked to approve the projects for inclusion in the air

quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and the FY 2006-2011 TIP at its March 16 meeting.

During the month of February, the report “Travel Characteristics and Accessibility Impacts of the 2004 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan on Minority, Low-Income and Disabled Populations” was produced. This report describes the travel behavior of transportation disadvantaged groups based on the 2000 Census and describes the accessibility analysis of the 2004 CLRP and potential impacts of the plan on low-income, minority and disabled populations. The report and a PowerPoint presentation were prepared for distribution to the March Technical Committee meeting.

Staff developed a user-friendly pamphlet on the proposed 2005 CLRP with a description of the new projects, maps of all the projects to be included in the CLRP, forecast performance measures for the 2004 CLRP, and information on how the public can comment on the proposed plan and the schedule for adoption.

Staff reviewed the proposed CLRP 2005 project submissions in relation to the TPB priority areas identified in the solicitation document. Maps of the regional activity centers and the proposed 2005 CLRP highway, high-occupancy vehicle and transit projects were created. A memo with the 2005 priority areas, a description of the proposed new projects and the maps was prepared for the March Technical Committee meeting.

D. Operations, Coordination/Emergency Preparedness

Management and operations activities

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces held a joint meeting on February 8, 2005.

The Task Forces were briefed on, and staff continued work on, coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation and its contractor PBS&J Inc. on “511” traveler information issues, including the topics of the startup of the Virginia statewide 511 service on February 15, incorporation of transit information in a potential regional 511, and automation in 511 systems.

The Task Forces also were briefed on the status of regional ITS architecture development. Subsequent to the meeting, staff posted February 14-18 a number of the major components of the draft regional ITS architecture on COG’s Web site for the review and comment of stakeholders. These components included drafts of operational concepts, functional requirements, and interface requirements for transportation activities involving ITS. Five separate packages showing interface requirements were developed

and posted to facilitate stakeholder comment: a regionwide package, individual specialized packages for the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, and a transit package. Staff participated on a conference call with VDOT staff and contractors on the Virginia package; other similar discussions were planned for other stakeholders. Staff work continued on these and other major components of the architecture.

The regional 511 Steering Committee held a conference call on February 17, continuing the discussion from January reviewing and commenting on the consultant's draft implementation plan as part of the 511 feasibility study. Staff and the VDOT contractor also provided a briefing during a conference call on February 24 of the ad hoc Steering Committee for Regional Transportation Coordination.

Staff attended an Institute of Transportation Engineers special conference on transportation management and operations February 28-March 2, 2005, in Las Vegas, Nevada, exchanging information on efforts nationwide to better incorporate operations considerations into transportation planning processes, as well as to better coordinate operations in regions.

Emergency Transportation Coordination Planning Activities

Staff continued work, begun in FY2004, to support stakeholder discussion of options for strengthening regional emergency communications and coordination in the transportation sector. These follow the recommendations of the revised Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM.

Staff coordinated with staffs of the University of Maryland, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, the National Capital Planning Commission, and WMATA on supporting presentation of brief "Concept Papers" that those agencies submitted for consideration for FY2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security funding. The MOITS Policy and Technical Chairpersons and staff participated in a February 3-4 meeting of all 15 Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) chairs (transportation, fire, law enforcement, health, emergency management, and other functional areas) to make recommendations on whether projects should move forward for funding. Three transportation projects were submitted and moved forward at the February 3-4 meeting: initiation of a "CapCom" regional transportation incident coordination program, a study of alternatives to freight rail carrying hazardous materials in the monumental core of the region, and fiber optics installation for a key Metrorail operations backup component.

The February 8 MOITS Task Forces joint meeting discussed the proposed CapCom work plan and schedule, and reviewed what was to be briefed to the TPB on February 16 on the program. Staff assisted in preparation of briefing materials for the Board.

The ad hoc Steering Committee for the coordination strengthening effort, also known as the CapCom Steering Committee, held a conference call on February 24 to discuss CapCom funding and governance proposals. The Steering Committee also considered issues from the briefing on the regional 511 study, and provided guidance on upcoming presentations on the CapCom proposal for UASI funding.

E. Financial Plan

In preparation for developing the new financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP, staff developed an RFP to obtain consultant assistance to conduct this analysis in FY 2006. The RFP will be presented to the Technical Committee in March or April.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

Staff began planning for the 16th Annual Public Transit Forum, which is scheduled for May 24.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Evaluated Street Smart Consultant bids, attended finalist interviews, attended selection committee meeting.
- Prepared a powerpoint on pedestrian safety in the Washington Region and presented it to the Technical Committee.
- Presented a briefing on the Street Smart pedestrian safety education program to the TPB at its February 16 meeting.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks in February 2005:

- Staff reviewed previous editions of the Area-Wide Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Plan to determine resources needed for completion and to develop a work schedule to complete the report by Summer 2005.

I. Public Participation

The CAC held its regular monthly meeting on February 10. Because the 2005 committee has not yet been appointed, the 2004 members convened for this meeting. The committee discussed the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and public outreach meetings for this year.

The TPB, at its meeting on February 16, made final appointments to the CAC for 2005.

The public comment period began on February 10 for the 2005 CLRP, the FY2006-2011 TIP, the FY2006 UPWP, and the scope of work for this year's air quality conformity assessment. Information on these items was posted on the TPB website and in the TPB News.

Staff wrote and distributed the "TPB News" newsletter.

Access for All Advisory Committee

During the month of February, staff updated the AFA committee website, including the committee meeting calendar. A meeting summary of the January 27 AFA meeting was drafted and a follow-up e-mail to the committee sent.

Staff developed a brief study scope for a study improving regional paratransit services for the FY 2005 Unified Planning Work Program in conjunction with WMATA staff. The study will be conducted in two phases, over two fiscal years. The AFA has been advocating for this study and will be overseeing the project. Background information was gathered for this study, including a Portland area paratransit study, research on coordination of specialized transportation services and a review of MetroAccess-related reports from WMATA.

A subcommittee of the AFA was formed to look at more specific transportation needs of low-income populations in the Washington region. Staff organized the first subcommittee meeting and prepared a packet of background materials on the locations of low-income populations, travel choices and current services available from the 2000 Census data and the COG Job Access Reverse Commute plan.

Background information was gathered on the San Diego, CA web based clearinghouse of specialized transportation services, STRIDE.

J. Annual Report

Staff drafted the text for the 2004 annual report.

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 a meeting with senior FHWA and DOT/OST staff to discuss USDOT interest in the TPB's Value Pricing Task Force, and in the possibility of TPB submitting a grant application to DOT under the Value Pricing Documentation Program.
- The DTP Director participated in meetings at WMATA on scoping out a study of WMATA's paratransit services, and on efforts to advance the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on establishing a dedicated funding source for WMATA.

TPB Value Pricing Task Force

No activity during the reporting period.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Regarding project submissions for the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP, staff reviewed highway and transit inputs from the implementing agencies, and completed the draft conformity project table, including identifying, with shading, all changes from last year. Staff developed a list of significant change projects, and coordinated with local jurisdictions and state DOTs to provide complete description sheets for each project. The draft conformity table and the list of significant changes were completed in time for the February 10th beginning of the public comment period.

Staff prepared a draft scope of work for the air quality conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP and presented it to TPB Technical Committee at its February meeting. Following discussion, staff updated the scope and, after release for a 30 public comment period, presented it to the TPB at its February meeting.

Staff responded to a request by VDOT to gather information relating to a TERM that was submitted for the FY1995 TIP.

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 February 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. Staff participated in meetings of MWAQC, its Executive Committee, its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and a Work Group convened to review Mobile model inputs. Staff began work to analyze PM_{2.5} pollutants, emissions characteristics, and Mobile6 inputs / outputs, and began preliminary work to prepare emissions factors for the upcoming conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP.

Staff had preliminary discussions with the VIN decoder software developer regarding price and pilot test cost. VIN numbers for vehicles registered in Virginia were obtained and preliminary analyses were completed to develop sample sizes for pilot testing. Staff obtained permanent count station data from Maryland and Virginia and developed ratio's to convert average daily traffic (ADT) to average weekday daily traffic (AAWDT). Similarly, ratios between summer average weekday daily traffic and winter average weekday daily traffic were developed. These ratios are consistent with the current ratios used in emissions analysis. Staff estimated the emissions impact of the District government not funding and partially funding already implemented TERMS in response to a request from Commuter Connections staff.

COG/DEP staff prepared a table of changes to MOBILE6.2 inputs, listing those to be implemented for the conformity analysis and those to be implemented for the 8-hour SIP inventory. Staff tested the effect of different humidity and temperature inputs for the MOBILE6.2 modeling. Staff held a MOBILE6 Work Group meeting to discuss the sensitivity runs and consider different methodologies for changing those two inputs to the MOBILE model. Staff attended TPB Technical Committee meetings and the TPB meeting in February.

C. Regional Studies

Staff completed the coding of the Transit-Oriented Development transportation scenario and began the travel demand modeling for this scenario.

Staff calculated values for several of the land use "Measures of Effectiveness" for the Transit-Oriented Development scenario in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility study and presented this information to the members of the Joint Technical Working group at their February 11th meeting.

Staff continued discussion of issues related to developing a transportation scenario that analyzed additional Potomac River crossings at the February 11th Joint Technical Working Group meeting. The consensus reached at this meeting was that because of adopted policy positions by Montgomery County and MDDOT, the development of a transportation scenario that looked additional Potomac River bridge crossings was not an issue that could be resolved by the Joint Technical Working Group. Further policy direction from the TPB would be required if such a transportation scenario were to be developed and analyzed in the Regional Mobility and Accessibility study.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff reviewed Round 7 Cooperative Forecasts submitted by the members of the Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee with the Planning Directors' Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) at their February 11th meeting. The PDTAC recommended approval of the Round 7 forecasts by majority vote and with the District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP) dissenting. DCOP questioned the reasonableness of jobs-household balance in the 2020 to 2030 forecast period and stated its belief that approval of the forecasts should not go forward until this issue was further addressed.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

A. Network Development

During February, network maintenance activities continued with the update of transit line files with current information depicting transit service during the fall and winter of 2004. Highway network maintenance continued with coordination with GIS staff to update the GIS-based highway database.

B. GIS Technical Support

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

Staff continued testing of the Oracle 10g Server and Client software.

Staff continued testing the ArcGIS 9 service pack 2.

Staff replaced a failing RAID controller on the GIS database server.

Staff coordinated plans for an organization-wide network upgrade with IT staff.

Staff continued refinement of the roll-out plan to assist GIS users in the migration of all GIS data to the Windows 2000 GIS Server.

Staff continued to provide technical assistance to the model development team in the comparison and mapping of DDOT, MD SHA and DDOT traffic count data with Version 2.1D model validation runs.

Staff continued to provide technical assistance to network development team in the coding of the Transit-Oriented Development scenario for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.

Staff continued update of the Regional Street Centerline GIS layer.

C. Models Development

Staff continued reviewing coded ground counts in the base year (2000) highway network to identify counts that may in fact be of questionable quality. Some of these counts have been shown to be uncounted manual estimates, not observed data. Cleaning up these counts is important in developing performance statistics for the TPB travel demand models. Staff is also evaluating time of day speed / volume data that has recently become available, to be used in checking the post processor.

Staff has begun work on the development of a nested logit mode choice model, identifying issues and needs for review by Jeff Bruggeman of AECOM, retained to advise on the development of this model.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on the updating of Version 2 travel demand model flowcharts to reflect the current operation and updates of the COG/TPB Version 2.1D # 50 Travel Demand Model. 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, continues the investigation of current direct access device technology. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's. As new microcomputers are acquired they are being equipped with dual drives enabling the reading of DVD and CD's, and the writing of CD-R/RW's and DVD+/-RW's. The capability to write DVD's is also being incorporated in selected microcomputers currently in service which do not now have that capability. Staff also continues to evaluate portable hard drives as potential back-up devices, with one currently in service in that capacity. Exploration of server-based system-wide backup procedures is also underway.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

Staff continued processing data collected last Spring for the regional HOV monitoring project, in preparation for a report documenting the results of this effort.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff has completed arterial travel time/speed data collection as part of the FY 2005 arterial travel time project on selected arterial highways in the region. The data are being analyzed and make-up runs will be scheduled if a minimum of three travel time/speed runs are not completed in any one hour. A contract to conduct an aerial survey of the region's freeway system was negotiated with SKYCOMP and has been sent to the consultant for review. Data collection is expected to begin in the first week of April.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

No staff activities to report.

2. 2000 Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff continued to tabulate and analyze the CTPP Part 3 worker flow data by jurisdiction of residence and jurisdiction of work.

Staff continued to respond to questions on the Census Journey to Work data from the 2000 Census.

Staff continued to coordinate with the FHWA and the Census Bureau on setting up a special training workshop on the CTPP for TPB and participating agency staff in March.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

Staff presented an analysis of regional commuting patterns by mode of travel to the TPB Technical Committee.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

No staff activities to report.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

Staff attended and participated in DDOT HPMS meetings.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff completed the emissions benefit analysis for a shared car project in the District of Columbia, for the District Department of Transportation.

Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities to report.

Machine Traffic Counts

Staff finalized the count locations and prepared a request for proposal which was released to consultants. The due date for proposals is March 14th, 2005.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff coordinated with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2005 work program activities and proposed activities for the FY2006 UPWP. This included a meeting in the COG offices with SHA staff to discuss the select link project work requested and being performed for the ICC, I-270 and Capital Beltway projects referenced below.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff provided highway and transit networks and other files to run the COG/TPB Travel Demand Forecasting Model Version 2.1D #50 for the 2004 CLRP/FY2005-2010 TIP Air Quality Conformity regional modeling process as approved on November 17, 2004, to a consultant to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Staff commenced work to provide a copy of the COG/TPB master highway network and associated files to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Staff executed select link analysis on 16 links as part of the I-270 Express Toll lane analysis. The products were equivalencies tables between TAZs and study districts and corresponding maps and graphics.

MD SHA / MTA Technical Support

Staff also 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

Staff met with MD SHA early in the month and discussed jurisdictional/area structure to be used in the select link analysis. The select analysis work for 2030 No Build and 2030 6+4 Low Toll options was completed and the results were transmitted to MD SHA.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

In response to a request from SHA, staff prepared TAZ and Study district equivalencies and corresponding map graphics, and executed select link analyses for 16 specified locations.

Staff attended a Project Team Meeting at MD SHA. At this time, it appears that the additional modeling work with revised mode choice model will be undertaken by consultants working for MD SHA and MTA.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff finished analyzing all the select link analysis outputs requested by MD SHA and delivered analysis outputs to the agency.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

Staff continued worked on a proposed revised monitoring program for Northern Virginia.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff met with representatives from VDOT, Fluor, and HNTB to discuss details relating to the proposed Virginia HOT lanes project. Staff reviewed interchange schematics and facility maps in preparation for coding the HOT lanes into the highway network database.

Staff also reviewed route maps identifying transit inputs in preparation for updating the current transit mode files for the conformity analysis.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

All of the count data has been furnished to VDOT as of the end of January. GPS travel time data will be transmitted to VDOT in March.

Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There was no activity to report in February.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Parking Usage at Metrorail Stations

No activity during the reporting period.

Transit Modeling Enhancements and Validation

No activity during the reporting period.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

Staff used the 2000 Air Passenger Survey Data to produce several summary tables for staff review at weekly team meetings. The following tables were

produced: annual weekday enplanements by airport and AAZ, annual weekday enplanements for residents and non-residents by airport and AAZ, and auto occupancy rates by airport.

Finally, staff produced a draft report summarizing air passenger statistics for the years 2000 through 2004.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

C. Conduct 2005 Regional Air Passenger Survey

1) Staff continued with the preliminary work required to conduct the Regional Air passenger Survey during the period March 6th through March 19th.

- The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** did not meet in February.

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee did not meet during the month of February 2005. A contract document for Montgomery County for the purchase of 6 compressed natural gas buses was executed. Staff is preparing a project document outlining all the activities since the commencement of the project in 1998. The next meeting of the oversight committee is scheduled for March 17, 2005.