



Item #5

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2015

To: Transportation Planning Board

From: Robert E. Griffiths
Director, Plan Development and Data Programs
Department of Transportation Planning

Subject: Status Report on COG Greenhouse Gas Reduction Multi-Sector Working Group

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board with a status report on the activities of the COG Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) established to identify and analyze potential strategies to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the metropolitan Washington region.

Background

In December 2014, the TPB affirmed the greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by COG and committed staff and resources to support a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to identify and analyze implementable local, regional and state actions in four sectors (Land Use, Transportation, Energy and Built Environment) that would support the region's GHG reduction goals. In addition, this MSWG is charged with exploring GHG goals, measures and/or targets in each of the four sectors. TPB staff has since been working with COG staff on this activity.

The proposed schedule for the MSWG is attached. The schedule anticipates an interim technical report in the September-October time period and a final report in January 2016. The schedule also identifies the milestones for public input at the beginning, middle and towards the end stages of this work activity.

Status Report on MSWG Activities

The MSWG was convened on January 30th and Land Use, Transportation, and Energy/Built Environment Sector Subgroups were established. The subgroups were established to facilitate detailed discussions and focused brainstorming on ideas and issues specific to each sector contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. These subgroups report back to the full MSWG on its deliberations and outcomes. The three Sector Subgroups met in February and March to brainstorm and identify potential GHG reduction strategies. In March, the Land Use and Transportation Sector Subgroups met jointly because of the strong inter-relationships between Land Use and Transportation GHG reduction strategies.

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In mid-March a consultant to support the work of the MSWG was selected and was brought on board in early April. The consultant, ICF International, has reviewed the initial list of strategies identified for the Land Use, Transportation, Energy and Built Environment Sectors and prepared technical memorandums providing detailed descriptions of the strategies identified in each sector. In addition, the consultant has also prepared spreadsheet tables that provide an initial qualitative assessment of the strategies identified to-date in each sector.

Public input on the initial set of strategies identified by the three Sector Subgroups is being sought from April 9th through April 22nd. The TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will be briefed on the initial set of identified strategies on April 9th and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) will be briefed on April 20th. Additional public input will also be sought and solicited via the COG website.

Initial List of Strategies in Each Sector

A total of 38 GHG reduction strategies have been identified from the discussions by three Sector Subgroups. Six of these strategies are Land Use Sector Strategies, 21 are Transportation Sector strategies and 11 are Energy/Built Environment Sector strategies. All of the strategies identified to date are attached to this memorandum. As noted earlier, public comments on these identified strategies is currently being sought.

Next Steps

The Energy/Built Environment Sector Subgroup will meet on April 13th and the Land Use and Transportation Sectors (jointly) will meet on April 17th to review the strategy descriptions and initial qualitative assessments provided by the consultant. These Sector Subgroups will suggest further refinements to the strategies identified to date and provide comment on the strategies believed to be the most promising and worthy of more detailed quantitative analysis. Staff will also compile the public comments received on these strategies and provide this input to the consultant by April 24th. The consultant will then review the input received from the Sector Subgroups and the public and prepare a combined list of the strategies recommended for detailed quantitative analysis. This recommended list of strategies will be presented to the full MSWG on May 8th. At the May 8th meeting the MSWG will review and discuss the combined list of strategies for all sectors and make a decision on the strategies to be advanced for more detailed analysis. After the May 8th meeting the consultant will begin the detailed quantitative analysis and prepare the results of this analysis for review by the Sector Subgroups and MSWG in July.

Proposed Schedule for the COG Greenhouse Gas Reduction Multi-Sector Working Group

January 2015

1. Establish and convene MSWG

February- April

1. Obtain contractor support and assistance
2. Land Use, Transportation, Energy and Built Environment Subgroups identify initial list of greenhouse gas reduction strategies
3. Seek public input on proposed strategies

May - August

1. MSWG reviews and decides on strategies for further analysis
2. Consultant preforms technical analyses of multi-sector strategies
3. MSWG reviews consultant analyses
4. Consultant drafts Interim Technical Report

September - October

1. Interim Technical Report presented to COG Board, TPB, MWAQC, CEEPC
2. Public input on Interim Report
3. MSWG explores potential goals, targets by sector

November - December

1. Consultant prepares draft Final Technical Report
2. Public Input on draft Final Technical Report
3. Report presented to TPB, MWAQC, CEEPC

January 2016

1. Final Technical Report to COG Board

Initial List of Strategies To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

I. Land Use Sector

- L-1 Maximize urban tree canopy
- L-2 Increase proportion of new housing and jobs in activity centers
- L-3 Improve regional jobs/housing balance
- L-4 Maximize walkable design in activity centers
- L-5 Establish adequate retail in activity centers
- L-6 Focus government employment near premium transit

II. Transportation Sector

(Vehicle Full Efficiency/Low Carbon Fuels)

- T-1 Improve fuel economy of light-duty vehicle fleet
- T-2 Increase alternative fuels in public sector vehicles
- T-3 Clean freight technologies
- T-4 Lower emission off-road construction equipment
- T-5 Low carbon fuel incentives

(System and Operational Efficiency)

- T-6 Roadway bottleneck relief/targeted capacity enhancements
- T-7 Corridor/regional operational improvements
- T-8 Promote eco-driving
- T-9 Off-peak freight deliveries
- T-10 Lower Speed Limits/Increased Enforcement
- T-11 Advanced adoption of connected vehicle technologies

(Reduce Growth in Vehicle Trips and Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT))

- T-12 Enhance bicycle/pedestrian environment
- T-13 Enhance transit services
- T-14 Transit incentives
- T-15 Park-and-Ride and HOV investments
- T-16 Parking management
- T-17 Travel demand management

(Pricing)

- T-18 Road pricing/congestion pricing
- T-19 Cordon pricing
- T-20 Pay-As-You-Drive insurance
- T-21 Increase fuel taxes/carbon tax

Initial List of Strategies To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions (continued)

III. Energy/Built Environment Sector

- EBE-1 Reductions in energy and water consumption in existing buildings
- EBE-2 Encourage development near activity centers
- EBE-3 Improve new building energy performance
- EBE-4 Increase use of Water Sense fixtures in new buildings
- EBE-5 Adopt updated building codes and energy performance standards
- EBE-6 Improve public and private infrastructure efficiency
- EBE-7 Reductions in power sector emissions
- EBE-8 Reductions in natural gas pipeline leaks
- EBE-9 Reductions in municipal solid waste
- EBE-10 Reductions in emissions from non-road engines
- EBE-11 Educate and motivate through community engagement

The detailed descriptions and initial qualitative assessments of these identified strategies can be found at:

<http://www.mwcog.org/ghgcomments/>