

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from the November 4 Technical Committee Meeting**

The minutes were approved as received.

**2. Briefing on Results of the Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Conformity Assessment of the 2005 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and FY 2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Clifford spoke to the mailout item dated November 16, 2005, entitled "Briefing on the Fine Particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Conformity Analysis for the 2005 CLRP and FY 2006-2011 TIP". He noted that the mailout item was presented as an informational agenda item (Item 13) at the November 16, 2005 Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting and that the draft report is currently undergoing the 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Clifford then noted that after the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, TPB staff continued its technical review and identified (1) a number of minor updates to some of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> precursor emissions calculations (resulting in changes in the tenth of a ton per day range), and (2) the omission of school bus and transit bus emissions in the seasonal and annual totals in the direct PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions summary table and bar chart (resulting in changes in the several tons per year range). He then distributed a memorandum dated December 2, 2005, and entitled "PM<sub>2.5</sub> Air Quality Conformity Report: Errata". He noted that the memorandum included corrections to Exhibits 7, 8, and 9 of the draft report. With these corrections, mobile source emissions reductions are seen to provide somewhat greater benefits than previously reported.

The Committee then discussed the topic including: It appears that the updates do not have a large impact on the net result of the findings. (That is also TPB staff's interpretation of the updates. The updates are so minor that only the tables were updated; the text of the report did not need modifications. Given that no new information is being presented, TPB staff does not recommend extending the public comment period for updates such as this. TPB staff will transmit the errata memo to TAC and MWAQC for their review and the errata memo will also be added to the [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org) website).

**3. Review of Final Draft Call for Projects Document and Schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2006 CLRP and FY 2007-2012 TIP**

Ms. Klancher reviewed the Call for Projects and schedule for the air quality conformity assessment for the 2006 CLRP and FY2007-2012 TIP. The Call for Projects will be finalized by the TPB in December. Since the Committee reviewed the document in November, information on TPB priority areas was added at the request of the TPB. Mr. Austin reported on the status of the on-line project database which will be available in January. In the mean time, agencies can submit and update project information on the database application used last year. Mr. Sivasailam reported on the status of the TERM appendices. Ms. Locantore presented a pamphlet describing the performance of the 2005

Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan which was developed as context for future plan updates.

**4. Briefing on Proposal to Update the “Time to Act” Brochure Highlighting the Region’s Near Term Transportation Capital Funding Needs**

Mr. Kirby introduced the item by summarizing the comments made to Mr. Reno at the November 16 TPB meeting regarding the broad implications of the ongoing 2006 CLRP financial analysis. As with the 2003 CLRP and financial analysis, TPB members expressed concern that approving the new CLRP would give an incorrect impression that all of the needed transportation programs and projects are funded. There is a need to point out that in the near-term that there are projects that are not being funded and that additional funding is necessary as was done in 2004 with the TPB "Time to Act" brochure.

Mr. Kirby said that a more positive tone is needed than in past brochures and something other should be considered. He suggested a progress report to highlight the projects and programs that have been funded since 2004 and to describe new funding from SAFETEA-LU and the new state and local efforts to identify funding to respond to the Davis bill for WMATA capital needs. The report would identify state and local priority projects that are not funded in the next six years and point to potential funding solutions. He said that the report could be completed in March or April after the Virginia and Maryland legislative sessions.

Mr. Reno described how the results of 2003 financial analysis that CSI completed was used by the jurisdictions to prepare the lists of near term projects that needed funding for highlighting in the 2004 "Time to Act" brochure. He said that the current 2006 financial analysis can inform those lists and provide information to identify the needed projects for highlighting in this new report. He pointed out that construction costs have increased dramatically in the past three years and that the jurisdictions should review and update the near-term project cost estimates.

Mr. Srikanth said that doing a progress report rather than a brochure was a good idea and that focusing on solutions such as private sector funding initiatives was correct. He reported that the Northern Virginia plan called "Transaction 2030" is identifying project priorities beyond the CLRP and it is expected to be available by March.

Chairman Mokhtari said the focus on progress was right and suggested that the report discuss what happens if the needed projects are not funded.

Ms. Byala suggested that April may be tight and that it may be useful to explain the processes that the DOTs use to determine what projects are not included in the CLRP.

Mr. Srikanth suggested that it be reported to the TPB that the Committee supports the development of a progress report on recent accomplishments and solutions and the identification of near-term unfunded priority projects with updated costs.

Ms. Klancher informed the Committee that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had posted on its website proposed guidance for SAFETEA-LU planning and grant processes. Mr. Kirby distributed an email from FTA staff regarding a recent query by the Office of Inspector General of the USDOT in the financial planning of states and MPOs in preparing plans and TIPs. Ms. Burns commented that there had been issues about transit financial constraint raised in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as in this region. Mr. Kirby said that this is a significant concern of the federal agencies and that complete documentation of the MPO information is important.

**5. Review of Amendments to FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to Address Requirements in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**

Mr. Kirby gave the Committee the Power Point presentation on the proposed amendments that he presented to the TPB at its November 16 meeting. He commented upon the proposed project modifications and how they related to the new planning activities for metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) and increased MPO planning funding levels in SAFETEA-LU. He reviewed the draft document with budget changes and the amendments to the FY 2006 UPWP which show the additions in bold and the deletions in strike out. The Committee recommended that the Board approve this amended version of the FY 2006 UPWP at its December 21 meeting.

**6. Report on the Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Campaign**

Mr. Farrell briefed the Committee on an updated PowerPoint presentation for the TPB December meeting, concentrating on the cost and what could be accomplished with more funds in the Street Smart Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Campaign. He explained that all jurisdictions that contribute funds are covered in the campaign through both bus backs and radio and that for the new campaign the Maryland Office of Highway Safety, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and the District Department of Transportation as well as Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Rockville have all contributed.

**7. Briefing on Definition of the Regional Core and Regional Activity Centers and Clusters and Future Updates**

Mr. Desjardin briefed the Committee on the definition of the Regional Core and Regional Activity Centers and Clusters presented to the TPB at the November 16 meeting covering additional information requested by the TPB at the October 19 meeting.

Mr. Desjardin responded to questions that covered what was the mix of households vs. employment, the size of zones, the percent served by transit; and how the CLRP projects impact the clusters and centers.

Mr. Griffiths commented that it is useful to examine growth in both centers and clusters and that transit oriented development (TOD) usually applies to centers.

Mr. Kirby said that this is an important topic and as work continues it will be brought back to the Committee.

Mr. Srikanth suggested that mobility inside the clusters be examined.

**8. Review of Draft *Traffic Quality on the Metropolitan Washington Area Freeway System, Spring 2005 Report***

Mr. Sivasailam gave an introduction of the freeway congestion monitoring program which measures traffic density and congestion levels on the freeway system for 3 hours in the AM and 3 hours in the PM peak periods. The monitoring program began in 1993 and has been repeated every three years and the 2005 survey being the fifth in the series. Mr. Jordan of SKYCOMP explained the methodology and the product from the program which is DVD based slide show consisting of a report on current conditions and changes to the system over time.

In response to a question as to when final report will be available, staff replied that once a final review of the findings is completed it will be posted on the web and the DVD slide show will be made available to the members. In response to a question, if the report could show the number of lanes on each segment of the highway monitored, the consultant explained that such data exists in the data base and is used to estimate the density but is not included in the report due to budget constraints. The data base would be included in the DVD.

In response to Ms. Byala's question about how the data is used in the demand model, staff replied that the density and speed information are useful for calibrating and validating the model.

Mr. Kirby suggested that the findings should be presented to the TPB to provide a big picture of the region. It will be important to point out that congestion is not all over, but rather occurs at a few places at certain times and in certain directions. He suggested that the presentation include locations where improvement has occurred and show locations where conditions have worsened. It was agreed that additional data be collected at the Dulles Toll Road ramp where the addition of a second lane to the ramp has reduced Capital Beltway congestion.

**9. Review of the Draft *Arterial Highway System Performance in the Metropolitan Washington Region Report***

Deferred to the January 6, 2006 meeting.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Adjourn**

**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES  
ATTENDANCE - December 2, 2005**

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

DDOT                      Rick Rybeck

**MARYLAND**

Frederick Co.            Denis Superczynski

Gaithersburg            -----

Montgomery Co.        Bob Simpson

Prince George's Co.    Aaron Overman

Rockville                -----

M-NCPPC

Montgomery Co.        Eric Graye

Prince George's Co.    Famaraz Mokhtari

MDOT                     Lyn Erickson

Glen Smith

BJ Berhanu

**VIRGINIA**

Alexandria                Maria White

Arlington Co.            -----

City of Fairfax           Alexis Verzosa

Fairfax Co.                Mike Lake

Robert Owolabi

Falls Church            -----

Loudoun Co.              -----

Manassas                 -----

Prince William Co.     Rick Canizales

NVTC                      -----

PRTC                      -----

VRE                        Tamera Ashby

VDOT                      Kanathur Srikanth

VDRPT                    -----

NVPDC                    -----

VDOA                     -----

**WMATA**

WMATA                    Lora Byala

**FEDERAL/OTHER**

FHWA-DC                -----

FHWA-VA                -----

FTA                        -----

NCPC                     Kael Anderson

NPS                        -----

MWAQC                 -----

**COG Staff and Others**

Ronald Kirby, COG/DTP

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP

Gerald Miller, COG/DTP

Mark Pfoutz, COG/DTP

Michael Farrell, COG/DTP

Andrew Austin, COG/DTP

Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP

Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Jim Hogan, COG/DTP

Jane Posey, COG/DTP

Bill Bacon, COG/DTP

G. Toni Giardini, COG/DTP

Jill Locantore, COG/DTP

Bob Griffiths, COG/DTP

Michael Freeman, COG/DTP

Takumi Yamamoto, Japan DOT

Troy Brogden, DDOT

Paul DesJardin, COG/HSPPS

Randy Carroll, MDE

Anant Choudhary, COG/DTP

Wendy Klancher, COG/DTP

Aaron Overman, Prince George's DPW&T

Arlee Reno, Cambridge Systematics