



**Commuter Connections Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

**Chairperson: Willie Epps, Prince George's County Department of Public  
Works & Transportation**

**Vice Chairperson: Gabriel Ortiz, City of Alexandria**

**Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313**

**Item #1 Introductions**

*The Subcommittee members were asked to introduce themselves and to sign the attendance sheet*

*Standing Chair (sitting in for Mr. Epps), Samuel Carter called the meeting to order by introducing himself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so (See attached attendance sheet).*

**Item #2 Minutes of January 19, 2010**

*Approval was sought for the January 19, 2010 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.*

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the meeting as written.

**Item #3 FY 2009 GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey**

*Douglas Franklin, COG TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the draft FY 2009 GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report.*

Mr. Franklin discussed the changes made on the final draft of the FY 2009 GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report. Mr. Franklin stated that changes were made to the chart on the bottom of page 5.

The Subcommittee unanimously endorsed the FY 2009 GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report for release. Mr. Franklin stated that the report would be posted to the Commuter Connections web site in the publications section.

**Item #4 Strategic Plan**

*Nicholas Ramfos, COG TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the draft Commuter Connections Strategic Plan document.*

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the substantive changes made to the Commuter Connections Strategic Plan for 2009-2010 and asked for an endorsement for release. The motion was sought and approved. Mr. Ramfos stated that the Strategic Plan document would be updated and posted to the publications section of the Commuter Connections web site.

Ms. Judy Galen discussed the Committee Structure with regard to meetings. She distributed the committee structure and meeting dates as outlined in the originally adopted Strategic Plan..Nicholas Ramfos stated that several committee groups were streamlined during the development and final adoption of the Commuter Connections Strategic plan. The Subcommittee also discussed when meeting occurred and how often committee's needed to meet. Mr. Ramfos stated that most committee groups are meeting quarterly, with the exception of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee, which meets every other month. The group also discussed options for calling in to meetings. Mr. Ramfos stated that in most, if not all cases, this could be accommodated and that for smaller working groups, most meetings are held by either conference call or by web/conference call.

**Item #5 Congestion Management Process Update**

*Andrew Meese, COG TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the recent activities in the CMP work area.*

Mr. Meese distributed the CMP handout and discussed the work area. Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a federal requirement in metropolitan transportation planning. It identifies congestion, develop and select appropriate strategies to reduce congestion. Mr. Meese discussed the components; Monitor & Evaluate Transportation System Performance, Define & Analyze Strategies, Implement Strategies & Assess and Compile Project-Specific Congestion Management Information. The report included a section describing local jurisdictional demand management activities; Mr. Meese asked participants to review this section and provide corrections or comments if necessary.

**Item #6 Commuter Connections Draft TERM Evaluation Framework Methodology Document.**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the substantive changes made to the draft TERM Evaluation Framework Document.*

Mr. Ramfos discussed the changes made to the Draft TERM Evaluation Framework, that was distributed at the January 19<sup>th</sup> Subcommittee Meeting. A comment period was established and extended until February 19<sup>th</sup>. A new comment period will be established for April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Subcommittee will be asked to endorse the document for release during the next meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Comments on the document should be posted on the Commuter Connections Extranet and are due by COB (5:00pm) Friday, April 9th.

**Item #7 TPB Regional Priority Bus Project**

*Timothy Canan, COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the TPB Bus Project Grant under the Transportation Investments generating Economic Recovery (TIGER).*

Mr. Canan briefed the Subcommittee on the recent TIGER grant awarded to the TPB for \$58 million from the USDOT to fund portions of the Regional Priority Bus Project that was submitted in September 2009. On February 17, 2010 the morning of the TPB meeting USDOT announced that grant awards for the \$1.5 billion TIGER program. More than 1, 400 applications totaling \$60

billion were submitted from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Of these, 51 grants were awarded, including \$59 million for portions of the application submitted by COG/TPB for the Washington region. Of this amount, \$13.6 was awarded to project components in the District of Columbia; 14.8 million was awarded to components in Suburban Maryland; and \$30.4 million was awarded to components in Northern Virginia. Shortly after the USDOT award announcement, FTA contacted COG/TPB to announce that FTA will be the modal administration responsible for awarding and administering the grant and that an FTA project manager will be designated to lead the effort. Mr. Cannon also explained that while staff awaits further direction from FTA, it will contact project owners to identify a primary point of contact and advise them to begin scoping out their projects in an effort to anticipate grant funding.

**Item #8 Briefing on “What Would It Take Scenario”**

*Monica Bansal, COG/TPB staff, updated the Subcommittee on the draft results associated with the regional “What Would It Take Scenario” (WWIT) project..*

Ms. Bansal briefed the Subcommittee on the specific goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2030 and beyond and examines how such goals might be achieved through different combinations of interventions that include, increasing fuel efficiency, reducing the carbon-intensity of fuel, and improving travel efficiency. The WWIT scenario was developed by the TPB Scenario Study Task Force to begin addressing climate change in our transportation planning. The Task Force, currently chaired by TBP Member Harriet Tregoning, was created in December 2007 to provide policy-level stewardship for the continuation of the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (RMAS) and related TPB activities, and to specifically respond to emerging issues, such as climate change, and to integrate scenario regional climate-related work. The scenario begins with the COG regional goals of reducing annual regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 2005 levels by 2012, 205 below 2005 levels by 2020, and 80% below 2005 by 2050. *The WWIT scenario was analyzed according to a simple set of steps: Creating a baseline inventory of mobile source CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, determining sources of reduction potential reduction strategies, analyzing individual strategies for effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and timeframe for implementation and combining additive strategies to determine different pathways toward approaching or meeting goals.* Ms. Bansal presented to draft results, which showed that a number of short term strategies can be implemented quickly by local governments to achieve the region’s early reduction targets. Overall, however, the long-term regional goals were not met by the strategies analyzed in the scenario.

**Item #9 2010 Bike To Work Event**

*Douglas Franklin, COG TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on 2010 Bike TO Wprk Day Event.*

Mr. Franklin discussed upcoming Bike To Work Day event scheduled for May 21, 2010, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in May. Mr. Franklin distributed “Are you Pumped” BTWD Flyers and “rack cards”. Mr. Franklin stated that there will be 500 t-shirts printed this year (1,000) more than last year and that 8 new pit stops have been added for the event this year.

**Item #10 FY 2011 Commuter Connections Work Program**

*Nicholas Ramfos, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the FY 2011 CCWP.*

Mr. Ramfos discussed the status of the CCWP 2011 work program. Mr. Ramfos stated that the final document was released for public comment at the TPB Citizen’s Advisory Committee

meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. There were no comments received and the final document is slated for approval during tomorrow's TPB meeting.

**Item #11 Other Business/Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Subcommittee members are encouraged to contact Nicholas Ramfos with any particular agenda items they may be interested in seeing on the next agenda.

**The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 12 noon.**