

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Item #5

MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Andrew J. Meese
COG/TPB Staff

DATE: May 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Update on a Survey on Traffic Signal Timing in the Washington Region

At the February 20, 2013 meeting, the Transportation Planning Board requested a status report on traffic signal timing/optimization in the region, as well as a review of the TPB's discussions of the topic in conjunction with a 2002-2005 Transportation Emissions Reduction Measure (TERM) addressing optimization (as well as subsequent data updates). This memorandum reviews the process underway to provide the requested information.

- The February 20 request followed a related discussion at the January 23, 2013 TPB meeting.
- The Traffic Signals Subcommittee convened and discussed the request at March 5 and April 2 meetings. The discussions included the history of the signal timing topic as a TERM, and advice on how best to compile information and reflect evolution in engineering practice since the set-up of the 2002 TERM, particularly the movement to active management of signals rather than solely periodic retiming.
- Based on the Traffic Signals Subcommittee discussions, TPB staff designed a survey to compile regional signal timing information. The survey was distributed to the region's signal agencies on April 17 and 18, with results requested by May 1.
- As of this writing, most of the region's major signals agencies have responded to the survey. Staff is following up with those agencies that have not yet responded.
- Staff is in the process of analyzing survey results, and may follow up with agencies on a case-by-case basis if there are further questions about a given agency's responses.
- Staff will present and review the draft survey findings at the next Traffic Signals Subcommittee meeting, scheduled for May 14, as well as briefly at the Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee meeting that same day.
- It is anticipated that the draft survey results will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee at the June 7 meeting, and, if agreed, to the TPB at the June 19 meeting.
- It is being explored to have one or two representatives from the Traffic Signals Subcommittee present examples of their agency signal timing activities along with the presentation of survey results at the TPB briefing, to help illustrate the breadth of these activities.