National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Meeting Notes

MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (MOITS) POLICY AND TECHNICAL TASK FORCES

DATE: Tuesday, July 8th, 2008

TIME: 12:30 PM

PLACE: COG, First Floor, Meeting Room 1

CHAIRS: Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church, Chair, Policy
                     Task Force
                     Amy Tang McElwain, Virginia Department of
                     Transportation, Chair, Technical Subcommittee

VICE CHAIRS: Pete Buckley, Montgomery County Ride On
                     Yanlin Li, District of Columbia Department Transportation
                     Mark Miller, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
                     Authority

ATTENDANCE:

Peter Buckley, Montgomery County Ride On
Gary Euler, Telvent Farradyne
Victorine Gwei, WMATA
Al Himes, Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)
Nadim Maharjan, MDSHA
Avijit Maji, MDSHA
Amy Tang McElwain, VDOT
Mark Miller, WMATA
Frank Mirack, FHWA DC Division
Martin Parker, Open Roads Consulting
Hadi Quaiyum, Prince George's County DPW&T
Mona Sutton, MDSHA
Terri Tabesh, MDSHA
Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax
Joe Vicente, WMATA

COG/TPB STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Karin Foster
Andrew Meese
Gerald Miller
Ryan Whytlaw, COG Public Safety
Jim Yin

ACTIONS:

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Notes from Last meeting
Participants introduced themselves. Notes from the June MOITS meeting were approved.

2. Program Updates

a. Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program
Gary Euler of Telvent Farradyne commented on the schedule of activities underway for MATOC. MATOC chairman, Richard Steeg of VDOT, has established that a Proof of Concept system would be underway be years end with RITIS software. Three major focuses are: (1) operations and operating procedures; (2) information systems and technology; and (3) issues pertaining to information that is being shared, including public and the media. Mr. Euler added that funding remains a challenge, particularly coordinating matching funds and sign-off from the three agencies.

b. Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF)─1 Committee
Ryan Whytlaw updated the MOITS Committee on RESF-1 developments. He noted that a survey was developed to identify areas of interest regarding the structure and current operating procedures. The June 16, 2008 meeting summary and highlights were prepared by a contractor. Efforts are being made to find a new committee chair. Amy Tang McElwain and Peter Buckley commented that membership needed to be re-energized perhaps with new scheduling and outreach. Andrew Meese suggested RESF-1 consider priority areas and definable regional projects to be ready if and when funding opportunities come up.

c. Regional ITS Architecture
As presented at the June MOITS meeting, the revised, user-friendly version of the Regional ITS Architecture was online at http://www.mwcog.org/itsarch/.

Avijit Maji noted that SHA recently launched their own Web Site. Hadi Quaiyum of Prince George's County recommended that MD SHA's Web Site be linked to the Regional Architecture Web Site. Ms. McElwain commented that anyone is welcome to join the ITS Architecture Committee. The current ITS Architecture Committee Chair is James Witherspoon from VDOT.

d. Other Updates─None

e. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics and Presentations

Ms. McElwain expressed a desire for more discussion from agencies on different topics and approaches to share for future meetings. Suggestions raised included:
(1) Prince George's County Trip Center
(2) DDOT's CapTOP System
(3) Maryland 511 system
(4) Discussions between MOITS and the Bus Subcommittee
(5) Bus operations and technology

3. Work Session on MOITS Strategic Planning
The main portion of this meeting was devoted to a work session on Strategic Plan Development. Three handouts were distributed related to the work session:
(1) Market Packages and MOITS Strategic Plan chart;
(2) MOITS Strategic Plan Work Session Presentation; and
(3) National ITS Architecture Definitions of Market Packages.

Following from the results of the MOITS survey, Mr. Meese recommended a focus on regional and interagency strategic issues. This would include staff conducting an inventory of ITS projects in the region focused only on those items identified for coverage in the Strategic Plan. It was hoped to finalize a Strategic Plan by December 31, 2008.

Mr. Meese suggested that the Regional ITS Architecture could be used as a starting point. Similar to the approach taken by the Atlanta MPO, the MOITS Strategic Plan would start with the universe of market packages defined in the National ITS Architecture, then focus in on a limited number that were of primary importance to the Regional ITS Architecture. The National ITS Architecture identified 91 "Market Packages" are categorized under seven Service Areas:
(1) Archive Data Management
(2) Public Transportation
(3) Traveler Information
(4) Traffic Management
(5) Vehicle Safety and Commercial Vehicle Operations
(6) Emergency Management
(7) Maintenance and Construction Management

Under each Service Area Mr. Meese presented slides with related projects or services, with an initial recommendation on which topic, if any, to take forward into the Strategic Plan. The subcommittee discussed these at length during the presentation.

(1) Archive Data Management─From among the three market packages identified in the National ITS Architecture, staff suggested, and the group agreed, to move forward with one, the ITS Virtual Data Warehouse.

(2) Public Transportation─The National ITS Architecture identified a number of market packages under the service area of Public Transportation. Mr. Meese suggested bringing forward Multi-modal Coordination and Transit Signal Priority into the Strategic Plan.

There was also a discussion of the Transit Fare Collection Management and Transit Security market packages. Mr. Meese suggested, and the group agreed, that if MOITS is not the primary group discussing the regional coordination of a topic, that topic should not be a focus within the MOITS Strategic Plan. In the case of transit fare collection, MOITS has not traditionally had a role, since this has long been regionally coordinated through WMATA committees. In the case of security, the RESF-1 Committee is a more appropriate place to discuss strategic planning because the appropriate stakeholders are convened there. The MOITS group agreed that these topics are best handled elsewhere in the appropriate groups. MOITS can encourage these topics to be addressed by those relevant committees and coordinate as necessary. Regional agencies may be asked to make presentations on cross-cutting subjects.

(3) Traveler Information─For Traveler Information, Mr. Meese noted Interactive Traveler Information and Transportation Operations Data Sharing as possible topics we could include in the Strategic Plan. After the group examined the official definitions in the National ITS Architecture of several traveler information market packages and considering other possibilities, the group agreed to Mr. Meese's initial recommendations.

(4) Traffic Management─Numerous market packages were listed under this service area. A deciding factor was whether the activity was primarily undertaken by an individual agency, or would likely be undertaken regionally or by a group of agencies. After discussion, the group agreed to move forward to the Strategic Plan Network Surveillance, HOV Lane Management, Regional Traffic Management, and Regional Parking Management.

(5) Vehicle Safety and Commercial Vehicle Operations─For Vehicle Safety and Commercial Vehicle Operations, 24 market packages were listed, however, the Committee agreed that none were in the purview of MOITS, and thus did not need to be carried forward into the MOITS Strategic Plan.

(6) Emergency Management─Under Emergency Management, the Committee agreed that the sub-topics were more under the purview of RESF-1.

(7) Maintenance and Construction Management─Most market packages in this service area were considered to be activities an individual agency would undertake on its own. However, the topic of Maintenance and Construction Activity Coordination was agreed upon for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

In conclusion of the discussion, the summary list of topic areas recommended for inclusion in the Strategic Plan was as follows:

Archive Data Management
─ITS Virtual Data Warehouse

Public Transportation
─Multi-modal Coordination
─Transit Signal Priority

Traveler Information
─Interactive Traveler Information
─Transportation Operations Data Sharing

Traffic Management
─HOV Lane Management
─Regional Traffic Management
─Regional Parking Management

Maintenance and Construction Management
─Maintenance and Construction Activity Coordination

Regarding Inventorying in Support of the Strategic Plan, regional, multi-agency activities and major individual agency activities are recommended for inclusion in the MOITS Strategic Plan and thus in the inventory.

Mr. Meese concluded the work session by summarizing the Next Steps:
(1) Summary of today's discussions;
(2) Pre-inventory overview document by September 30, 2008;
(3) Inventory conduction in October-November time frame; and
(4) Final Strategic Plan by December 31, 2008.

4. Other Business
There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned.