

ITEM 13 –Notice
September 20, 2017

Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis
Of the VDOT and MDOT Off-Cycle Amendment to the 2016 CLRP

Staff

Recommendation: The Board will be briefed on the results of the draft air quality conformity analysis released for public comment on September 14.

Issues: None

Background: At the April 19, 2017 TPB meeting, the board acted to initiate an air quality conformity analysis for an off-cycle amendment to the 2016 CLRP for several Maryland Department of Transportation and Virginia Department of Transportation projects. The board will be briefed on the results of the draft air quality conformity analysis, which were released for public comment on September 14. The TPB will be asked to approve the off-cycle conformity analysis and 2016 CLRP Amendment at its October 18 meeting.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Jane Posey, TPB Transportation Engineer
SUBJECT: VDOT and MDOT Off-Cycle Amendment to the 2016 CLRP
DATE: September 14, 2017

In the spring, the TPB approved project inputs for proposed amendments to the 2016 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) submitted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), as well as the Scope of Work for the air quality conformity analysis. The TPB will be asked to approve the air quality conformity analysis and the VDOT and MDOT amendments to the 2016 CLRP at its October 18, 2017 meeting.

On Thursday September 14, 2017, the TPB released the draft VDOT and MDOT Off-Cycle Amendment to the 2016 CLRP and the draft air quality conformity analysis results for a 30-day public comment period. The results of the conformity analysis are provided in the draft conformity report, *Air Quality Conformity Analysis: VDOT and MDOT Amendment to the 2016 Constrained Long Range Plan*, which is available on the TPB website. This memorandum provides a summary of the project inputs and information on actions related to this amendment to the 2016 CLRP. TPB staff has found that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis demonstrates adherence to all mobile source emissions budgets for the pollutants analyzed.

AMENDMENT PROJECT INPUTS

At the April 19, 2017 meeting, after a 30-day comment period, the TPB approved the project inputs for proposed amendments to the 2016 CLRP submitted by VDOT and MDOT, as well as the Scope of Work for the air quality conformity analysis. The TPB made additional modifications to the project inputs at its May 17, 2017 meeting. Detailed information about the inputs is included in Appendix A of the conformity report.

VDOT's inputs included a new ramp on I-95 and modifications to the I-66 outside the Beltway HOT lanes project. The I-95 project involves the construction of an additional northbound off-ramp from the I-95 HOT lanes to serve the area near the Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William County. The new ramp will provide direct access from the northbound HOT lanes to Russell Road.

The modifications to the I-66 outside the Beltway HOT lanes project reflected changes to the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) "preferred alternative", which is the alternative included in the 2016 CLRP. VDOT's inputs for the amendment included two options for the I-66 outside the Beltway project, Option A and Option B. Option A reflects the technical proposal provided by the developer. Option B includes the access points in Option A, plus some potential additional access points that are currently under consideration by the developer and VDOT. VDOT will select one of these options before the TPB is asked to approve the conformity analysis in October. While the TPB approved the project inputs in April, it agreed to consider subsequent action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) related to access points on I-66 east of the US 50 interchange.

On May 16, 2017, the Fairfax County BOS approved a resolution taking a position on proposed changes to access points on I-66 outside the Beltway east of the US 50 interchange. The TPB incorporated the BOS revisions into the conformity analysis.

MDOT's inputs included a change to the completion date of the widening of the Governor Harry Nice Bridge and implementation of the I-270 Innovative Congestion Management Project. The construction of a new 4-lane Governor Harry Nice bridge to replace the current 2-lane structure is already included in the current 2016 CLRP. MDOT modified the construction timeline to reflect a completion date of 2023 instead of 2030. The I-270 Innovative Congestion Management Project includes fourteen roadway improvements and innovative technologies and techniques, comprised of adaptive ramp metering, active traffic management and virtual weigh stations. The limits of the project are from I-495 to I-70, and include the east and west spurs of I-270. In April, when the TPB approved the Governor Nice Bridge modification, the MDOT requested the inclusion of the I-270 project in the off-cycle conformity analysis. The TPB approved the inclusion of the I-270 project in May.

CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

As outlined in the Scope of Work, TPB staff performed the air quality assessment. TPB staff has found that the Air Quality Conformity Analysis demonstrates adherence to all mobile source emissions budgets for the pollutants analyzed, and therefore the VDOT and MDOT amendment to the 2016 CLRP meets all conformity requirements. The detailed analysis and findings are available for review in the draft conformity report, which is included in the September TPB mailout materials and is posted on the TPB website.

NEXT STEPS

The VDOT and MDOT amendment was released for a 30-day comment period on Thursday, September 14, 2017, along with the draft air quality conformity analysis results. Comments may be submitted:

- Online at www.mwcog.org/TPBcomment
- Via email at TPBcomment@mwcog.org
- By calling (202) 962-3262, TDD: (202) 962-3213
- Or in writing to The Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

The comment period ends on Saturday, October 14, 2017. The TPB will be briefed on the comments received and the recommended responses, and asked to approve the air quality conformity analysis and the VDOT and MDOT amendment to the 2016 CLRP at its October 18, 2017 meeting.