

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from the July 7, 2006 Technical Committee Meeting

Minutes were approved as written.

2. Briefing on Draft Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2006 CLRP and FY 2007-2012 TIP

Staff distributed a document containing the draft summary results for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2006 CLRP and the FY2007-2012 TIP. Mr. Clifford discussed the handout. He noted that the cover letter is a draft letter to the TPB, and that while some of the attached information is incomplete, it will be complete in time for the TPB mailout.

Mr. Clifford said that all pollutants are, for the first time, contained in a single analysis, as opposed to prior years, when there have been separate analyses for various pollutants. The analysis included PM2.5 pollutants, ozone season pollutants, and wintertime CO. Mr. Clifford explained that the ozone emissions must adhere to the 1-hour budget. The 8-hour ozone budgets are still under development and are expected to be used in next year's analysis. The CO budget was developed in 1994, and the PM2.5 forecast year emissions must be no greater than those in the 2002 base.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the planned schedule for release of information. The results will be released for public comment on September 14th, and the public comment period will end on October 14th. The TPB is scheduled to adopt the analysis at its October 18th meeting.

Mr. Clifford reviewed some basic inputs to the analysis. The forecast years are 2010, 2020, and 2030. Attachment A contains the significant highway and transit changes from last year. The new land use, Round 7.0a, reflects the baseball stadium inputs, and it also includes Baltimore's Round 6-B updates.

Mr. Clifford went over the exhibits. Exhibit 2 shows travel demand through time and the adjustment factors to convert AAWDT to ADT. The greatest change from last year is the use of VIN decoder software to access the new 2005 vehicle registration data. Exhibits 3 and 4, illustrating VOC and NOx emission factor rates, show that vehicles are getting cleaner through time. Exhibit 5 is a sample of the PM2.5 rates that will be completed by next week. Mr. Clifford mentioned that the Winter CO results, which are generally about 1000 tons below the budget, are not shown in the summary report. Exhibits 6, 7, and 8 show that ozone season emissions are within the budgets. Exhibits 9, 10, and 11 are not completed, but will be by next week.

Mr. Clifford pointed out Attachment C, which contains the TERM tracking sheet. The sheet shows the scale of TERM project benefits and how they track through time. Part A shows ozone season benefits, and Part B shows PM2.5 benefits. Mr. Clifford reminded the group that staff is still waiting for inputs from some jurisdictions.

Mr. Clifford concluded by stating that the results provide a basis for a determination of conformity by the TPB.

Mr. Srikanth asked if Exhibit 11 shows last year's results, and if the results would be updated for the TPB mailout. Mr. Clifford responded yes to both questions.

3. Review of Draft 2006 CLRP Documentation and Draft FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Austin spoke about the new web site for the Long Range Transportation Plan. He explained the enhancements that had been made since the version that debuted in the Spring and that the Long Range Plan was now being viewed as a "living document" and that the web site would be the central location for all information on the plan. Mr. Eichler spoke about a companion brochure that outlined key elements of the plan and distributed a copy for review. COG staff asked members of the Committee to review both the web site and the brochure and to provide any comments. The URL for the web site is <http://www.regionaltransportationplan.org>.

Mr. Austin talked about the Draft FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He described revisions to the format of the TIP. The "Carry Over" column has been removed. For all agencies other than VDOT, that column had been replaced by an historical "FY 2005" column. VDOT and related agencies would show "Previous Funding" which could precede FY 2005. The draft version distributed at the meeting was still under review. A final draft version would be released for public comment on September 14th at the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Austin asked all agencies to review their data, especially the FY 2005 data.

Ms. Ashby noted that some projects in the Virginia portion of the TIP did not show any funds, should show some local funding. Mr. Shrestha said that MDOT would review their projects and that some minor changes may need to be made. Mr. Miller noted that only the FY 2007-2012 periods are relevant for the public comment period. Mr. Canizales echoed Ms. Ashby's concerns that some projects that were funded with local bond monies were not showing funding. Mr. Srikanth said that the VDOT offices in Richmond don't have all this information, so local funding needs to be conveyed to John Barr in VDOT's Northern Virginia office.

Mr. Canizales inquired about a project in Prince William County that was not showing up in the listings. Mr. Kirby said the project could be added in as a technical correction as long as it did not affect conformity.

A brief discussion was held on whether projects that don't include federal funding should be included in the TIP. Mr. Kirby said that for informational purposes all projects should be shown, including those with no federal funding.

Mr. Sanders noted that in the summary list of projects that had been added, delayed, completed or withdrawn, that the Silver Spring Transit Center was noted as having been withdrawn by Montgomery County. Mr. Austin noted that Montgomery County withdrew their entry for that project because it was redundant to an MDOT/MTA listing. It was suggested that items like this be noted with the reason for withdrawal.

4. Status Report on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Scenario Study

Mr. Kirby distributed a draft memorandum to the TPB on the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study. This draft memorandum described the two phases of this study. Phase I was the development, modeling, and analysis of five alternative land use and transportation scenarios. This Phase I work was now being documented in a technical report. Phase II of this study was now beginning and would include the analysis of a regional variably-priced lanes scenario and the development of one or more "composite scenarios" that emphasized common themes and combined the positive features of the scenarios analyzed to-date.

Mr. Kirby stated that in this draft memorandum staff was recommending that the variably-priced lanes and composite scenarios be compared to a new baseline composed of the 2006 CLRP with the Round 7.0a Cooperative Forecasts. He noted that, while in Phase I of the study the five alternative land use scenarios had been compared to the 2003 CLRP with the Round 6.4 Cooperative Forecasts, it would be more appropriate in Phase II of this study to compare the additional scenarios to this new baseline because of the recent updates that have been made to the CLRP and Cooperative Forecasts.

After much discussion about the merits of updating the baseline for Phase II of the study and the need for additional scenarios, it was agreed that this section of the draft memorandum to the TPB would be removed until the Committee had more time for discussion of these Phase II work activities.

Mr. Griffiths offered that the proposed Phase II work activities could be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting of the Joint Technical Working Group.

5. Briefing on Draft "Gap Analysis" to Identify Opportunities for Implementing Desired Transportation and Land Use Scenarios

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation distributed at the meeting, Mr. Kirby recapped information presented to the TPB and the Technical Committee in previous months about options for TPB action to aid implementation of regional transportation and land use goals. He also described issues raised at the July 19 TPB meeting about the challenges of

implementing a grant program at the regional level to encourage projects that link transportation and land use.

Speaking to the same PowerPoint, Mr. Smith presented an overview of activity by local and state jurisdictions to better link transportation and land use, including examples of management structures, planning initiatives, and specific projects funded or developments facilitated.

Mr. Kirby finished the presentation by summarizing the value that a regional initiative could potentially add to the efforts of individual jurisdictions and presented implementation options for further consideration by the TPB.

Mr. Srikanth and Mr. Moss both noted that while informative, the presentation did not actually identify specific needs or “gaps” in what local jurisdictions are already doing, and suggested that for the TPB the presentation should draw more conclusions about particular needs that would be addressed by a regional initiative. Chairman Canizales indicated that rather than asserting that the presentation constituted a complete “gap analysis”, Mr. Kirby should let the TPB know that the analysis is not complete and there is more to come. Mr. Kirby responded that actually pointing out gaps and identifying how the efforts of local jurisdictions may be incomplete is a significant, time-consuming undertaking and may not be appropriate for TPB staff to attempt.

Mr. Harrington recommended that Mr. Kirby promote and strengthen Option 3 mentioned in the presentation, which would itself involve more robust analysis activities and could include a role for COG to play as a “clearinghouse” of information about local efforts to link transportation and land use in the region as well as national best practices information. Mr. Srikanth concurred, noting that by the time such information is compiled and analyzed, the TPB might have received feedback about possible funding for a regional grant program from the governors of Maryland and Virginia and the mayor of the District of Columbia in response to TPB Chairman Knapp’s letter of inquiry.

Mr. Art Smith, Mr. Rybeck, and Chairman Canizales agreed that more information would be useful before the TPB addresses the question of committing to initiating a regional grant program, and that a regional information clearinghouse would be worthwhile. Mr. Harrington said that information about other funding sources available to local jurisdictions in carrying out planning studies and small-scale transportation improvements would be particularly important for a clearinghouse to capture and disseminate.

Mr. Rybeck said that he thought that TPB staff should be focusing on an analysis of the region’s needs from an overall policy perspective as opposed to categorizing activity by individual jurisdictions.

Mr. Moss said that he thought the real value to a regional initiative would be in increasing the visibility of the activities already underway in the region and further helping to build momentum for efforts to link transportation and land use.

6. Briefing on Steps Taken for the TPB to Become the Designated Recipient for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs and on the Proposed Members of the TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force

Ms. Klancher provided an overview of the new human service transportation coordination initiatives the TPB is undertaking and announced that the TPB was designated by the District of Columbia Mayor, the Maryland Governor and the Virginia Governor as the official recipient of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds for the Urbanized Area. Ms. Klancher presented the list of proposed names for the new TPB Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force which the TPB will be asked to approve on September 20.

7. Status Report on Coordination with the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) on Allocating and Sharing of Regional Transit Funds

Mr. Kirby explained that the March 2006 Transportation Planning Certification prepared by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recommended that the TPB and FAMPO work cooperatively to reach a resolution on the allocation and sharing of FTA formula funds for the Washington urbanized area. He distributed a copy of the August 9, 2004 letter from FTA and FHWA to FAMPO on this topic and reviewed the specific sections related to the TPB and FTA designated recipients role in allocating regional transit funds. He said that in recent discussions with FAMPO staff he was informed that FAMPO is in the process of finalizing its position on the allocation of funds. He said that he plans to distribute the FAMPO position at the September 18 TPB meeting, consult with the stakeholders on this topic, and then bring it back for review and discussion at the Technical Committee and TPB in October.

Chair Canizales commented that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and Northern Virginia Transportation Commission would need to look at the final FAMPO position. He also said that Stafford County had recently acted to support the population portion of transit funding going to FAMPO.

8. Review of the Final Draft 2006 CLRP Financial Analysis

Mr. Reno of Cambridge Systematics Inc (CSI) briefed the Committee on the final draft handout: "Analysis of Resources for the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Washington Region." He reported that the TPB was briefed on the results of the analysis at its July 19 meeting. He acknowledged all of the help provided by the staff of the implementing agencies. He noted that this version incorporated recently received Northern Virginia local revenue and expenditure forecasts. Referring to the summary transportation revenue and expenditure tables, he said that they had been simplified and then highlighted the major results. He also pointed out that the

sets of tables detailing the revenue and expenditure forecasts for the District of Columbia, Suburban Maryland, Northern Virginia and WMATA would be referenced in the Appendix of the main report and these sets of tables will be available on the TPB web site.

Mr. Beam said that MDOT would provide comments on the text.

Mr. Srikanth thanked the consultant team for their recent efforts and said that VDOT would review this final version. He suggested that the tables be formatted so each fit on one page.

Mr. Rybeck asked about a District shortfall in WMATA capital funding indicated in Table 3 and said that the District is committed to funding Metro. Mr. Reno said that this shortfall may be due to a misunderstanding about the assumed rate of inflation and the conversion to constant 2006 dollars. He said that the consultants met with DDOT staff to examine this analysis and ensure that it reflects consistent assumptions.

9. Review of Final Draft Report: “An Update on the National Capital Region’s Transportation Capital Funding Needs”

Mr. Reno reported that the TPB was briefed on the report at its July 19 meeting. After distributing copies of the final report, he said that it informs the public and elected and appointed officials about the transportation funding accomplishments since 2004, highlights continuing funding challenges, and presents potential long term funding solutions. He noted that the final report includes minor editorial changes to the July version.

Mr. Reno also reported on a recent meeting that he attended of the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission established under SAFETEA-LU to examine the federal Highway Trust Fund revenues and to recommend policies to achieve revenues to meet future highway and transit needs. He commented that the national level financial issues and concerns about revenues and needs are quite similar to those in the Washington region.

10. Briefing on initial Results of an Analysis of a Regional System of Variably Priced Lanes (VPLs) in the Washington Region

This item postponed to October.

11. Review of Draft Work Scope to Review Current Freight Planning Activities and Identify Promising Regional Activities

Mr. Meese referred to a memorandum and draft scope of work. Expanding regional freight planning was among the recent federal certification recommendations for the TPB planning process. At the July 7, 2006 meeting, the Technical Committee concurred with a

staff recommendation for a limited-term consultant study on freight planning. It was felt the region will get up to speed more quickly with expert consultant help.

The draft Scope of Work identifies the tasks envisioned for this contract. The anticipated duration is four (4) months from the notice to proceed, for a cost of \$50,000. The goal is to complete the project by March 2007 to advise development of the FY2008 UPWP.

Major tasks include:

1. Documentation of the context of state and local freight planning activities
2. Identification of data sets and analytical tools
3. Development of a regional freight profile describing the role of freight in the region's economy, what goods are moved in the region, how they are moved (modes), where they are moved, the goods' overall impact to the region's economy, and trends
4. Development of a freight facilities initial inventory and map
5. Recommendations for stakeholder outreach activities
6. An initial stakeholders' survey design
7. Development of recommendations for future metropolitan planning activities, the roles and cross-impacts of existing TPB committees and UPWP tasks, and whether and how to form a new freight committee
8. Compilation of a final report

Comments were due to Mr. Meese by Friday, September 15, 2006. Mr. Meese also asked that Committee members either identify themselves or representatives from their agencies to participate on the selection committee for the consultant.

12. Briefing on Proposed Seminar: "Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities"

Mr. Meese referred to a memorandum in the meeting materials. Additional detailed information had been posted in the on-line materials for today's meeting. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee proposed to sponsor one or more one-day seminars on a new manual from the Institute for Transportation Engineers (ITE). This manual was for planning and designing major urban thoroughfares that are supportive of and compatible with their surrounding environment and land uses. The manual is being released as a proposed recommended practice for planners, engineers, and others who design major urban thoroughfares. This proposal was being presented to the Committee for notification and to provide an opportunity for comment.

In response to a question from Mr. Owolabi, it was noted that the exact date(s), location(s), and number of seminars had not yet been set. Though the memorandum stated that they were to occur in fall 2006, this was subject to change.

13. Other Business

None.

14. Adjourn

**TPB TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES
ATTENDANCE - September 8, 2006**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DDOT Rick Rybeck

MARYLAND

Frederick Co. -----
Gaithersburg -----
Montgomery Co. David Moss
Prince George's Co. Vic Weissberg
Rockville Katherine Kelly
M-NCPPC
 Montgomery Co. -----
 Prince George's Co. Harold Foster
MDOT Ian Beam
 Shiva Shrestha

VIRGINIA

Alexandria Maria White
Arlington Co. Tamera Ashby
City of Fairfax Alexis Verzosa
Fairfax Co. Robert Owolabi
 Mike Lake
Falls Church -----
Loudoun Co. Art Smith
Manassas -----
Prince William Co. Rick Canizales
NVTC -----
PRTC Anthony Foster
VRE -----
VDOT Kanathur Srikanth
VDRPT Sharmilla Samarasinghe
NVPDC -----
VDOA -----

WMATA

WMATA Tom Harrington

FEDERAL/OTHER

FHWA-DC -----
FHWA-VA -----

FTA Deborah Burns

NCPC -----

NPS -----

MWAQC John Nwoke
 Deidre Elvis-Peterson

COG Staff and Others

Ronald Kirby, DTP
Gerald Miller, DTP
Michael Clifford, DTP
Mark Pfoutz, DTP
Jane Posey, DTP
Jim Hogan, DTP
Michael Farrell, DTP
Bob Griffiths, DTP
Darren Smith, DTP
Andrew Austin, DTP
Daivamani Sivasailam, DTP
Dusan Vuksan, DTP
Jinchul Park, DTP
G. T. Giardini, DTP
Wendy Klancher, DTP
William Bacon, DTP
Anant Chuodhary, DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Randy Carroll, MDE
Caroline Cheng, Environmental Defense