

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Item #9

MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee

FROM: Andrew J. Meese
COG/TPB Staff

DATE: June 7, 2013

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

The TPB Technical Committee was given a status report on this item at the May 3 meeting, with a review of previous and anticipated activities and schedules. A few changes have occurred since that briefing, and this memorandum provides a further update. The main update is that the complexity of the information gathering and review underway necessitates pushing back the anticipated presentation of results to the TPB to the September meeting.

As previously noted:

- 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).
- The Traffic Signals Subcommittee convened and discussed the request at March 5 and April 2 meetings. The discussions included the need 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.
- TPB staff designed a survey to compile regional signal timing information, distributed to the region's signal agencies on April 17 and 18, with results requested by May 1.

Update:

- Staff presented and reviewed the draft survey findings at the May 14 meetings of the Traffic Signals Subcommittee meeting and the Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee meeting. At those meetings, the subcommittees provided feedback regarding the draft survey results that necessitated further information gathering by staff. The subcommittees requested that they have more technical review opportunities at subsequent meetings before presentation to the TPB.

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- The complexity of this work, along with some June and July scheduling difficulties, mean that the needed subcommittee reviews will not be able to be completed prior to the June 28 TPB Technical Committee nor the July 17 TPB meeting.
- It is now anticipated that the draft survey results will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee at the September 6 meeting, and, if agreed, to the TPB at the September 18 meeting.
- It is still anticipated 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 in the region.
- Staff and the subcommittees are committed to bringing together and presenting to the TPB and Technical Committee information on the signal timing topic that is correct, understandable, and reflective of the breadth of traffic signal activities in the region.

