

Highlights of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee Meeting: September 25, 2008

1. Call to Order/Approval of May 22, 2008 Meeting Highlights

Chairman Michael Hackett, MWAA, chaired this meeting. The May 22, 2008 meeting highlights were approved as written.

2. Update on Aviation Policy Committee

George Nichols, COG/DEP, briefed the Subcommittee on the Aviation Policy Committee (APC). The APC last met on September 10, 2008. The meeting focused on FY09 work program activities, which include continued DCA Part 150 Plan implementation in cooperation with the MWAA and outreach to communities and pilots on the impact of helicopters on the region. He also introduced the Green Airports concept noting that several airports around nation have embraced greening as a strategy for energy efficiency and climate change. There is an opportunity for the MWAA to join this effort and APC would like to further discuss developing such an initiative for this region. The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12, 2008.

3. 2007 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey

Abdul Mohammed, COG/DTP, distributed the final *general findings* report of the 2007 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey. The final report incorporated comments received from Subcommittee reviewers. During the final review of the draft, personnel from BWI commented that the percentage of trips reported to be of a *business* purpose differed between this survey and another survey conducted at BWI for marketing purposes, and that the difference was substantial enough to warrant an explanation. Staff reported that it was working with the BWI consultant, which conducted the other survey, to identify methodological and sampling differences between the two surveys that would result in these differences. Once fully identified, staff will follow up with the original commenter from BWI to document and explain these differences.

Mr. Mohammed also recommended that staff present the survey findings and report to the airline managers to explain how their assistance with survey logistics and coordination resulted in this useful information product. Mr. Hackett concurred and indicated he would schedule the briefing with the airline managers in the next few months.

A preliminary draft *geographic findings* report was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Mohammed explained that initial findings reveal that there are not any notable differences in the geographic characteristics of the survey results with respect to past surveys. It is anticipated that the revised draft will be distributed to the Subcommittee in early October when members will be asked to conduct a 2-week review. All comments will be addressed in the final *geographic findings* report, which will be completed by the end of October.

4. Preparation for the 2009 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey

Tim Canan, COG/TPB, informed the Subcommittee that to meet the anticipated schedule for conducting the 2009 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey, it was time to take the necessary steps of including funding requests in agency budgets for this survey. Mr. Canan reported that, to meet the proposed schedule, approval from the COG Board of Directors will be necessary during the Board's May meeting. As a result, a written commitment for funding from the funding agencies will be an important component to obtain this approval. Mr. Hackett informed the Subcommittee that funding is very tight this year and while an initial request for funding this project has been made by MWAA staff as part of the MWAA budget preparation process, it is not clear that funding can be guaranteed. As a result, it was suggested that COG/TPB submit a letter to the MWAA Deputy Vice President for Engineering to underscore the importance of the project and that funding from MWAA is critical to ensure the project's success. The letter should also indicate how past support from MWAA resulted in successful surveys that produced extremely useful data used by COG/TPB, MWAA and other key regional aviation stakeholders. Mr. Hackett also suggested that a similar letter to the Maryland Aviation Administration may be necessary for the BWI funding component. Mr. Rawlings, DDOT, confirmed that similar letters have been prepared in the past and were very helpful in demonstrating the need for funding.

5. Status Update on the CASP Program

Mr. Canan, COG/DTP, presented this item, which included one handout: a table summarizing work activities of the Air Systems Planning Program by Project and Fiscal Year. Mr. Canan said the purpose of this item was to provide a snapshot of projects or milestones recently-completed, underway, or anticipated in the near future. The summary included an update on the status of the 2007 and 2009 air passenger surveys, the Airport Capital Improvement Program submitted last spring, and the project covered by the various FAA planning grants, aka CASP grants. Mr. Canan noted that CASP 22, which included the air cargo study and O/D air passenger forecasts (developed using data from the 2005 air passenger survey), was closed out last summer upon successful completion of these two projects. CASP 23 is an active grant, which covers the processing and documentation of the 2007 air passenger survey as well as the preparation of phase 1 of the ground access forecast update. The application for the CASP 25 grant was submitted last summer and a decision is anticipated from FAA in October. If approved, this grant will cover three projects: (1) phase 2 of the ground access forecast update, (2) the Ground Access Element Update, and (3) the Ground Access Travel Time Study. Mr. Canan explained that CASP 24 was cancelled and the applicable projects included in the grant had been rolled over to CASP 25.

6. Regional Airport, Airline and Aviation Industry News Group Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for Subcommittee members to share information on regional airport, airline and aviation industry news.

Mr. Hackett reported that MWAA's current budget crunch is resulting in several capital projects funded through airline revenue being pushed back. Generally, spending on capital projects and consultant support is trending downward, and the current credit crunch is expected to affect airports and airlines alike. Nevertheless, some projects are moving forward, including the new runway at IAD, which is scheduled to open this November, as well as the new IAD people mover system, which

is scheduled to open in late 2009.

There was general discussion concerning whether or not it is likely that domestic air routes could be taken over by foreign-owned domestic airlines. Foreign airlines are more heavily capitalized in the current market and would be better positioned to leverage their presence into the domestic market currently controlled by cash-strapped domestic airlines.

Finally, Mr. Hackett briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the lawsuit before the Virginia Supreme Court concerning transferring control of the Dulles Toll Road to MWAA, which would use toll revenue to fund development of the proposed Metrorail extension. The Virginia Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case on 13 October 2008 and issue a ruling within two weeks subsequent to hearing the case.

7. Other Business

The next meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee will be held Thursday, November 20, 2008 at MWCOG/TPB offices: 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC. [NOTE: This is one week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday.]

**Aviation Technical Subcommittee
September 25, 2008 Meeting Attendance**

Attendance

Name	Agency / Organization	E-mail Address	Phone Number
Michael Hackett	MWAA	<u>Michael.hackett@mwaa.com</u>	(703) 417-8164
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