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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### I. PLANS, PROGRAMS & COORDINATION

#### A. Unified Planning Work Program

Work continued on monitoring the FY 2004 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The preliminary budget and draft outline of work activities for the FY 2005 UPWP were presented and reviewed at the January Technical Committee and TPB meetings. Staff prepared the draft FY 2005 UPWP. The full draft UPWP will be presented to the Technical Committee and TPB for review in February, and the final version will be presented to the TPB for approval at the March 17 meeting.

#### B. Transportation Improvement Program

At the December 17, 2003 meeting the TPB approved the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP effective December 31, 2003. On January 7, 2004, the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were transmitted to FHWA and FTA for review. Copies of the region's final CLRP and TIP documents were also transmitted to the three state DOTs for incorporation into their state TIPs. The interim 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were approved by FHWA and FTA in early December.

At the January 21, 2004 TPB meeting, the solicitation document for the 2004 CLRP and FY 2005-2010 TIP and air quality conformity analysis was approved for distribution to state, regional, and local agencies.

#### C. Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP)

At the December 17, 2003 meeting the TPB approved the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP effective December 31, 2003. On January 7, 2004, the full 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were transmitted to FHWA and FTA for review. Copies of the region's final CLRP and TIP documents were also transmitted to the three state DOTs for incorporation into their state TIPs. The interim 2003 CLRP and FY 2004-2009 TIP were approved by FHWA and FTA in early December.

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D. Transportation Operations Coordination and Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces did not meet in January. A MOITS ad hoc subcommittee on traveler information activities met on January 13. The ad hoc subcommittee discussed potential integration of metropolitan Washington traveler information contractual support (for planning activities) into an upcoming Virginia statewide effort. It was recommended to begin regular meetings of the traveler information subcommittee to advise this coordinated metropolitan and Virginia statewide process. There was concurrence from the District of Columbia and Maryland Departments of Transportation to coordinate the metropolitan traveler information activities with the Virginia statewide effort.

On January 12, staff participated in a meeting of the Intelligent Transportation Systems, Management, and Operations subcommittee of the (national) Transportation Research Board, exchanging information on metropolitan Washington and national experience on regional transportation coordination.

On January 30, staff participated in a Regional ITS Architecture workshop hosted by the Federal Transit Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, emphasizing required actions regarding the region's ITS architecture by an April 2005 federal regulatory deadline.

The Regional Emergency Support Function (R-ESF) #1 – Emergency Transportation Work Group met on January 6. The focus was to review and incorporate participants' input on the previously distributed December 16, 2003 draft version of the Regional Emergency Evacuation Transportation Coordination (REETC) Annex of the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan. Information on the draft revised REETC Annex was also presented to the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council of January 8. Subsequently, a revised version of the Annex was posted on a password-protected portion of the COG/TPB Web site on January 16, for review by participants by a February 10 meeting. Also posted for the first time on January 16 were over 300 pages of technical documentation in two associated technical compendium documents for internal and agency reference, the first for transportation technical information, and the second for emergency management agency protective actions technical information. Finalization was anticipated by March 2004.

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E. Financial Plan

On January 9, 2004, the Technical Committee was briefed on the draft results of the study to quantify the region's near-term transit and highway funding needs and priorities and to identify specific sources of revenues over the six-year period 2005 to 2010. Staff met with CSI staff to review the results and coordination with the implementing agency staffs. At the January 21 TPB meeting, CSI staff presented a briefing on the draft results and a draft brochure for the public and elected and appointed officials. The Board provided comments and directed staff to prepare a brochure for the TPB Program Committee to review and finalize at its February 6 meeting.

F. Private Enterprise Participation

No work during the reporting period.

G. Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff Activities:

- Staffed, prepared handouts and took minutes for a meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee.
- Distributed planning documents, discussed logistics for the Walkable Communities Workshops with the local coordinators. Set dates and times for each workshop.
- Presented to the TPB on the progress and planned activities for the Street Smart Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program.
- Attended the meeting of the Access for All Advisory Committee and answered questions regarding the activities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

H. Access to Jobs Planning

COG/HSPPS staff performed the following tasks in January 2004:

- COG/HSPPS continued work on the annual update of the Area-wide Job Access Plan. On January 22, COG staff briefed the Access for All Advisory Committee to the TPB on the Job Access and Reverse Commute programs in the region.

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I. Public Participation

The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee held its regular monthly meeting on January 15. Because the new appointments for the 2004 CAC had not been made, the TPB in December asked last year's committee to meet in January. Discussion at the January CAC meeting focused on topics that are expected to be on the TPB agenda in 2004 and public outreach meetings that might be organized this year.

The "TPB News" newsletter was written and distributed.

*Access for All Advisory Committee*

In the month of January, staff prepared for the TPB Access for All (AFA) Advisory Committee meeting on January 22, 2004. Presentations on the work regarding paratransit services and efforts to improve transit information for limited English speaking customers for the AFA meeting were prepared. A draft outline and executive summary of the 2003 AFA report for the TPB was prepared and presented at the meeting. A 2004 meeting schedule was drafted. The AFA committee page on the COG website was updated.

A follow-up meeting with Commuter Connections staff working on the mass marketing campaign and WMATA communications staff was scheduled for February 2, 2004 to discuss the AFA recommendation to add multi-lingual greetings on WMATA's general information line.

J. Annual Report

An outline for the annual report was developed and discussed.

K. DTP Management

In addition to the provision of staff support to meetings of the TPB, the Program Committee, and the Technical Committee, the following activities were undertaken:

- The DTP Director participated on a transportation panel for Leadership Montgomery.
- The DTP Director made a presentation on regional transportation planning for WMATA's Regional Mobility Initiative.

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- The DTP Director participated in a two-person radio panel entitled DC Area Traffic Woes.
  - Senior COG and TPB staff met with counterpart staff of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to discuss coordination of cooperative forecasting and transportation planning processes.

## II. FORECASTING APPLICATIONS

### A. Air Quality Conformity

Staff produced copies of the final conformity report for distribution upon request. Staff continued documenting the conformity analysis process, which included summarizing travel demand and emissions statistics for various CLRP reports.

Staff drafted the work scope for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2004 CLRP/FY2005-10 TIP for presentation to the TPB Technical Committee and the TPB in February. Staff prepared a detailed list of future-year transit assumptions to present to the TPB Technical Committee for review in February.

Staff participated in air quality sessions at TRB's Annual Meeting and in the Winter meeting of TRB's Committee on Transportation and Air Quality.

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 January TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

### B. Mobile Emissions Analysis

COG/DTP staff continued technical work activities and coordination with DEP staff and MWAQC committees. Staff participated in a meeting of MWAQC's Executive Committee. Air quality planning activities related primarily to assessing the impacts of Phase 2 reformulated gasoline, for inclusion in the 'severe area' ozone SIP. Staff continued work on tasks associated with the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory.

Staff completed a memo discussing the research tasks (vehicle registration data more closely aligned to Mobile 6 vehicle categories and improved vehicle miles of travel data) to develop refined inputs to the Mobile 6 model. The memo was distributed and discussed at the January TPB Technical Committee meeting. Another area staff started

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work on is emissions trading in the region which is identified as a work program element in the UPWP. Staff provided technical support to the consultant team hired by Commuter Connections to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented TERMS by 2005 by supplying the background materials used in estimating the emissions reduction potential of the Mass Marketing TERM.

The Travel Management Subcommittee meeting scheduled for January 2004 was not held. The subcommittee would meet on February 24, 2004 if necessary.

COG/DEP staff met with DTP staff to discuss the mobile inventory for the 2002 Periodic Emissions Inventory. Staff responded to comments during the public comment period on the SIP. Several commentors commented on the need for more transportation control measures in the SIP. Air Quality staff responded to comments and presented both comments and responses to the Technical Advisory Committee for review. As a result of comments, DEP staff met with DTP staff to discuss the mobile measures for Reformulated Gasoline in the SIP. It was agreed that the measure needed to be recalculated and DEP staff prepared MOBILE6 factors for use in the recalculation. DEP staff attended TPB Technical Committee meeting and the TPB meeting.

#### C. Regional Studies

Staff continued coding of the CLRP Plus Scenario transit network.

Staff continued to work with DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA and local jurisdiction staff to develop that transit and highway facility assumptions for “More Household Growth in Region” land use scenario.

Staff reviewed initial modeling results of the “More Jobs in Outer Areas” land use scenario with the Transportation Scenarios Subgroup and the Joint Technical Working Group.

During January, network development activities in support of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study continued with respect to the “CLRP Plus” scenario, reflecting final detailed information on bus service characteristics received from the working group. Peak and off-peak catalogues describing the transit services in this scenario will be presented to members of the transportation scenarios subgroup in February.

#### D. Coordination of Cooperative Forecasting & Transportation Planning

Staff continued to work with the Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee on development of the Econometric Model and Key Factors Assumptions for the Round 7

Cooperative Forecasts. Staff recommended that job and household growth assumptions

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for counties in the Baltimore metropolitan region that currently provide a large number of in-commuters to the Washington region be reviewed and suggested a joint meeting of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the MWCOG Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee to review assumptions about future job and household growth in the metropolitan Washington and Baltimore regions.

Staff attended the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICC Land Use Expert Panel.

Staff met with Baltimore Metropolitan Council staff to discuss each other's current Cooperative Forecasting and Transportation Planning work program activities and the schedule for the update of each region's Cooperative Forecasts and Constrained Long Range Plans.

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF NETWORKS AND MODELS

#### A. Network Development

Network maintenance activities for FY2004 continued in January with the computer processing of transit data from regional transit providers and the development of transit line files using this information, depicting service for the year 2003. Other maintenance activities continued with the updating of the highway network database to reflect the latest TIP and Plan elements.

#### B. GIS Technical Support

Staff continued to monitor the performance of ArcGIS and Oracle 9i databases.

Staff configured server management software to perform regular hardware diagnostic checks on a weekly basis.

Staff continued implementation of requested changes to GIS Master Network database for update of the CLRP/AQ Conformity networks and transit walk sheds.

#### C. Models Development

During January, staff began implementation of refinements to the Version 2.1 travel demand model, incorporating elements which address upgrades to the modeling process

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in the short term, as detailed in the multi-year “straw man” work program transmitted to the TRB Committee on December 24<sup>th</sup>. The material in this work program was reviewed with the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) at its meeting on January 23rd. Staff is working to get an updated draft Version 2.1D model ready for public release at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TFS.

D. Software Support

Staff continued work on: (1) the revision of Version 2 travel demand model flowcharts, making adjustments in the creation of appropriate flowcharts to reflect the current operation and updates of the Version 2.1, Release C, Travel Demand Model, work being done as part of the air quality conformity process and (2) development of a file naming convention to enable the identification of files with respect to conformity year and alternative within a given year. Investigation of the feasibility of a less-detailed chart of the application process and other types of illustration of the process are under way.

Staff, in coordination with the COG Information Technology System, continued the investigation of current direct access device technology which may be applicable as a microcomputer hard drive back-up system to replace the tape back-up system currently in use. The investigation continues to focus on USB 2.0 DVD's and portable hard drives with the addition of snap drives. Currently, a portable hard drive is in use and under evaluation.

IV. TRAVEL MONITORING

A. Cordon Counts

During January, staff continued geo-coding the completed, keyed survey data obtained in the 2003 truck external roadside survey.

B. Congestion Monitoring and Analysis

Staff completed data collection on 50% of the arterial highways that are to be studied during this fiscal year as part of the arterial travel time data collection project. Data are undergoing review for accuracy and thoroughness. Staff had discussions with the state departments of transportation regarding data needs to successfully complete the recalibration effort of the speed/density model. Since the products generated by the congestion monitoring work program are not sufficient to schedule meetings of The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee, staff proposed to the TPB Technical Committee that the activities of the Travel Monitoring and Travel Forecasting Subcommittee be merged. The same proposal was presented to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee which also

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welcomed the idea. The activities of the Travel Monitoring Subcommittee will be merged with the Travel Forecasting starting in July 2004. The Travel Monitoring Subcommittee did not meet during the month of January 2004. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be scheduled when necessary.

C. Travel Surveys and Analysis

1. Household Travel Survey

Staff reviewed currently planned FY 2004 work program activities and proposed FY 2005 work program activities.

2. Census Journey to Work Analysis

Staff received and began review of CTPP 2000 Part 2 – Place of Work data by TAZ.

3. Regional Travel Trends Report

No staff activities.

D. Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse

Staff began assembly of new traffic count data for Virginia and review of Census data to be included in the update of Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A. District of Columbia

Program Development

No staff activities.

Miscellaneous Services and Data Requests

Staff continued to provide comments and information to the U.S. DOT / Volpe Center on the *D.C. Motor Carrier Management and Threat Assessment Study – Phase II Preliminary Findings*. Digital copies of geographic information system (GIS) files containing routes with truck restrictions were provided, as was a truck route “straw man.”

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Database Automation and Application Development

No staff activities.

Machine Traffic Counts

No staff activities.

District of Columbia City Line Cordon Count

During January, staff continued processing of data collected in Spring 2003.

B. Maryland

Program Development

Staff continued coordination with MDOT and MD SHA staff regarding ongoing FY2004 work program activities.

Miscellaneous Services

Staff met again in January with implementing agencies and their consultants to review the status of ongoing corridor studies in Maryland.

Staff began work to provide transportation modeling data and current land activity data from the COG Cooperative Forecasting process to the following organizations.

1. Maryland Department of Planning.
2. Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

MD SHA / MTA Technical Support

Staff reviewed documentation reports, e.g., draft environmental impact study, alternatives retained for detailed study, for various project planning studies in Maryland.

Staff coded a number of alternatives for the Inter County Connector project.

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Subregional Studies

Capital Beltway Corridor Transportation Study

Staff attended a Capital Beltway meeting at Maryland State Highway Administration in Baltimore. The study team is in the process of defining managed lane scenarios that may need to be modeled by staff.

I-270 & US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

No activity on the I-270 project during this period.

Intercounty Connector Study

Staff continued with several parallel work activities on the project, including analysis of travel forecasts for 2010 and 2030 build alternatives. Staff began work to identify a variety of additional measures of effectiveness and to analyze forecast results according to the measures. Staff met with representatives from the University of Maryland, SHA and SHA's consultants to identify elements needed by the university staff for their conduct of an economic impacts analysis. Following the meeting, staff began work to retrieve and organize the data files for transmittal.

Staff forwarded model output computer files and summary data to SHA's consultants for their work in postprocessing (peak hour volumes and levels of service analysis) each alternative. Staff also worked closely with SHA's consultants in executing the technical work activities.

C. Virginia Technical Assistance

Program Development

Staff discussed proposed technical assistance work activities for FY2005 with VDOT.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in January.

Northern Virginia HOV Facilities Monitoring and Data Collection

Processing of all data was completed and will be transmitted to VDOT in February.

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Springfield Interchange Data Collection

There were no activities to report in January.

D. WMATA

Program Development

There were no activities to report in January. Staff is awaiting input from WMATA regarding technical assistance activities in FY2005, as well as disposition of remaining activities in FY2004.

Miscellaneous Services

There were no activities to report in January.

Fare Study and Fare Policy Study

There were no activities to report in January.

Regional Transportation Financing Plan

This project has been deleted at the request of WMATA to provide funding for a study of near term regional transportation funding needs and availability and project/program priorities. By action of the TPB Program Committee on October 3, 2003 (resolution TPB PR8-2003), \$150,000 was transferred to I.E Financial Plan to conduct the study at a level of \$201,000 (previously programmed in the FY2004 UPWP at \$51,000). The remaining balance of \$20,000 in this WMATA account was transferred to WMATA Miscellaneous Services, increasing its budget from \$8,125 to \$28,125.

VII. CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING (CASP) PROGRAM

A. CASP 19

1) Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update

Staff continued to revise the draft report on the Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecast Update to include comments received from the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

2) Ground Access Forecast Update

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

B. CASP 20

1) Process 2002 Air Passenger Survey

There was no staff activity during this reporting period.

2) Ground Access Travel Time Study

Staff continued to review data collected for the Ground Access Travel Time Study.

The **Aviation Technical Subcommittee** was scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at COG. That meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>.

VI. OTHER TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Advanced Technology Vehicle Project

The program oversight committee did not meet during January 2004. The implementation team contacted all participants with outstanding contracts to inform them that outstanding contracts should be signed within a reasonable amount of time and returned to COG. Based on inputs from the oversight committee the consultant has revised the year 5 status report. The program has achieved the emissions reduction goal (NO<sub>x</sub>) for 2003. The next meeting of the oversight committee is scheduled for February 26, 2004.





