
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2006 UPWP. Discussions were held with DDOT, MDOT and VDOT staff concerning the anticipated additional funding and new planning activities identified in the new Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which became law in August. The anticipated FY 2006 and FY 2007 MPO planning funding levels are expected to be significantly higher than in the current approved UPWP.

On September 19 and 20, senior TPB staff participated in the FHWA and FTA Certification Review of the TPB transportation planning process.

B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the September 9 meeting, the Steering Committee approved an amendment to the FY 2005-2010 TIP modify funding for several highway projects and two park-and-ride lot improvements as requested by VDOT.

At the September 9 meeting, the Technical Committee received the draft FY 2006-2011 TIP and recommended to the TPB that it and the draft conformity determination and the draft 2005 CLRP be released for public comment at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on September 15. The TPB is scheduled to adopt the CLRP and TIP at its October 19 meeting.

C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the September 9 meeting, the Technical Committee received the draft 2005 CLRP materials and recommended to the TPB that it and the draft conformity determination and the draft FY 2006-2011 TIP be released for public comment at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on September 15. The TPB is scheduled to adopt the CLRP and TIP at its October 19 meeting.

Staff developed a draft web page design for a CLRP homepage that would include all the documentation and information about the current plan. This homepage was presented to the Federal team during the Federal certification review on September 19.

An activity cluster analysis was conducted to look at how the 2005 CLRP project submissions support the regional activity centers and the core. This analysis looked at transit stations inside and outside of activity clusters, the concentration of households and jobs, transit usage and vehicle trips.

Staff prepared for a value pricing task force meeting on September 21 which included a presentation on tolling provisions in SAFETEA-LU, discussion on Virginia's HOT lane projects, and the TPB grant proposal to study a regional system of variably-priced lanes.

Staff conducted research on metropolitan planning provisions, and tolling provisions in SAFETEA-LU. A summary of the provisions was drafted and a PowerPoint presentation developed. This presentation was given to the Technical Committee and the TPB in September.

D. Operations, Coordination/Emergency Preparedness

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 September, the Ad Hoc Committee engaged 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 these issues on September 7, 2005, as well as conference calls on September 15, 22, and 29. Volpe staff conducted an in-depth interview of TPB staff on this topic on September 28.

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces did not meet in September. Staff continued work on supporting MOITS topic areas in operations, technology, and emergency preparedness. Staff reviewed information compiled on the Regional Traffic Signals Optimization Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM) in preparation for presentation to the TPB in October.

In associated activities, staff attended a meeting of the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council on September 15 to keep abreast of activities of that group, particularly regarding Hurricane Katrina impact and response in the National

Capital Region, and the Homeland Security National Capital Region Strategic Plan. Staff also participated in a meeting of the Regional Transit Operators Emergency Preparedness Task Force on September 23.

Staff presented information on the MOITS topic area at the U.S. Department of Transportation metropolitan planning certification review meetings of September 19 and 20.

For informational purposes, staff attended a meeting of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Regional Operations Committee on September 23.

E. Financial Plan

Work continued on the new financial analysis for the 2006 update of the CLRP. The second meeting of the financial analysis working group and the consultant team was held on September 27. At this meeting, the implementing agency gave status reports on their activities to update their revenue forecasts and expenditures. The working group also discussed the anticipated products of the consultant report. Consultant staff will give a status report on the financial plan update to the Technical Committee on October 7. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for November 1.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No staff activities during this reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

TPB staff prepared a revised version of the bicycle and pedestrian plan, and worked to fix technical problems with the database.

At the September 26th meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee a version of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Washington region plan and database was reviewed and discussed. A small group will discuss the plan in detail on October 18th, and a draft will go to the TPB Technical Committee in December. It was agreed to defer any adoption of a priority list of unfunded projects this year. Staff briefed the subcommittee on the bicycle and pedestrian provisions of SAFETEA-LU.

The subcommittee endorsed a letter from the Chair, Jim Sebastian, to the TPB Technical Committee urging the inclusion of a household travel survey with a large sample size in the next work program, in order to better capture bicycle and pedestrian mode share on a jurisdictional basis. The subcommittee was also briefed on the findings of the bike

parking management work group. In that context the subcommittee agreed that the subcommittee chair should draft a letter to WMATA, to be reviewed by the TPB Technical Committee, requesting a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator at WMATA.

TPB staff attended a grantee workshop in Richmond for the Street Smart program, a meeting of the Maryland Pedestrian Safety Task Force in Hanover, and a meeting of the Bike to Work Day planning committee.

H. Access to Jobs Planning

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

In September 2005, COG staff continued to research best practices in Auto Vehicle Locator (AVL) Systems for use in Demand Responsive Services Study Steering Committee report. Staff contacted steering committee members about upcoming meetings and recruited new members.

I. Public Participation

The CAC's monthly meeting on September featured a discussion with federal agency representatives regarding the TPB's Federal Certification Review. The committee also discussed the activities of the CAC Working on CLRP/TIP Information and Accessibility and the CAC Working Group on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. The working group on information and accessibility released draft recommendations for consideration by the committee.

The CAC hosted forum on September in Oxon Hill, MD titled "What if the Washington Region Grew Differently?" The meeting featured a presentation on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility, which included details on how the study's scenarios would affect southern Prince George's County. On September 28, staff used the presentation at a forum on transit-oriented development (TOD) in the Dulles area. The TOD forum was hosted by the Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA), whose executive director, Jim Larsen, is also a member of the CAC.

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 the September 15 AFA meeting which included a follow-up report on Disability Awareness Day, a presentation from Montgomery County on their bus stop inventory, a presentation from WMATA about bus improvement plans and a status report

on the AFA subcommittee on transportation for low-income populations and the demand responsive study.

J. Annual Report

No activity on the annual report in September.

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 gave a presentation on likely travel demand and toll levels for the proposed I95/395 HOT lane project at a meeting of VDOT's Advisory Panel for this project.
- The DTP Director gave a presentation entitled "What if the Region Grew Differently?" based on the TPB's Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study at a forum on transit oriented development sponsored by the Dulles Area Transportation Association and the Dulles Corridor Rail Association.

TPB Value Pricing Task Force

No activity during the reporting period.

II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff completed all travel demand and emissions analysis for all forecast years associated with the 2005 CLRP. This included off-line emissions analysis of bus emissions, local road emissions, and auto access to transit emissions, for each forecast year for VOC, NOx, and Wintertime CO. Staff completed a draft of both a summary report and the full conformity report. Staff presented the summary report to the TPB Technical Committee at its September 9th meeting and to the Board at its September 21st meeting. Copies of the full report were available upon request. Staff prepared a .pdf version of the summary and the full report (body and appendices) and placed it on the website for access during the public comment period, which began on September 15th. Staff briefed the MWAQC

TAC on the draft report. Staff continued with quality assurance of results, preparation of flowcharts, file / process / technical documentation, and analysis of results.

Regarding the conformity assessment of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP with respect to PM_{2.5} directly emitted particles and precursor emissions, staff proceeded with the technical work tasks contained in the work program. This involved meeting with MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee and its Emissions Inventory Working Group to discuss specifics of the technical approach and environmental inputs to the Mobile model. Staff summarized EPA's latest guidance on the preparation of PM_{2.5} mobile source emissions inventories, and presented highlights to the Technical Committee and to the TPB as part of status reports on the overall project.

Staff prepared network plots of the 11th Street bridge area for consultants for the District of Columbia. Staff met with these consultants and with DC staff to discuss the air quality conformity implications of a project in that area.

Staff participated in the TPB's Federal Certification process in September, discussing air quality conformity work program activities and results.

COG/DEP reviewed the 8-hour ozone conformity assessment, drafted a comment letter, and held a Conformity Subcommittee conference call to review the comment letter. The revised comment letter was approved by MWAQC on Sept. 26. Staff attended TPB Technical Committee meetings and the TPB meeting in September.

COG/DEP staff worked on the PM_{2.5} conformity inputs. Staff collected meteorology input data and processed the data to provide monthly averages for PM_{2.5} modeling. Staff compiled fuel parameter data for review by the state air agencies.

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 September TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

TPB 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, its Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Conformity Subcommittee, and Emissions Inventory Working Group.

Staff continued work to analyze PM_{2.5} pollutants, emissions characteristics, and Mobile6 inputs / outputs, and revise post-processor procedures for the conformity assessment of

the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP. This included consultant task order support for assistance in reflecting new inputs to the Mobile6.2 model, and in executing a revised technical approach to develop annual, instead of daily, mobile source emissions. Staff tested the EH Pechan software interface for developing PM emissions rates from the Mobile 6 model and suggested modifications to the software.

Staff has successfully decoded 2005 vehicle registration data using the VIN decoder software. Staff is analyzing the results and comparing the results with national default and 2002 registration data. Staff developed a new approach to conduct annual particulate matter emissions inventory for the upcoming PM conformity analysis and will present the approach to the TPB Technical Committee.

C. Regional Studies

Staff completed the network coding of the transit facilities assumed for the “More Households in Inner Areas and Clusters” use scenario.

Staff began the travel demand modeling for the “More Households in Inner Areas and Clusters” scenario. “

Staff assisted in the development of the TPB’s Citizen Advisory Committee presentation on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study.

Staff continued network coding of the transit facilities assumed for the “More Jobs in Outer Areas” and “Region Undivided” land use scenarios.

D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff began work with the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee on the update of Regional Activity Centers and Clusters.

Staff responded to questions on the revised draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Forecasts of employment, households and population and TAZ-level data file.

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, which will be used in the next round of TIP / CLRP conformity networks.

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.

Staff provided technical assistance in the analysis of the travel demand modeling for this year's CLRP/TIP Update and Air Quality Conformity analysis.

Staff worked with the GIS Committee Executive Committee to prepare the meeting agenda and other materials for the September 22nd GIS Committee meeting and October 6th GIS Subcommittee meetings.

The GIS Committee discussed the development of a Regional Geospatial Data Sharing Agreement for emergency management and other local jurisdiction needs.

Staff attended the MD MSGIC executive committee meeting to increase GIS coordination between COG and MD state and local government agencies.

C. Models Development

Staff has begun 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 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.

Staff presented a status report of the TRB survey of MPO travel forecasting state of the practice to the September 23rd meeting of the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee.

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 Technical Programs and Services (OTPS) as appropriate.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

An updated report, including an appendix, documenting the results of the regional HOV monitoring project conducted in Spring 2004 was presented to the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee at its meeting on September 23rd.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff presented the results of the Spring 2005 freeway congestion monitoring project and Winter/Spring 2005 arterial travel time project to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee. For the freeway congestion monitoring project the consultant is continuing to identify changes over time by comparing the freeway conditions since 1993. This work is expected to be completed by the end of October, 2005.

B. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

No staff activities to report.

2. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities to report.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff completed the loading of updated traffic volume data for Jefferson County, West Virginia to the Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse database.

Staff continued the matching the xy coordinates of VDOT traffic counting station locations to individual Clearinghouse highway network links. This work activity will

enable Data Clearinghouse users to identify the actual link where the traffic volume data is collected as opposed to the larger segment (group of links) for which the VDOT traffic volume estimate is typically reported.

Staff continued the planning for this year's update of the Clearinghouse.

Staff attended a "Northeast Regional Highway Data Workshop and Conference" held in Saratoga Springs, NY on HPMS data collection and reporting issues.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff prepared a response to a request on how to analyze and define traffic from other jurisdictions that "cut through" the District.

Machine Traffic Counts

Staff had preliminary discussions with District of Columbia Department of Transportation staff regarding the location of the HPMS machine counts scheduled to be counted in Spring 2006.

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 coordinated with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding FY2006 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff commenced work to provide (1) inputs and all other necessary files for the execution of the 2004 Air Quality Conformity regional modeling process approved November 17, 2004, using the COG/TPB Travel Demand Model Version 2.1D #50, (2) similar data for the simulation year 2000, and (3) the highway assignment results summary for all simulation years, to a consultant for the Maryland Transportation Authority.

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 has not yet been initiated in FY2006.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Staff coordinated with SHA's consultants on the overall project, and offered suggestions to them on identifying the procedure for modeling the 2030 No Build Alternative.

Intercounty Connector Study

Following a request from SHA, staff prepared highway and transit network files for a 2015 forecast year for MDOT. Staff prepared travel demand forecasts for the 2015 conditions, analyzed results, and forwarded electronic data files to SHA's consultants for post-processing.

Bi-County Transitway Study

Project has not yet been initiated in FY2006.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

There was no activity to report in September.

Miscellaneous Services

As a follow-up to work activities performed in FY2005 on the Capital Beltway HOT Lane Study, staff analyzed 2005 CLRP results in comparison to the previous travel forecasts and sent the updated estimates to VDOT.

I-95 / I-395 HOT Lane Project

Staff continued work on this new project, executing model runs for the two separate proposals by Fluor and Shirley / Clark. Staff reviewed the results, prepared a draft report and summary presentation materials, and presented them to VDOT at a meeting of its advisory panel.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Field data collection has begun.

I-66 Feasibility Study Supplemental Data Collection

There was no activity to report in September.

Enhanced Commuter Corridor Count Program

The field data efforts to obtain two-day traffic volume counts on the arterial streets and highways in the corridor were completed.

D. WMATA

Program Development

No activity during the reporting period.

Miscellaneous Services

No activity during the reporting period.

Demand Responsive Study

During the month of September, staff focused on developing potential recommendation for two of the four focus areas in the study: communications with customers and

additional transportation services for persons with disabilities. Staff established a web message board for the focus area working groups and facilitated an on-line discussion to help finalize recommendations. Staff prepared for the September 29 study steering committee meeting. At the meeting eight recommendations were finalized, and a PowerPoint presentation on the MetroAccess focus area was developed with help from the consultant. A study schedule was established and meetings planned for October, November and December. It is anticipated that the study will be finalized and presented to the TPB in January or February 2006.

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

1) Process Regional Air Passenger Survey

Staff continued to analyze the survey data to explain anomalies that were discovered while editing the survey data. Geocoding of the trip origin data in the 2005 Air Passenger Survey data file was initiated.

2) Ground Access Element Update

Staff began work to develop a detailed work plan, draft report outline and schedule for updating the Regional Airport System Plan Ground Access Element.

- The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** did not meet in September 2005.

Consultant Support

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

Cambridge Systematics, Inc. – 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis - \$65,000 - ongoing