

ITEM 11 – Information

February 21, 2018

Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts

Staff Recommendation: Briefing on the jurisdictional and regional forecast updates and how they compare to Round 9.0.

Issues: None

Background: The region's jurisdictions recently completed their jurisdiction-level updates of population, household, and employment projections in metropolitan Washington as part of the Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecast. These new forecasts will be used in the upcoming Air Quality Conformity analysis of Visualize 2045, the region's long-range transportation plan. The board will be briefed on the jurisdictional and regional forecast updates and their use in the regional transportation planning process.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Timothy Canan, Planning Data and Research Program Director
SUBJECT: Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts
DATE: February 15, 2018

The Cooperative Forecasting Program at COG enables local and regional planning to be coordinated by using common assumptions about future growth and development. The program combines regional data, which are based upon national economic trends and regional demographics, with local projections of population, households and employment. These local projections are based on data about real estate development, market conditions, adopted land-use plans and planned transportation improvements. TPB staff use data from this program extensively in modeling travel demand and emissions. The COG Board of Directors, the COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee and the COG Cooperative Forecasting and Data Subcommittee comprise the approval and oversight hierarchy for the Cooperative Forecasting Program.

On January 10, 2018, the COG Board of Directors approved the Draft Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts for use in the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the Constrained Element of Visualize 2045 and the FY2019-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). On January 17, 2018, the TPB approved the scope of work for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the Constrained Element of Visualize 2045 and the FY2019-2024 TIP. The scope of work identifies the Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts as the assumed regional land use input to be used in these analyses.

Cooperative Forecasts used for these activities include current (baseline) and future year projections of population, households, and employment prepared in 5-year increments over a 30-year period for each of the more than 3,000 Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) used in the regional modeling process. Major updates to the forecasts occur approximately every 5 to 10 years and constitute a “re-benchmarking” of the forecasts based on significantly updated input datasets, such as the U.S. decennial census, or a significant shift in metropolitan development trends that are not reflected in current forecasts. These major updates are characterized by the number in the forecast series: Round 8.0, Round 9.0, etc. The Cooperative Forecasting process also provides local jurisdictions with the opportunity to submit technical updates to these forecasts, if they believe it is necessary. While not required, these technical revisions to the major updates typically account for newly-approved development projects or changes in adopted local plans and/or zoning that warrant a technical revision by a jurisdiction. The Draft Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecasts to be used in the forthcoming air quality conformity analysis are the first technical update to Round 9.0.

Per COG Board and TPB policies (adopted in 2003) to further enhance coordination between regional land use and transportation planning, final approval of the Round 9.1 Forecasts will occur concurrently with the completion of TPB’s Air Quality Conformity Analysis of Visualize 2045 and the FY2019-2024 TIP.