

**Commuter Connections Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Chairperson: Lorraine Taylor, (WMATA) Washington D.C.

Vice Chairperson: Sam Oji, Montgomery County

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

The Subcommittee members were asked to introduce themselves and to sign the attendance sheet

Lorraine Taylor, called the meeting to order by introducing herself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so.

Item #2 November 15, 2011

Approval was sought for the November 15, 2011 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the meeting as written.

Item #3 FY 2009-2011 Transportation Emission Reduction Measure (TERM) Analysis

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the draft FY 2009 – 2011 TERM Analysis Report

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the final draft of the FY 2009 – 2011 Commuter Connections TERM Analysis Report. The report was presented to the Subcommittee on September 20th and November 15th and comment periods deadlines of October 5th and December 6th were established. Information on the report was also presented to the TDM Evaluation Group on October 18th. Changes were made to the charts and tables to match text and numbers in the document. Under the Mass Marketing Term section on page 27, language was added about Car Free Day and the potential for measuring impacts from this project in future reports. The Subcommittee endorsed the draft report for release.

Item #4 Commuter Connections Strategic Plan Update

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the CC substantive changes made to the Commuter Connections Strategic Plan.

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the Commuter Connections Strategic Plan. The Plan was presented to the Subcommittee on September 20th and November 15th with established comment period deadlines of October 7th and December 2nd.

Mr. Ramfos reported that there were no new comments that had been received during the most recent comment period. The Subcommittee endorsed the updated Commuter Connections Strategic Plan for release.

Item #5 FY 2013 Commuter Connections Work Program

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the changes made to the FY13 draft Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP).

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the substantive changes made to the FY 2013 draft CCWP. The draft document was presented to the Subcommittee on November 15th for review and comments and a December 2nd comment period deadline was established. The Subcommittee will be asked to endorse the document for release. Changes were made to third paragraph on page 30, where language was added for the expansion of the 'Pool Rewards program to include Vanpools. The Subcommittee endorsed the draft FY 2013 CCWP for release. Mr. Ramfos stated that the TPB Technical Committee and the TPB would be briefed on the document in February and the TPB would be asked to approve the FY 2013 CCWP in March.

Item #6 FY 2011 Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Customer Satisfaction Survey

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the results from the 'GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report.

The FY 2011 GRH Customer Satisfaction survey was designed to gauge the level of satisfaction of commuters who utilized the GRH service during fiscal year 2011 and the survey consisted of five multiple-choice questions, one fill in the blank and an area for comments. Four questions provided insight into customer opinions regarding various operational functions of GRH and asked respondents to rate different aspects of the service by circling one of four responses—"Poor," "Fair," "Good," or "Excellent." Of the 3,465 surveys distributed in fiscal year 2011, 667 or 19% surveys were completed. The vast majority, 96% of the survey respondents were pleased with the overall GRH service. Written responses were entered on more than two-thirds (69%) of the returned surveys, the majority of which (79%) contained compliments. Compliments outweighed criticism 9 to 1. Good or above ratings were given by at least 94% of the respondents for any given category. The average response showed that the wait time for a GRH ride was 13 minutes, and 94% waited 30 minutes or less. A comment period for the document was established for Feb. 14th.

Item #7 'Pool Rewards Update

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the 'Pool Rewards Project.

Nicholas Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the Status of the 'Pool Rewards project. Mr. Ramfos discussed the expansion of the program to include Vanpools. Mr. Ramfos stated that a vanpool work group was established and had been meeting in both December and January to determine the program participation guidelines as well as the required services from vanpool vendors that would be part of a Request for Qualifications solicitation that would be issued by COG this month. Mr. Ramfos stated that the expectation would be that vanpool vendors would be on board by the beginning of March and that the program would start towards the end of March or beginning of April. Mr. Ramfos also stated that a new logo for 'Pool Rewards had been

developed and the new logo was displayed. He also stated that the logo would be used for magnet signage that would be placed on participating vanpools. Mr. Ramfos also stated that staff would be working with its rideshare software contractor to update the 'Pool Rewards module in order to be able to collect the necessary data from the vanpools for National Transit Database reporting. Mr. Ramfos also stated that the web site would promote both the Virginia Van Start/Van Save programs and refer participants to their local jurisdictions for additional information as well as the Tyson's Corner Megaprojects Vanpool incentive program.

Item #8 Briefing on Proposed Performance Measures for the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP)Program Development and Commuter Connections

Ronald Kirby, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the RTTP

Mr. Kirby spoke to a PowerPoint and corresponding handout, the RTPP *Draft Interim Report I*. The CAC requested a RTPP. In May 2010, the TPB hosted the Conversation on Setting Regional Transportation Priorities. In July 2010, the TPB voted to form a task force to determine the scope for a RTPP. On July 20, 2011, the TPB approved a schedule and scope for developing a RTPP.

Mr. Kirby spoke about the increasing legislative and federal government focus on performance measurement. He noted the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved their Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) transportation bill in November 2011 that included numerous references to performance management. The federal government has sponsored several recent conferences and studies on performance measurement.

Mr. Kirby discussed the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project (NCHRP) 08-36/Task 104 currently underway. The objective of this project is to "move the conversation [on performance-based planning] from that of a conceptual framework to realistic examples relating national-level measures to the state and regional level. The National Capital Region was selected as one of three pilot sites; this pilot will examine the use of measures to inform decisions regarding bus priority corridors in Maryland.

Mr. Kirby noted the 2009 U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration International Scan Report. A scan of four countries examined how these countries with experience in performance management link transportation performance and accountability.

Next, Mr. Kirby spoke about TPB goal areas and performance measures with respect to the RTPP. The RTPP goals are drawn from the *TPB Vision* and *Region Forward*. Performance measures are assessed based on three criteria: 1) data currently available; 2) meaningful to the interested public; and 3) actionable, however staff determined it best to consider "actionable" as a pre-screening item and dropped it as a criterion. Of 49 performance measures proposed, 21 were selected for analysis. Mr. Kirby used Goal 1 as an example to describe the challenges associated with each performance measure that met the criteria and to describe strategies to meet those challenges. Mr. Kirby noted that a new strategy was added, "Identify and implement cost-effective bus priority treatments."

Mr. Kirby outlined the public outreach schedule from January 2012 to June 2012. Listening Sessions with regional stakeholders and citizens as well as a web-based comment form are scheduled for January 2012. A final *Interim Report 1*, incorporating feedback received is scheduled for February 2012. Focus Groups are scheduled for April 2012. In June 2012, the Technical Committee, TPB, and CAC will be briefed on a Draft Interim Report 2 and a proposed public outreach schedule through June 2013. The Final Interim Report 2 is scheduled for July 2012.

Item #9 I-95/395 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Project

Chris Francis, VDOT, briefed the subcommittee on the I-95-395 ICM Project.

Mr. Francis gave a presentation on the Integrated Corridor Management Initiative (ICM) Project definition and the concept of operations for the I-95/395 corridor between Fredericksburg and the 14th Street Bridge. The ICM strategy will address multi-modal commuting and through traffic issues in the corridor, including comparative auto, carpool, rail and bus options as well as connectivity between these modes in order to make the fastest and safest possible trip. Mr. Francis explained that the corridor will proactively manage available capacity across modes, while optimizing the use of transportation infrastructure assets. The ICM will support ITS Technologies with traffic signal timing, transit signal priority, adaptive ramp metering, ATM Tools, multimodal traveler information, integrated electronic payment and HOT lanes/congestion pricing. The multimodal commuting will include, auto, carpool, rail, bus other options and connectivity between modes. The project limits will be from the I-95 Spotsylvania interchange to 14th St. Bridge. The Project Segments are US 1/17 to RT 610 (MM126-144), RT 610 to I-495 (MM144-170) and I-495 to 14th St. Bridge (I-395, MM0-8). The Park and Ride lots along the I-95 Corridor will have over 40,000 spaces.

Item #10 Budget Report and Annual Report

Barbara Brennan COG/DTP staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the 2nd Quarter Budget Report..

A copy of the 2nd quarter Commuter Connections budget report for FY12 was distributed to the Subcommittee. Ms. Brennan reviewed the report and went over the Commitments and Expenditures for FY 12 (July 1, 2011 – December, 2011) and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Item #11 Other Business/Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Subcommittee members are encouraged to contact Nicholas Ramfos with any particular agenda items they may be interested in seeing on the next agenda.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 12 noon.