

MEMORANDUM

TO: National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council

FROM: Taran Hutchinson, MATOC Facilitator

DATE: February 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Update on the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program Recommendations Cited in the Incident Management and Response Oversight Committee Report

Background

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), in partnership with the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), established the MATOC Program to conduct real-time information sharing and interagency coordinated transportation management. MATOC began operations coordination activities in 2008, led by the MATOC Facilitator with supporting staff. For extensive information on MATOC's background, see www.matoc.org.

The 2011 Report of the Incident Management and Response (IMR) Oversight Committee cites several recommendations related to ongoing MATOC activities and initiatives. Such recommendations include 1) the strengthening of Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) and transportation monitoring protocols as well as 2) continue ongoing support and funding for the MATOC Program and the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS).

Strengthen Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) and Transportation Monitoring Protocols

MATOC continues to reinforce its relationships between Departments of Transportation, Public Transportation providers, Emergency Management and Public Safety agencies. MATOC uses its own Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN) messaging system to advise their stakeholders and partners of potentially significant regional incidents that may impact the area's transportation network. This system allows MATOC staff to message multiple platforms and devices simultaneously when certain transportation conditions are met. The system is also integrated with the MWCOG Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System (RICCS) alerting system which allows MATOC staff, under strict standard operating procedures (SOPs), to send important transportation related RICCS pages to key regional stakeholders.

MATOC's focus is transportation information sharing among public sector agencies, but information shepherded by MATOC and RITIS does benefit publicly available information through the regional emergency information website www.capitalregionupdates.gov and through MATOC's own page, supported by MATOC's member transportation agencies, at www.trafficview.org. Robust transportation

information is also available through the Maryland and Virginia 511 traveler information services via telephone and the Web.

The MATOC Program also established a Severe Weather Working Group to improve regional communication and coordination before, during and after significant weather events. This DOT Maintenance-driven working group developed a pilot SOP to share mobilization plans well in advance of forecasted weather events and notify members if additional discussion and coordination is needed. The MATOC Severe Weather Working Group meets regularly between September and April.

The MATOC Program committees (Steering Committee, Information Systems Subcommittee, Operations Subcommittee, Transit Task Force, and Severe Weather Working Group) continue to meet typically on a monthly basis to 1) continually improve coordination amongst its member agencies and 2) explore additional improvements and enhancements to the RITIS information sharing platform. There are currently over 3,100 users of the RITIS platform, the majority of which are from non-transportation agencies or organizations. MATOC Staff continue to offer online and onsite RITIS Training to regional stakeholders on behalf of the University of Maryland (UMD) Center of Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory (CATT Lab). UMD CATT Lab staff continues to explore additional solutions to provide RITIS data to other platforms, including WebEOC.

Support and Funding for the MATOC Program and the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS)

MATOC received full funding support (approximately \$1.2M per year) for core activities in the MATOC annual work program for FY13 and FY14. These core activities include (1) MATOC operations support; (2) RITIS Operations and Maintenance Support; (3) RITIS Enhancement Support; and (4) Special Studies, Performance Measures, and Program Support. MATOC anticipates full funding for FY15.

In July 2013, MATOC moved its operations facility from its location in Greenbelt, MD to a University of Maryland facility in College Park. MATOC was able to renovate available office space to better suit its operational needs, and the move is anticipated to provide cost savings over the long run. To bolster coordination and continuity of operations, MATOC staff will continue to utilize space provided by DC HSEMA on a regular basis.

The MATOC Program continues to operate Monday through Friday from 4:30am to 8:00pm. These hours of operation cover the time periods when the majority of regionally significant transportation incidents take place as relatively few no-notice multi-jurisdictional incidents take place during off hours. Following well established protocols, MATOC staff have the ability to ramp up to 24/7 operations on an on-call basis. Recent events included support for the 2013 Presidential Inauguration, Fourth of July Celebrations, the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, as well as the winter weather events of December 9-10, 2013 and January 21-22, 2014.

Under the guidance of the MATOC Steering Committee, the UMD CATT Lab has secured space in a new UMD data center to serve as a backup site for RITIS. This new data center will improve RITIS resiliency during widespread power outages. The new RITIS backup site is slated to be operational by summer 2014.