

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

March 17, 2003

Chairman Peter Shapiro
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4201

Re: FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program

Dear Chairman Shapiro:

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) requests that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) consider a project for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2004 Unified Planning Work Program. We request the inclusion of a regional study of strategies, requirements and implementation of a Washington region emissions trading program for transportation. The region has a major air quality challenge and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the transportation sector to meet federally required emissions reductions. The recent change in status from serious to severe has exacerbated the problem and stricter measures such as the eight-hour standard are on the horizon. We believe that the region must begin developing and implementing more innovative and comprehensive methods to reach ambient air quality.

DDOT proposes that the TPB engage a study of one such innovative method: an emissions trading system. In an emissions trading system, a member organization could bank and trade credits. The fundamental concept of a trading program is to encourage lower emissions reductions by creating market incentives for implementing reductions.

Some of the framework for a trading system is already in place through the TERM development process. However, we strongly believe that the region needs a program which would lead to more comprehensive reductions than a collection of TERMS. Tangible and, possibly, monetary incentives may fuel more substantive emissions reductions from mobile sources.

OPTIONAL FORM 98 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

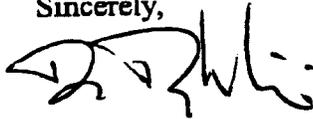
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To	From
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
5099-101
NSN 7540-01-317-7368

We look forward to discussing this idea with you or COG staff to more fully explain our proposal and assist in designing the work program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Tangherlini', written in a cursive style.

Dan Tangherlini
Director

B. MOBILE EMISSIONS ANALYSIS

FY2003 work activities include the preparation of required elements of a state air quality implementation plan (SIP) to meet severe area requirements for ozone, using EPA's Mobile6 emissions factor model and TPB's Version 2.1 travel demand model and other updated data sets and planning assumptions. These work activities will produce updated mobile source emissions budgets and transportation emissions reduction measure (TERM) analyses in the course of meeting attainment requirements by the year 2005.

In FY2004, work activities will continue to address TERM analysis and will also shift to more of a maintenance and longer term research nature, as described below. The work program will include the following tasks:

1. Using MOBILE6, with consultant assistance as needed, (1) review and update as needed mobile source emissions inventories for use in analysis of attainment of the ozone standard, and (2) develop emissions factors for use in CLRP/TIP air quality conformity analysis, i.e., 2005, 2015, 2025 and 2030 forecast years.
2. Analyze new transportation emissions reduction measures, as well as examine previous proposals, and evaluate their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in reducing emissions
3. Participate in state and MWAQC technical and policy discussions, public forums and hearings.

For the above work elements, in conjunction with DTP staff and in consultation with the TPB, provide funding to COG's Department of Environmental Programs for the following activities: (1) provision of data, progress reports and written reports in response to TPB requests relating to air quality work activities; (2) provision of timely updates to the TPB and its committees on the status of emissions and emissions reduction research / implementation strategies associated with all emissions source categories; and (3) provision of assistance and review to TPB in development of emissions factors required for mobile source emissions inventories associated with air quality conformity and SIP planning.

- Explore the possibilities: (1) of obtaining vehicle registration data in categories more closely aligned to the vehicle categories used in Mobile6 and (2) of using a 'dynamic registration' utility to address changes in vehicle age distributions and diesel fractions through time.
- Explore the possibility of obtaining odometer data, along with vehicle identifier code and gross vehicle weight rating data, from the air management agencies in order to develop refined VMT data by vehicle weight class for the Washington region.

- Provide support to Commuter Connections staff in developing implementation plans for adopted, as well as future, TERMS adopted by the TPB.
- Address VMT tracking requirements as per Clean Air Act requirements.
- Prepare the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory (PEI) for use in addressing MWAQC's SIP requirements to track actual emissions through time.
- Prepare mobile source emissions inventories for wintertime carbon monoxide (CO) conditions to meet CO maintenance plan requirements.
- **Study strategies, requirements and implementation of a Washington regional emissions trading program for transportation.**

Oversight: Technical Committee and Travel Management Subcommittee, in consultation with MWAQC committees

Cost Estimate: \$389,600

Products: Mobile source emission inventories for VOC and NOx for 2002 PEI reporting and for CO for maintenance planning; report on TERM evaluation; comparison of estimated and observed VMT results; **report on regional emissions trading program.**

Schedule: June 2004