

FY 2021



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Work Program Progress Report

January 2021

FY 2021

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The TPB approved its FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in March 2020. The TPB Work Program Progress Report provides a short summary of each activity for the month of January. In addition, this report concludes with status updates reflecting timelines for all ongoing program plans and projects. Please reference the 2021 UPWP for details concerning the approved budget, and work description for each task. The following graphic identifies all the activities in the UPWP.

1. LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING 1.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan 1.2 Federal Compliance 1.3 Policy Board-Directed Activities	7. TRAVEL MONITORING AND DATA PROGRAMS 7.1 Regional Travel Survey 7.2 Traffic Analysis Studies and Research 7.3 Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse 7.4 GIS Data and Analysis
2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2.1 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2.2 TIP Database Support	8. SCENARIO PLANNING AND SOCIOECONOMIC FORECASTING 8.1 Scenario Planning 8.2 Socioeconomic Forecasting
3. PLANNING ELEMENTS 3.1 Performance-Based Planning and Programming 3.2 Congestion Management Process 3.3 Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Planning 3.4 Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning 3.5 Transportation Safety Planning 3.6 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning 3.7 Regional Public Transportation Planning 3.8 Freight Planning 3.9 Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program Planning	9. MOBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS 9.1 Enhanced Mobility Grant Program 9.2 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program 9.3 Transportation and Land Use Connections Program
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 4.1 Public Participation and Outreach 4.2 Communications	10. TPB MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT 10.1 Transportation Planning Board Committee Support and Management and Unified Planning Work Program
5. TRAVEL FORECASTING 5.1 Network Development 5.2 Model Development	11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 11.1 District of Columbia 11.2 Maryland 11.3 Virginia 11.4 WMATA
6. MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING 6.1 Air Quality Conformity 6.2 Mobile Emissions Analysis	CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING PROGRAM (CASP)

Task 1	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	\$1,085,010	\$79,398	55%	31

1. LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

1.1 Long-Range Transportation Plan

In January 2021, the TPB staff conducted two of its ongoing biweekly LRTP coordination meetings, during which planning and coordination take place for a range of LRTP activities and materials, from technical and financial inputs, and preparation for the comment period and its related materials, to the LRTP outline and approach/content, communications, mapping and public participation.

To support data entry in TPB’s Project InfoTrak system, TPB staff coordinated with the technical members during the open solicitation for the technical inputs to update Visualize 2045, the TIP, and the air quality conformity analysis for the plan and TIP. Staff coordinated internally to prepare for the data update and quality control.

Staff briefed the TPB Technical Committee on the status and next steps for the financial analysis, and asked jurisdictions and independent agencies, via email, for their long-term revenue and expenditure inputs. Staff also presented to the TPB Technical Committee the planning assumptions for the LRTP, in context of questions that have been raised regarding implications of COVID-19.

Staff began populating data and public participation input into the Visualize 2045 outline. Staff updated the comment period materials templates, and continued work with a graphic design firm to cost-effectively build out a new website.

Given Covid-19 implications, staff that manages long-range transportation plan activities continued to work with the public participation team to draft a socially distant public engagement approach for summer 2021, likely using QR codes. Staff continue reviewing the reported findings from the 2020 survey and will integrate some of its results in the LRTP. Staff presented preliminary findings to the TPB Technical Committee and provided information about the companion Focus Groups. Staff prepped for a presentation in February to the TPB and discussed ways to share the survey results with members and the public.

Staff premiered new motion graphics and infographics to communicate about TPB and its policy priorities to the TPB Technical Committee and the COG Planning Directors Committee. Staff continued to work with a consultant to produce two additional infographics and one animated video about TPB policy priorities.

Staff continued testing new performance measures being considered to enhance the LRTP performance reporting.

Staff continued work, with consultant support, to document regional climate resiliency/stormwater planning and identify regional strategies for resiliency/stormwater management through transportation projects and programs.

1.2 Federal Compliance

The Fredericksburg MPO is planning to discuss the update to the 2004 MOU in their committees in March.

1.3 Policy Board-Directed Activities

The TPB has directed that the TPB itself and its staff commit that our work together will be anti-racist and will advance equity all its work activities...” In response to the TPB July 2020 Resolution R1-2021, TPB staff have conducted activities to discuss how to incorporate these concepts materially. The TPB staff conducted internal workshops to discuss examples of staff activities and have shared recent examples of best practices for considering equity and anti-racism in our work. TPB staff continue to weave equity, as a foundational principal, through TPB’s analyses, operations, procurement, programs, and priorities to ensure a more prosperous, accessible, livable, sustainable, and equitable future for all residents.

Task 2	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	\$438,483	\$29,635	58%	33

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2.1 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

At its meeting on January 8, the TPB Steering Committee approved four resolutions to amend the FY 2021-2024 TIP. The first amendment, requested by DDOT, was to include funding for the H Street over Railroad and the Cleveland Park Streetscape projects. The second amendment was to include funding for the MD 225 Mattawoman Creek Bridge Replacement project in Charles County, as requested by MDOT. MDOT also requested the third amendment on behalf of Prince George’s County to include funding for the Bowie Road Culvert Project. The final amendment was to include funding for four projects: the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements, Long Bridge Phase I Alexandra 4th Track, I-95 SB Auxiliary Lane between VA Route 123 and VA Route 294, and the Potomac Town Center Garage.

TPB staff approved administrative modifications for two MDOT/SHA projects and four DDOT projects during the month of January.

2.2 TIP Database Support

During the month of January, EcoInteractive completed these changes to the long-range plan and TIP project description forms:

- Developed a new Congestion Management Information section and move CMP and congestions questions there
- Created a new Conformity Information section and moved “Model” and conformity location records here.
- Created Environmental Information section and moved Environmental Mitigations question and NEPA review questions there.
- Added the Change Report sub-report back to TIP Overview reports.

EcoInteractive also provided help desk support services to TPB staff and Project InfoTrak users. The consultant rapidly responded to a situation where the system failed to act as expected and inputs were only delayed by approximately one day due to that error.

Task 3	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
PLANNING ELEMENTS	\$2,952,916	\$162,702	39%	35

3. PLANNING ELEMENTS

3.1 Performance-Based Planning

Staff transmitted the resolutions and reports on the regional 2020 Transit Safety and 2021 Highway Safety targets to the DOTs.

Staff continued discussion on the content and work items regarding PBPP for the 2022 version of the Visualize 2045 long range transportation plan.

3.2 Congestion Management Process

Staff continued compiling information on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on roadway traffic, transit ridership, and other aspects of transportation for presentation at future committee meetings, and as part of a multi-sectoral analysis of pandemic impacts for future presentation to the TPB and other stakeholders.

CMP data compilation and analysis continued toward future editions of the National Capital Region Congestion Report quarterly website “dashboard”.

3.3 Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Planning

In coordination with the Long-Range Transportation Planning Task 1, a consultant team with staff oversight continued work on “Resiliency Planning Factor – Adaptation Planning and Coordination”, to research and document TPB member agency resiliency adaptation activities, and to develop a white paper to describe findings. The effort was anticipated to be completed by May 2021.

Planning for future TPB Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) webinars continued.

3.4 Transportation Emergency Preparedness Planning

The January 13, 2021 meeting of the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Committee (R-ESF 1) was organized and conducted, regarding information sharing continued among committee members and staff on current regional transportation emergency preparedness issues, and Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coalition (MATOC) and transportation agency response actions due to COVID-19.

3.5 Transportation Safety Planning

Staff developed the agenda and secured speakers for the regularly scheduled February 9 meeting of the Transportation Safety Subcommittee.

The application period for member jurisdictions to submit applications to the Regional Safety Program officially opened on January 19th. Applications are due by March 22nd and optional abstracts are due by February 12.

For the Analysis of Regional Roadway Safety Outcomes study, the consultant team updated the regional safety data to include CY 2018 crash data and began work on a regional roadway safety equity analysis.

3.6 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

The January 2021 meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee was rescheduled to February 2, and the *agenda* and meeting documents were developed and distributed. A new Chair was recruited for 2021.

Staff worked with members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee to get them signed up as users of the new on-line data entry portal, and to provide guidance on its use and the type of projects that should be entered. A recording of the December training session and guidance documents were distributed.

Staff briefed the Maryland Pedestrian-Bicycle Emphasis Area Team Meeting on the Street-Smart program on January 28.

3.7 Regional Public Transportation Planning

The Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee met on January 26. The agenda included an update on regional information gathering regarding transit operations and covid-19, a regional overview of electric buses, discussion of Bus Transformation Project recommendation B: regional data sharing, an overview of the WMATA real time crowding information app, an overview of the VRE mobile app, and a roundtable on 2021 agenda topics.

TPB staff participated in MATOC Transit Task Force calls and discussed options for assisting the region’s transit providers in coping with the pandemic and the recovery of transit systems. Staff attended meetings of the WMATA JCC, WMATA Bus Priority Planning, and the Greater Washington Partnership’s Capital Rail Vision.

3.8 Freight Planning

Staff collaborated with the Freight Subcommittee chair to confirm participation of the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (NYC DCAS) in one or more Freight Subcommittee meetings in calendar year 2021 to share lessons learned on improving the sustainability of the City’s truck fleet.

3.9 Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program Planning

The Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program is an operational partnership of the region's major transportation agencies, funded outside the UPWP, but with certain planning support activities provided by TPB staff under this task.

Special conference calls were organized and conducted during January 2021 to discuss ongoing MATOC/transportation agency operational issues, including:

- MATOC Operations Subcommittee, January 6 and 14
- MATOC Transit Task Force, January 13
- MATOC Operations Subcommittee and Transit Task Force joint call, January 19

The regularly scheduled virtual January 8 meeting of the MATOC Steering Committee was organized and conducted, continuing discussion of communications, coordination, and Traffic Incident Management topics, as well as impacts of COVID-19.

Task 4	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	\$1,018,896	\$90,480	60%	41

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 Public Participation and Outreach

Staff conducted 11 focus groups during the evenings in January to speak with randomly selected residents about key transportation challenges facing the region. The sessions, which focused on equity, safety, and climate change, will provide qualitative input for the update of Visualize 2045, the region’s long-range transportation plan. This input will complement the opinion survey that was conducted in the fall. Staff facilitated all the focus group sessions, took notes, and wrote up debrief documentation. Participants for the sessions were grouped by geographic and demographic categories, including residents who are low-income, racially, and ethnically diverse, people with disabilities, older adults. One session was conducted in Spanish. Consultant assistance was engaged to recruit participants. Input from the focus groups will be analyzed using qualitative research software. A report on this research will be released in the spring.

Staff presented preliminary findings to the Technical Committee from a region-wide public opinion survey that was conducted last fall. More than 2,400 responses were received, which greatly exceeded the target of 2,000. The responses also generally met the targets for 10 sub-regional (largely county-level) geographies. Throughout January, the survey report was reviewed and the presentation for the TPB, which was scheduled for February, was developed.

The TPB approved members for the 2021-2022 Community Advisory Committee (CAC). According to the CAC’s new structure, which the TPB approved in November, the committee will now include 24 members who will each serve two-year terms. Staff accepted applications from November 12 to December 17. Staff received 41 completed applications who came from 15 of the TPB’s member jurisdictions. In December, staff reviewed the applications and made recommendations to the TPB officers for the nominations approved by the TPB. The first meeting of the next CAC will be on February 11.

Staff began preparing for Phase II outreach for Visualize 2045, which will provide open opportunities for public input. Phase I was focused on public opinion research through quantitative research (opinion survey) and qualitative research (focus groups). Phase II engagement will be conducted this summer.

Staff held a planning meeting and confirmed 2021 meeting dates with new Chair for the Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA).

Staff developed timeline for TPB planned activities to be addressed at AFA meetings.

WMATA’s Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) elected AFA liaison to replace the vacant chair.

4.2 Communications

The following stories were featured in TPB News and COG news releases:

- *TPB's TLC program seeks a few good projects*
January 12, 2021
- *Here's what happened at the first TPB meeting of 2021*
January 26, 2021
- *La planificación del transporte, en resumen*
January 27, 2021
- *Conozca la junta de planificación de transport*
January 27, 2021

Throughout the period, TPB staff maintained an active presence on social media.

Staff updated pages on the COG website related to transportation. Staff also planned updates of the website.

Task 5	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRAVEL FORECASTING	\$3,846,492	\$158,014	35%	43

5. TRAVEL FORECASTING

5.1 Network Development

Staff coordinated, via phone calls and videoconferencing, with various implementing agencies (i.e., VDOT, MDOT, VDRPT) to assist with development of project inputs for forecast-year networks for the upcoming air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 update to Visualize 2045.

Staff continued to develop the base 2019 transit service for use in the upcoming air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 update to Visualize 2045. This work includes adding (“coding”) new bus routes and/or deleting bus routes that are no longer in service in the geodatabase as well as updating (“recoding”) routes that have changes in their origin and/or destination.

In support of Gen3 Model development, staff continued to work on the development of the base-year transit networks in four time-of-day periods. Staff modified the automated General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) file-processing procedure to extract information for four time periods instead of

two. Staff processed all the 2018 GTFS data and compiled the results in a regional 2018 GTFS table. Staff also matched the GTFS data with the 2018 transit network. In the meantime, staff updated the COGTools network editing software so that it can handle the viewing and editing of the transit networks in four time periods. Staff also updated the exporting function in the COGTools to work with four time periods. Lastly, staff completed calculating average headway and runtime information for the PM peak and night-time time periods for transit services not available through GTFS data.

Staff presented the details and timeline of the transit network development to support the planned four TOD periods in the developmental Gen3 Model to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee at the January meeting.

5.2 Model Development and Support

The Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) meets in odd-numbered months. At the January 15 meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- 2017/2018 COG Regional Travel Survey
- Covid, Climate, China, Connectivity and Consolidation: How 2020 Changed the Evolution of Autonomous Vehicles and What that Means for Local Government Planning and Financing of CAV Projects in the U.S.
- COG/TPB Gen3 Travel Model: Status report
- Transportation Research Board (TRB) 100th Annual Meeting
- Roundtable discussion of current modeling efforts around the region
- Other Business
 - Monthly snapshots of effects of COVID-19 on travel available on COG website
 - Multisector impacts of COVID-19

Additionally, staff also prepared meeting highlights of the November TFS meeting.

Production-use, travel demand forecasting model: Generation-2/Ver. 2.3

None, other than data requests, which are listed below under “Other activities.”

Developmental, travel demand forecasting model: Generation-2/Ver. 2.3 and Ver. 2.4

In preparation for developing a Version 2.4 Travel Model transmittal package, staff finished a draft of the model user’s guide. The draft is currently undergoing internal review. Staff is also preparing a modeling folder that contains the standard, off-the-shelf Ver. 2.4 modeling outputs for potential future data requests.

Developmental, travel demand forecasting model: Generation-2/Ver. 2.4 PT

Regarding developmental testing of the Cube Voyager Public Transport (PT) path-building module with the TPB’s travel model, staff updated the Ver. 2.3.85_PT Model such that it is now the Ver. 2.4_PT Model. Staff uploaded the resultant model files to the Gen2 Model repository on GitHub. Staff also fixed a bug in the Ver. 2.5 and Ver. 2.3.85_PT Models that is related to bus speed degradation and was noted in an earlier staff investigation of PT.

Developmental, travel demand forecasting model: Generation-3

Regarding the consultant-assisted project to develop the next-generation travel demand forecasting model, known as the Gen3 Model:

- Staff held two check-in meetings with RSG and BMG, the consultants on the Gen3 Model development project (January 14 and 28).
- In support of the Gen3 Model data needs as outlined in an RSG memo (last updated 12/1/20), staff collected and processed some data items. Specifically,

- Item #15: Staff transmitted to RSG the latest 2017/18 Regional Travel Survey (RTS) data files combined with the Maryland Travel Survey (MTS) data files for the three overlap counties in Maryland.
- Item #21: Staff reviewed the final Year-2018 traffic count data for the modeled area prepared by Martha Kile. Staff transmitted the data file and documentation to RSG. Traffic counts for screenlines will be developed later.
- Per request from RSG, staff removed household records during school and national holidays from the 2017/18 RTS and MTS survey files. Staff re-ran the re-weighting process using the cleaned survey files and shared the results with RSG. Staff also shared the cleaned survey files with RSG.
- Per request from RSG, staff summarized worker flows by origin-destination and Metrorail trips by residence in the RTS-MTS data using the weights estimated from the reweighting process and compared them to the corresponding CTPP and PUMS targets. Staff shared the summaries and findings with RSG.
- To improve the target matching performance of the re-weighting process, staff combined PUMAs according to the recommendations from COG’s Planning Data and Research (PDR) Team. Staff re-ran the re-weighting process and compared the target-matching performance before and after the PUMA consolidations. Staff shared the re-weighted results and comparison summaries with RSG.
- Staff found an issue that prevented staff from installing and running the PopulationSim-based MWCOG population synthesizer on the modeling server and provided a fix. Staff shared the findings with RSG, which is working on improving the documentation of the software.
- Staff updated the Gen2 Model repository on GitHub and worked with RSG on establishing the structure of the Gen3 Model repository and a work style in GitHub. Staff contacted GitHub for a potential purchase of paid accounts.

Other activities

Staff serviced six data requests. One request was from DDOT; four requests were from consultants working for VDOT; and one request was from academics (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil). The requested data included the Ver. 2.3.78 Travel Model, load-link highway and transit network shape files from the Ver. 2.3.78 Travel Model, highway skim files, zone-to-zone trip flows, vehicle trips (in comma-separated-variable file format) from the Ver. 2.3.78 Travel Model.

Staff worked with IT to set up and install necessary software for modeling tests on Amazon cloud servers.

Staff attended the 100th TRB annual meeting virtually both during January 5-8 and 11-15 for committee meetings and during January 21-22 and 25-29 for workshops and presentation sessions.

Task 6	Budget	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING	\$1,835,592	\$118,292	51%	45

6. MOBILE EMISSIONS PLANNING

6.1 Air Quality Conformity

Staff continued to regularly attend coordination meetings related to scheduling tasks for the 2022 quadrennial update of the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan, including air quality conformity analysis, system performance, and environmental justice analysis.

Staff coordinated with state implementing agencies regarding inputs for the conformity analysis of the 2022 update to Visualize 2045. This included meeting with the Maryland Department of Transportation

(MDOT) about general inputs, specifically about the I-270/I-495 P3 project inputs, meeting with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about general inputs and about policy assumptions for the high occupancy toll lanes (HOT lanes), and meeting with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit (VDRPT) about Virginia Railway Express (VRE) transit coding details.

Staff coordinated with MDOT staff regarding project inputs from the Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the upcoming conformity analysis.

Staff obtained updates needed from the current financially constrained long-range transportation plans (LRTPs) for the Baltimore (BMC/BRTB) and Fredericksburg (FAMPO) MPOs to include in the air quality conformity networks for the metropolitan Washington region. The Washington region's travel demand model includes counties in the purview of BMC and FAMPO, so the TPB includes projects from those agencies in its forecast-year networks for the regional travel demand model.

Staff reviewed projects for VDOT to determine if the projects were "regionally significant" for the purposes of air quality conformity.

COG's Department of Transportation Planning (DTP) coordinated with the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Technical Advisory Committee (MWAQC-TAC) members regarding the analysis years for the air quality conformity analysis of the 2022 update to Visualize 2045 at the MWAQC-TAC meeting on January 12, 2021 (item #2).

Staff continued to participate in the Scenario Planning Project Oversight Committee and provide feedback to the study team.

In accordance with the TPB consultation procedures, staff forwarded to the consultation agencies and public advisory committees the January meeting agenda and a summary memo regarding the monthly TPB meeting and air quality conformity consultation elements.

6.2 Mobile Emissions Analysis

Staff conducted activities related to the TPB Climate Change and Mitigation Study of 2021. On January 8, the TPB Technical Committee was briefed on the progress of activities related to the study (Other Business). Related to the study, staff began developing the Phase I memorandum on findings from past COG and TPB studies. Staff also began to develop a detailed draft scope of work for the project consultant, mainly pertaining to Phase II of the study, which will attempt to answer what it would take to reduce the transportation-sector greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030.

DTP staff participated in the MWAQC-TAC call on January 12. DEP and DTP staff reviewed an EPA notice in the Federal Register about catalytic converters and developed a joint TPB/MWAQC comment letter to EPA regarding a still-in-place 1986 policy about replacement catalytic converters (item #3). Staff provided a memorandum on this topic for the Director's Report to TPB in January and finalized the letter for approval by the TPB Steering Committee and the MWAQC Executive Committee meeting in February.

Staff worked with COG's Purchasing and Facilities Manager to select a vendor that would provide DTP staff with software to decode vehicle registration data that will be provided by the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia air agencies.

DTP staff continued to work with DEP staff, member jurisdictions, and state air agencies to facilitate various aspects of air quality and climate change planning activities. DTP staff attended the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) meeting on January 27.

DTP and DEP staff, and COG executive office representatives, coordinated activities with COG members regarding the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), which is a regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seeks to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. TCI issued a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated December 21, which signed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia. Eight other states, including Maryland and Virginia, announced that they will continue to work with the signatory jurisdictions on the development of the details of the regional program while pursuing state-specific initiatives to

reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. A summary staff memorandum and the TCI MOU were provided to the TPB in January (Director’s Report).

In response to a data request related to project-level air quality planning for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, staff provided a project consultant for MDOT with air quality modeling files from the 2020 Amendment to Visualize 2045.

DTP staff continued to conduct MOVES model tests to further refine estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for future studies. Staff also continued to explore different ways to model criteria pollutant emissions both to maintain consistency with the Version 2.4 Travel Demand Model that is expected to become official in the spring of 2021 and to introduce innovative new processes that could involve machine learning methods.

Task 7	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TRAVEL MONITORING AND DATA PROGRAMS	\$2,164,394	\$100,747	46%	47

7. TRAVEL MONITORING AND DATA PROGRAMS

7.1 Travel Surveys

Staff focused on preparing the Regional Travel Survey (RTS) public data files, in addition to preparing the technical documentation and tabulations for the Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse. Staff performed the following activities:

- Finalized the RTS household, person, vehicle, and trip files for public release, in addition to the data dictionary and the technical documentation. The RTS public file was released in early January.
- Fielded RTS data requests from stakeholders.
- Updated the RTS webpage.
- Developed tabulations from the RTS for the Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse (RTDC).
- Provided recommendations to the Gen3 Model Development Team on which geographies could be further combined to improve the performance of matching targets in the PopulationSim reweighting process.
- Provided guidance and shared SAS code with the Gen3 Model Development team to summarize home county by work county worker flows and Metrorail trips by residence county.
- Developed a memo and updated a presentation for the January Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting; the presentation was postponed and will be given at future meeting of the TPB.
- Participated in biweekly meetings with the Gen3 Model Development Team.
- Participated in Committee meetings, sessions, and workshops at the 2021 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting from January 5 – 29.
- Answered questions from the Plan Development Team about RTS Telework findings.
- Responded to a data request from Prince George’s County about telecommuting.
- Provided an update on the RTS to the Travel Forecasting Subcommittee on January 15.
- Gathered transportation surveys measuring the impacts to travel behavior from COVID-19 that inform regional transportation planning.

7.2 Traffic Analysis Studies and Research

Staff updated and finalized the memo describing how the average annual weekday traffic factor is developed.

In support of the Plan Development and Coordination Team, staff reviewed and provided input on a Transportation Land Use Connections abstract.

Staff participated in the Gen3 Model Check-in meetings

Transportation Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Staff continued to coordinate with other key organizational technical staff to prepare an examination of COVID-related regional impacts from a multisectoral perspective, including the transportation sector to better understand and describe the impacts to the region's transportation system from a broad context. Staff delivered a presentation on this project during TPB's January meeting.

RTS Stakeholder Question Research

Staff developed a scope and timeline to research a series of questions submitted by stakeholders. The scope was distributed to the project team. Staff also set up a new tracking sheet for additional questions that are submitted from stakeholders after the initial project kick-off.

Traffic Trends

Staff processed and analyzed the November 2020 highway data from permanent count stations and shared the results with the TPB Planning Data and Research Program Director for inclusion in a presentation to the TPB on the Transportation Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the National Capital Region.

Staff finished the development of programs to read historical hourly non-motorized continuous count data and to process, check, and analyze these data. Staff discussed internally how to visualize these data and requested the July 2020 through December 2020 data. Once these data are received, staff will be able to better understand how the pandemic is affecting non-motorized travel when compared with previous years.

Big Data in Regional Travel and Mobility Analyses

Staff and the consultant prepared for a meeting to be held in February with TPB Leadership to review the project. The meeting approach and presentation materials were prepared, including a summary of the report, partner agency meetings, and procurement options and strategies as well as a procurement recommendation.

Transportation Data Dashboard

Staff scheduled and prepared for a kickoff meeting for the Transportation Data Dashboard Project. This effort is being carried out under Task 7.2, but includes significant support from Planning Data and Resources staff who primarily support work activities in Task 7.4

7.3 Regional Transportation Data Clearinghouse (RTDC)

Staff requested and received highway hourly continuous counter data for December 2020 from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Staff used the method recommended to the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis Program (TFEA) team in January to estimate average annual weekday traffic (AAWDT) for the District of Columbia, Jefferson County, WV, and other links on which AAWDT was not reported. Staff made additional updates to finalize the traffic data and delivered the traffic file and related documentation to the TFEA team and their contractor, RSG, for use in Gen3 Model Development. These data will be used to populate the Traffic Volumes by Link RTDC layer.

Staff made updates to the Traffic Counting Stations file to reflect new stations and updates to the permanent station locations and status.

Staff requested the 2019 Transit Network from the TFEA team staff.

Staff requested data on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes and stops from Montgomery County Planning GIS staff.

7.4 GIS Data, and Analysis

Staff led a discussion regarding Story Map possibilities for the 2019 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey, including content from both the General Findings Report and the Geographic Findings Report, at the January 28 meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

Staff attended and participated in the Maryland State Geographic Information Committee (MSGIC) virtual meeting held on January 13.

Staff worked with the committee leadership of the GIS Committee and GDX Working Group to plan and participate in the January 12 GIS Committee/GDX Working Group virtual meeting. The meeting topics included updates on the NCR GDX including food distribution mapping, CAD2GIS, and NextGen 9-1-1. In addition, DDOT staff gave a presentation on their new District of Columbia Roadway Data Hub.

Staff attended the TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (TFS) meeting held on January 15.

Staff began to support the RTS Stakeholder Question Research. More is reported in section 7.2 Traffic Analysis Studies and Research.

Staff met with staff from the Plan Development & Coordination team and Commuter Connections on January 12 to discuss and review Commuter Connections' network dataset for its potential applicability as an analytical tool for developing the performance analysis of TPB's Visualize 2045.

Staff attended and participated in a meeting regarding Visualize 2045 activities, hosted by the DTP Plan Development and Coordination Team, on January 14.

Staff updated the language on the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) map page on the COG website, at the request of Plan Development & Coordination staff.

Staff continued to participate in meetings with the Travel Forecasting and Emissions Analysis Program team and their contractor, RSG, to assist with data needs for Gen3 Model development.

Staff continued to work on assembling spatial data on parks and other open space to be used in the development of the Gen3 model. Staff also provided a status report to the Gen3 team regarding the data collected. The project will be wrapped up next month.

Task 8	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
SCENARIO PLANNING AND SOCIOECONOMIC FORECASTING	\$1,530,943	\$94,137	34%	51

8. SCENARIO PLANNING AND SOCIOECONOMIC FORECASTING

8.1 Scenario Planning

Review of initial draft Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts

Throughout January, DCPS staff, the Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee and Planning Directors Committee received and reviewed initial draft Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts. Ten COG member jurisdictions have elected to update their forecasts, but the changes are incremental and will not significantly affect the regional forecast totals.

The Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee and the Planning Directors Committee both approved the draft Round 9.2 Forecasts at their respective meetings for use by the TPB in the upcoming Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Throughout January, participating jurisdictions submitted their small-area 9.2 Forecast data files and DCPS staff began compiling the data into the regional dataset. It is anticipated that the DCPS compilation and quality control work on Round 9.2 will be completed during February.

Housing Targets update

To assist with preparation of small-area housing forecasts, DCPS staff completed and presented the 2019 Multi-family Rental Housing Report using the CoStar database that is also the source of the annual Commercial Construction report. At their January meeting, DCPS staff presented a 35-year analysis of regional and jurisdictional residential permitting trends to the Planning Directors.

COVID-related impacts to the economy

To assist with the COG-wide multi-sector analysis of COVID impacts, DCPS staff continued to update the PowerPoint presentation that documents the effects to date of COVID on the region’s economy. During January, DPCS staff also updated the monthly REMS tables and analysis to reflect the more detailed indicators of COVID-related economic findings.

DCPS and DPT staff also met to discuss socioeconomic forecasting plans for the rest of FY 2021 and FY 2022.

8.2 Socioeconomic Forecasting

Staff participated in a regular project management meeting with the consultant. The consultant shared a draft questionnaire for Peer MPOs and updated outlines for two upcoming memos. Following the meeting, the project manager requested feedback on the questionnaire from Oversight Committee Members. An updated draft questionnaire marked up with input from Committee members was shared with the Consultant later in the month. The Project Manager also reached out to the Team Leaders to obtain preliminary information to help plan the Scenario Planning workshop that will be held in the Spring. Staff also reviewed and approved the consultant’s invoice for work performed in December.

Task 9	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
MOBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS	\$624,450	\$12,403	26%	55

9. MOBILITY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS

9.1 Enhanced Mobility Grant Program

Staff drafted a timeline and workplan for the 2021 Enhanced Mobility solicitation.

Staff attended Federal Transit Administration webinar on Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) and outlined a proposed process to allocate the apportionment of \$591,353 for the DC-MD-VA urbanized area for presentation to the TPB in February.

9.2 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Staff oversaw the Steering Committee approval of a funding transfer to provide additional funding for a DC TAP project approved last November.

Staff conducted discussions to explore options for using surpluses that have built up in the TPB’s sub-allocation accounts for TAP in the TPB’s state-level jurisdictions.

9.3 Transportation Land-Use Connections Program

The application period for the FY 2022 round of TLC projects opened on January 8. The deadline for applications is March 8. Potential applicants could submit abstracts by January 26 to get preliminary feedback on project concepts. Staff received 21 abstracts and responded with comments by February 2. For the upcoming year, the TLC Program is particularly seeking projects that promote ped/bike access in Transit Access Focus Areas (TAFAs) and the National Capital Trail Network (NCTN). Both the TAFE map and the NCTN map were approved by the TPB in July.

The 15 TLC Projects for FY 2021 were underway as described below:

- DC (North Capitol Cloverleaf) - The consultant performed field reconnaissance to assess multimodal facilities and is preparing existing condition diagrams. The consultant also reviewed background reports and is summarizing and recommends for concept design principles. Bi-weekly project meetings continue to take place.
- DC (Public Space Activation Playbook) - Kick-off meeting between jurisdiction and consultant was held on 1/28, with next meeting planned for 2/26.
- MD (City of Bowie) – The contractor is continuing to evaluate the three alternatives agreed to during and after our site visit, including collecting data on existing utilities, stormwater, planned land use, determining bridge span lengths and types, developing elevations to illustrate options, and preparing a preliminary report.
- MD (City of Frederick) –A kickoff meeting was held at the project site with City of Frederick and MDOT SHA District 7 on 1/20 to discuss the preliminary design approach for the project. Consultant will continue reviewing traffic data and identify potential traffic signal improvements to develop 15% concept layouts for review by agency stakeholders.
- MD (Montgomery County) – Public outreach meeting held on 1/11 to hear from stakeholders and the public about challenges people with vision disabilities face when trying to get around the County and accessing regional transit options. Public survey to seek additional input was open until 1/31.
- MD (Prince George’s County Cool Spring & Adelphi Road) – Community meeting was held on 1/14. The consultant is continuing design work.
- MD (Prince George’s County Riggs Road) - The consultants recently completed a draft report of planning-level existing conditions analysis. This report is currently under review by the Prince Georges County staff. Consultants are beginning to develop materials for the upcoming public meeting in March. These materials include a project website, public input survey, and an interactive public comment map to receive feedback.
- MD (City of Takoma Park) - A review of existing conditions was completed. Two focus group meetings were held that were attended by approximately 25 stakeholders and City staff.
- VA (City of Alexandria) – The consultant delivered a technical memo that identifies current practices for reducing the impact of fares on low-income people from across the country and considers the implications for the City of Alexandria. The report also highlights goals that should guide the establishment of a program that would make public transportation more affordable for low-income residents. This draft memo is currently under review by the City of Alexandria and the consultants are expected to deliver an additional Technical memo on February 19.
- VA (Arlington County Micro-Mobility) – Kick-off meeting was held at the end of last year and consultant work to develop a micro-mobility transit hub prototype is underway.
- VA (Arlington County Curb Space Allocation Tool) - Two project meetings were held to work through required inputs to the Curb Space Allocation Tool and discuss model logic.
- VA (Fairfax County) – Data collection and site visits are underway by the consultant and are expected to be completed before the stakeholder’s kick-off meeting planned for 2/12.
- VA (City of Fairfax) – Following the kick-off meeting in December, city staff have coordinated with the consultant to refine the scope for the city to take on a more active role in public engagement. City staff are currently developing a survey to collect input for the project and the consultant is helping develop survey questions and content for the “about the project” page hosted on the City’s Engage Fairfax platform.

Task 10	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TPB SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT	\$858,369	\$43,306	37%	57

10. TPB SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

TPB Support and Management

This task includes activities not attributable to specific tasks in the work program but provides overall support for and management of the TPB and UPWP-related activities.

- Provide administrative arrangements (such as preparation and distribution of meeting materials) and staff support for TPB and its various Committees, Sub-Committees, Task Forces and special TPB work groups meetings.
- Respond to requests from TPB members, federal agencies, Congressional offices, media and others for information or data of a general transportation nature.
- Meet with TPB Board members and participating agency staff to discuss current and emerging regional transportation planning issues.
- Participate in meetings of other agencies whose programs and activities relate to and impact the TPB work program.
- Coordination of TPB Planning Activities with Program Directors and day-to-day management of and allocation of staff and financial resources
- Monitoring of all work program activities and expenditures.

Staff support was provided for the following committees and subcommittees:

- State Technical Working Group (STWG)
- TPB Technical Committee
- TPB Steering Committee
- MWCOG Board Meetings
- Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
- MATOC Steering Committee
- TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- TPB Access for All (AFA)
- Regional Public Transportation Subcommittee (RPTS)
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
- COG Planning Directors
- TPB Freight Subcommittees

Support activities from the administrative staffs included: meeting logistics with meeting rooms and amenities, duplication and distribution of meeting materials, email/phone call follow ups. Additionally, staff also worked on monitoring work program activities, providing administrative assistance to senior staff and monitoring and prepare financial reports. Additionally, administrative staff work on monthly financial administration and management activity which includes review and finalization of monthly expense reports for all UPWP activities, development, and submission of monthly UPWP invoices and any follow up activity with the funding agencies.

The Staff Director provided overall program management oversight to all the Department’s activities. Work activities the Director was involved in during the month of **January FY 2021** includes:

- Discussions, review, and finalization of the agenda topics for the TPB’s Technical Committee, State Transportation Working Group (STWG) and Board meetings. This includes meeting with the Program Directors and project staffs to review the progress and briefing materials.

- Participation in the STWG, TPB Technical Committee, TPB Steering Committee, TPB’s Citizen’s Advisory Committee and the TPB Board meetings.
- Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

Other additional activities for the TBP Staff Director for the month of **January FY 2021** includes Telephone / Web Ex / Microsoft Teams Communications:

- CAOs Meeting
- CAC’s 2021 Discussion / P. Sebesky - Manassas
- Major Metros – Weekly on COVID-19
- Board of Directors
- Leaning in to 2021: More Equitable, More Resilient
- MD-GA HB73
- CEEPC New Leadership Discussion
- Conformity and MOVES3 Discussion
- Visualize 2045 Update / VDOT Projects – N. Whitaker - VDOT
- Region Forward Coalition
- State Air Coordination Discussion

UPWP

The UPWP activities include: Supervise the preparation, negotiation, and approval of the annual work program and budget involving the State Transportation Agencies, the TPB Technical Committee, the TPB Technical Committee, the Steering Committee and the TPB.

- Preparation of monthly UPWP progress reports for each of the state agencies administering planning funding and prepare all necessary federal grant applications submissions.
- Review all monthly UPWP invoices going to each of the state agencies administering planning funding.

Task 11	BUDGET	Billed this month	% Funds Expended	UPWP Page
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$2,055,007	\$9,805	5%	59
District of Columbia	\$294,366	\$2,998	15%	59
Maryland	\$807,806	\$320	2%	61
Virginia	\$578,978	\$6,358	8%	63
WMATA	\$373,857	\$128	1%	65

11. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

11.1 District of Columbia

Program Development, Data Requests and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group / Technical Committee / Steering Committee/ TPB meeting cycle.

Staff assessed and reviewed the FY 2021 Technical Assistance budget and spending.

Staff provided additional information to DDOT about costs included in November invoice for short-term counts and prepared a supplement to the November progress report.

Staff submitted the count archive files to DDOT.

Staff also coordinated with DDOT on a request for a model output matrix of TAZ – TAZ highway travel times and distances.

11.2. Maryland

Program Development, Data Requests, and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

Staff assessed and reviewed the FY 2021 Technical Assistance budget and spending.

Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, five technical assistance projects in Maryland were fully or partially funded through the Maryland Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above for further details about the TLC Program.

11.3. Virginia

Program Development, Data Requests, and Miscellaneous Services

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

Staff developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to obtain on-call travel monitoring consultant services for FY 2022 travel monitoring studies. Staff met with COG's Contracts and Procurement staff to go over the latest draft and steps required to publish the Request for Proposals.

Staff received a request for an update to the I-395 and I-66 Mode Share Study to be performed in FY 2022. Staff began reviewing materials in preparation for the study and developed an initial budget.

Staff assessed and reviewed the FY 2021 Technical Assistance budget and spending.

Travel Monitoring and Survey

Non-Motorized/Active Transportation Counts

Staff finished reviewing the Fall 2020 non-motorized count data from the contractor including verifying that the photographs, dates, locations, and camera placements agreed with the original plan. Staff met with the contractor to discuss issues that were encountered during the data review. Staff continued to check the video files for quality control purposes.

Sub-Regional Planning Study

Park and Ride Study

The consultant, VDOT, and COG/TPB participated in a regular monthly check-in meeting. During the meeting, material for the January stakeholder meeting was reviewed and prepared. Staff provided additional notes on slides and a memo following the meeting. The stakeholder meeting was convened on January 14th. The consultant began scheduling the next monthly check-in meeting. Staff also coordinated with the consultant and VDOT to update the timeline for Task D Future Technology and Mobility Vision Memo Adjustment.

Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, three technical assistance projects in Virginia were fully or partially funded under the Virginia Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above for further details about the TLC Program.

1.1.4. Regional Transit

Program Development

Staff attended the monthly State Technical Working Group/Technical Committee/Steering Committee/TPB meeting cycle.

Staff assessed and reviewed the FY 2021 Technical Assistance budget and spending.

Staff updated the proposal for a Transit within Reach Solicitation that will be used to identify and fund design projects that improve bicycle and pedestrian access to Transit Access Focus Areas. Staff shared a copy with WMATA staff and requested feedback. A short meeting was later convened with WMATA staff.

Staff developed a proposal for a high-capacity transit map and circulated it internally for comment.

Transportation / Land Use Connections Program

As part of the Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program, three technical assistance projects were fully or partially funded under the Regional Transit Technical Assistance Program. See TLC item above for further details about the TLC Program.

CONTINUOUS AIRPORT SYSTEM PLANNING PROGRAM

Continuous Air System Planning Program

COG-TPB staff convened the Aviation Technical Subcommittee (ATS) meeting on January 28, during which time staff shared the key findings from the Draft 2019 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey Geographic Findings Report. During this meeting, staff also facilitated a discussion on whether the 2021 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey would be conducted. Ultimately, the ATS determined that the 2021 APS would be postponed until (at least) 2022, and that the 2022 Air Cargo Study would be moved up to FY2021. Staff arranged a meeting with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) staff the following week to discuss the necessary updates to be made to the upcoming Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP)-funded Continuous Air System Planning (CASP) program projects, given the changes to the sequence of projects.

Staff attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting, including the aviation-related committees they serve on: Aviation Administration and Policy (AVO10), Aviation System planning (AVO20), and Airport Terminals and Ground Access (AVO50). Staff also accepted an invitation to participate on a TRB Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) project panel 04-26, *Framework for Airport Evacuation: Assessment of Airport Landside Capacity Using a Micro-Meso Simulation Tool*.

Comprehensive Regional Air System Plan Update – Phase 3

Staff prepared memo and presentation content for the upcoming February 17 presentation of the priority airport ground access projects resulting from the Comprehensive Washington-Baltimore Regional Air System Plan (RASP) Report. Staff also met with DTP communications staff to begin preparing a TPB News article on the RASP.

Survey Response Rate and Quality Study

Staff attended their bi-monthly check-in meetings with TPB's on-call consultant, ICF, on January 5 and January 19. ICF held the monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on January 14. During the meeting, ICF shared the updated study work plan, and in coordination with the TAC members finalized the stakeholders who would be interviewed, and the list interview questions that would be

asked. COG-TPB staff participated in several of the stakeholder interviews held by ICF on January 22 and 25. COG-TPB staff also continued working on the longitudinal analysis element of the study by analyzing survey response rate and quality data over time, compiling key background documents, and adding to the draft report.

Process 2019 Air Passenger Survey - Phase 2

COG-TPB staff completed the 2019 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey Geographic Findings Draft Report, including coordinating with colleagues that specialize in geospatial analysis to make significant improvements to all maps contained in the report. Staff shared the key findings during the January 28 ATS Meeting.

PROGRESS ON PLAN PRODUCTS

Big Data in Regional Travel And Mobility Analyses

- Completed kick-off meeting
- Consultant completed the State-of-the-Practice review (Task 2)
- The consultant completed the Big Data Evaluation (Task 3)
- The consultant submitted the final report
- Big Data evaluation completed in June 2020
- The project was extended, and an amendment was executed for a new task – Task 4 for the Consultant to execute three coordination meetings to refine and develop an actionable path toward Big Data procurement for COG/TPB.
- Coordination meetings with DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, VDRPT, and WMATA were completed.
- COG/TPB Leadership Coordination Meeting completed

Transportation Data Dashboard

- Completed kickoff meeting

Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan

- The current Coordinated Plan was adopted by the TPB in December 2018
- The next Enhanced Mobility Solicitation will be in Spring/Summer 2021.
- The next update of the Coordinated Plan will occur in 2022

Develop Regional Safety Study Final Report

- Estimated completion in May 2021.

Develop and Implement the Regional Safety Program

- Project Solicitation complete March 2021.
- TPB Approval of Initial Set of Projects complete June 2021.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

- Completion of the plan update is anticipated by mid-CY 2021.

National Capital Regional Trail

- The current version of the trail map was approved and published in July 2020. An annual update to the map is anticipated in mid-CY 2021.

Transit Access Focus Areas

- Completed: July 2020

Public Participation Plan

- Draft plan released for 45-day public comment period: August 25, 2020
- TPB approval: October 2020

Opinion Survey for Visualize 2045

- Survey instrument and methodology developed: July-August 2020
- Respondents complete survey: September-October 2020
- Sneak-peak findings released: January 2021
- Presentation of findings to the TPB: February 2021

Qualitative Research (Focus Groups) for Visualize 2045

- Methodology developed and participants recruited: October-December 2020
- Focus groups conducted: January 2021
- Anticipated findings analyzed and report released: Spring 2021