



**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Chairperson: Holly Morello, PRTC

Vice Chairperson: Anna McLaughlin, DDOT

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

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

Holly Morello, PRTC staff, called the meeting to order by introducing herself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so.

Item #2 Minutes of March 18, 2014

Approval was sought for the March 18, 2014 Commuter Connections Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting as written.

Item #3 Congestion Management Process (CMP) National Capital Region Draft Congestion Report, 4th Quarter 2013 and Draft TDM Table Review for Biennial CMP Technical Report

Wenjing Pu, COG/TPB, briefed the Subcommittee on the newly formatted draft Congestion Report based on INRIX data and Erin Morrow, COG/TPB Staff presented the draft TDM Summary Table from the forthcoming Biennial CMP Technical Report for Subcommittee review and comment.

Speaking to a memorandum and a presentation, Wenjing Pu introduced the background of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the 2014 CMP Technical Report, which represented the 4th biennial report since 2008 and served as a background document to the official CLRP/CMP, providing detailed information on data, analysis, strategies, and regional programs involved in congestion management.

Mr. Pu continued the presentation on the findings of the State of Congestion, congestion management strategies, and key recommendations. Overall, the Washington region experienced decreasing congestion in the last four years from 2010 to 2013, but the pace of congestion decrease slowed down significantly in 2013. The region observed steady improvement in travel time reliability over the course of the same four years. Congestion management strategies such as the programs carried out by the Commuter Connections and traffic incident management activities continued to play indispensable roles in combatting congestion and improving quality of life. Mr. Pu lastly laid out the fifteen recommendations in the 2014 CMP Tech Report.

Next, Erin Morrow, COG/TPB Staff, presented a memo with a draft of table of Local, State, and Regional Travel Demand Management Strategies for the 2014 CMP Technical Report for members to review. She noted that the CMP Technical Report is a snapshot of congestion taken every two years and a similar presentation was made to the committee for the 2012 report. Ms. Morrow asked members to review Table 1 in the memo and provide her with any updates to the projects and programs listed in the table by May 28th. Mr. Ramfos stated that COG staff will send a follow-up e-mail to members. Ms. Morrow noted that the May deadline was established to allow edits to be made prior the presentation of the draft report at the June 6th TPB Technical Committee meeting. If that deadline is not feasible, information could be sent after May 28th for inclusion in the final report which was expected to be presented to the TPB Technical Committee on June 27th.

Item #4 Transportation Impacts of the October 1 – 16 2013 Federal Government Shutdown

C. Patrick Zilliacus, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on some of the substantive Transportation impacts of the October 1 – 16, 2013 Federal Government Shutdown as it relates to current regional trends in daily vehicle travel, peak period congestion levels and transit ridership.

Mr. Zilliacus, COG Staff, outlined the transportation impacts of the October 1st – 16th 2013 Federal Government Shutdown. Current trends indicate the regional population has been steadily increasing, and the rate of employment has been flat since 2006/2007 and did not reflect the trend of population growth. Additionally, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) plateaued around 2005. In relation to the transportation impacts of the 2013 government shutdown, Mr. Zilliacus looked at a variety of sources to pull preliminary data. His findings show that traffic congestion on the highway network improved throughout the region, even though traffic volumes did not drop significantly. The observed Travel Time Index (TTI) of interstate system decreased before the shutdown and increased after the shutdown. Additionally, Metrorail ridership did decrease significantly during the government shutdown indicating a lot of government employees use the Metro throughout the day.

Mr. Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff, also noted a drop in Commuter Connections applications as part of the shutdown in addition to decrease in applications due to the sequestration. In the past 6-8 months, he estimated a 30-35% decrease of new applications, but noted the number has begun to increase. Mr. Ramfos stated that the federal government is the biggest customer for the program.

Item #5 FY 2014 Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey Report

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the results from the draft FY 2014 Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey report. A comment period was established.

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the FY 2014 Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey draft report, which was previously conducted in 2009. The survey gauges the level of employee satisfaction. Attitudes, opinions and satisfaction of employers participating in the Commuter Connections Employer Outreach TERM are collected from employees on the products and services Commuter Connections offers to the business

community in the region. Overall, there was a 30% response rate with a 95% confidence level of plus/minus 4.5%.

Mr. Hersey gave a brief summary of the methodology used to collect the data, the response rate and overall results from the survey. He shared that Commuter Connections remains a positive and effective network of providers in the region. A comment period of June 20th was established.

Item #6 Clean Air Partners Update

Anna McLaughlin, DDOT, briefed the Subcommittee on upcoming Clean Air Partners activities.

Anna McLaughlin, DDOT, provided the Subcommittee with an update on recent events involving Clean Air Partners in 2014. She stated that the 2015 Clean Air Partners Work Program was approved by the Board. Events included poster contests and infographic contests to engage young people about clean air; enhanced Awards Program held at the Baltimore Aquarium; and Clean Air App which was downloaded 1000 times this year.

Item #7 2014 Bike to Work Day Event

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the preliminary highlights of the regional Bike to Work Day held on May 16th.

Douglas Franklin, COG Staff, gave a brief overview of the Bike to Work Day event held on May 16th, 2014. He noted that pit stops were asked to communicate with riders that the event would continue despite the rain. A message went out to all registrants the day before the event to let participants know that they should consider the weather prior to participating in the event and that Bike to Work Day is a "Rain or Shine" event. The concern was that since approximately 17% of event participants are new to the event, a message letting both that group and bicycling veterans know that they should consider all options given the impending inclement weather is an important factor to be considered. The message also assured participants that they would still get their T-shirt if they were not able to bicycle that day. In other words, if the commuter did not feel comfortable bicycling that day, the message is essentially not to cycle just to get a T-shirt.

Mr. Franklin then presented photos taken from various pit stops during the event.

Item #8 Shared Use Rideshare Mobility Task Force Update

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff updated the Subcommittee on recent developments with Shared Use Mobility app providers in the region.

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, reported that the District of Columbia's Taxicab Commission has drafted regulatory recommendations for the "Shared Ride" app providers such as Uber and Lyft for the DC City Council to consider. The City Council has held public hearings regarding the regulations but has yet to vote on a finalized package. Mr. Ramfos reported that Virginia's DMV recently issued a cease and desist order to the "Shared Use" mobility app providers effective immediately. Both Uber and LYfy stated that they would ignore the order and continue operating in Virginia. Some localities have signaled that they would fine any driver that they were able to catch in a "secondary" offense type of situation and issue a violation that would have monetary consequences. The app providers stated that they would cover the costs of any monetary damages resulting from ticketing. Local police have stated that they would not be pulling drivers

over for this type of an offense as a primary reason. In Maryland, the Public Service Commission is reviewing the issue and may come out with new regulations.

Item #9 2014 Car Free Day Event

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the 2014 Car Free Day event to be held on September 22nd.

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB Staff, informed Subcommittee members of the upcoming Car Free Day Steering Committee meeting which will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. The Steering Committee will discuss the upcoming Car Free Day event to be held Monday, September 22, 2014. The purpose of the event is to have anyone who is using transportation to consider using an alternative way to get to and from where they are going, whether it's to work, school or to do an errand. The goal of the event is to have at least 10,000 participants who pledge to go car free or "car-lite", meaning the use of carpools, vanpools or transit.

Item #10 3rd Quarter CCWP Progress and Budget Report

Barbara Brennan, COG/TPB staff discussed the FY 2014 3rd Quarter Progress and Budget Reports.

Ms. Brennan, COG/TPB Staff, presented the Subcommittee with the third quarterly Commuter Connections Work Program Progress Report highlights. She pointed to the first section which contains the narrative highlights for the quarters and covers all programs.

Ms. Brennan also briefed the Subcommittee on the findings from the Quarterly budget report. She noted that the overall spending rate was 57%, and that the marketing and advertising rate is at 70% for the 3rd quarter.

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, July 15, 2014 at 12 noon.