

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Andrew J. Meese, AICP
Systems Management Planning Director

DATE: September 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Update on the Washington Region Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program

Background: This memorandum provides an update on the status of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program. MATOC is a regional program to enhance the availability of real-time transportation information and to strengthen coordination among transportation agencies, including:

- Improving technological systems for sharing transportation information among agencies involved in managing regional incidents
- Enhancing the transportation sector's standard operating procedures and notification practices for incidents
- Providing more timely and accurate transportation information to the public during incidents.

MATOC participants are DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA, and TPB. Initial funding for the program has been designated from a SAFETEA-LU grant supported by Congressman James Moran.

The TPB most recently received a MATOC update at its July 16 meeting, and has requested bimonthly updates.

Since the July Meeting

- The MATOC Steering Committee has continued frequent collaboration through meetings, conference calls, and emails, with the active support of the consultant team and TPB staff. Work continues towards rollout of a proof of concept system in December, and a fully operating system in July of 2009.
- Subcommittees consisting of staff from the DDOT, MD SHA, VDOT and WMATA are formed, have held initial meetings, and are working on:
 - Operations coordination issues, focusing on development of operating procedures for a proof of concept system, with plans for a subcommittee tabletop exercise-based workshop in early October.
 - Information technology issues, focusing on the functionality and operating environment of RITIS (the regional information sharing software tool). The University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology, which has developed and currently supports RITIS, has continued making technical enhancements to RITIS. As noted in

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previous updates to the TPB, RITIS is already providing information sharing services among several of the region's transportation agencies.

- The MATOC Steering Committee has agreed to hire a dedicated "MATOC Facilitator" for the time period of the proof of concept, and, if successful, for the long term. The facilitator, intended to be someone with significant incident management coordination experience and knowledge, will act as a communications hub, ensuring that accurate and timely information on transportation incidents deemed to be of regional significance is shared among transportation operations agencies and with the public. A job description for a MATOC facilitator has been prepared, candidates identified, and initial interviews conducted, with the goal of having a person on board well before the December rollout of the proof of concept.
- Work on an Outreach Plan has been initiated. The Plan will provide for stakeholder communication, including other governmental agencies, the media and the public, and local decision makers. The initial focus will be on outreach during the proof of concept period.
- A focus group is being formed to help define the information needs of other transportation and public response agencies in the region so that these needs can be considered as MATOC operating procedures and software tools are developed and enhanced.
- The initial meeting of the Executive Committee, consisting of the chief executive officers of DDOT, MDOT, VDOT and WMATA, will likely occur in late fall.

Outlook: Progress is being made towards the on-schedule rollout of a proof of concept system in December. MATOC Steering Committee Chair Dick Steeg (VDOT) will brief the TPB on plans for the rollout in person at the November meeting. Progress is also being made on the development and enhancement of operating procedures and information sharing software tools to support full operation in July of 2009. The growth of the system to encompass communications with other transportation and public safety agencies, and with the public and media, is being managed through initiation of an outreach program.