Arterial Highway Congestion Monitoring Program

<u>Update since the last meeting</u>

Completed activities

- Staff tested a new hardware, the new "Garmin IQue M5" (integrated GPS and handheld computer) alongside an existing Garmin IV and are satisfied with the performance.

- Staff has initiated purchase of the tested hardware and delivery of the hardware is expected in two weeks.

- Staff has developed draft instructions for the volunteer drivers to use while collecting data.

- Staff has initiated streamlining the procedure to be used in analyzing the data and reporting on the levels of congestion on the arterial routes in the region.

- Staff continues to monitor other highway monitoring programs using modern technology around the country including the cellular telephone pilot program underway in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region.

Future activities

- Staff will test the feasibility of the new hardware system and user instructions using COG volunteer drivers during the last two weeks of June.

- Staff will make adjustments to the hardware, software, and instructions based on the test of COG employees and initiate a pilot using volunteer drivers from local governments at the beginning of the fiscal year.

- Staff will be developing the protocol and procedures to be used for selecting volunteer drivers.