

Status report on the consultant-assisted project for development of the COG/TPB travel demand model

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Background

- Consultant-assistance project, a.k.a. the model scanning project is now in its tenth year
- Purpose
 - Assist COG/TPB staff in development and application of COG/TPB travel demand model
 - Perform scans of current modeling practice
 - Help ensure that COG/TPB travel model is consistent with state of the practice



Background

- Contract is generally re-bid every three years
 - ▣ Latest re-bidding was for FY 15
 - ▣ Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (CS) won the contract
- After award of contract, task orders are negotiated between COG and consultant
 - ▣ COG/TPB staff make proposal to consultant
 - ▣ Consultant responds with proposed scope of work, budget, and schedule
 - ▣ Once both parties are comfortable with task order, COG authorizes consultant to begin work



Background

- Project is off to a slower start this year than is normally the case
- Status of FY 15 task orders

	Description	Status
15.1	Attend relevant meetings and respond to ad-hoc requests	Authorized 7/17/14, \$35k
15.2	Develop a strategic plan for models development	Under development
15.3	Review of transit modeling w.r.t. FTA guidance	Authorized 10/22/14, \$28k



Review of transit modeling w.r.t. FTA guidance (Task Order 15.3)

- Motivation
 - ▣ FTA's New Starts and Small Starts program
 - FTA's primary grant program for funding major transit capital investments, including rapid rail, LRT, BRT, commuter rail, and ferries
 - In July 2012, new legislation (MAP-21) was enacted that changed several aspects of the program



Image credit: Mark Moran



Review of transit modeling w.r.t. FTA guidance (Task Order 15.3)

- Motivation (continued)
 - COG/TPB does not conduct New Starts or Small Starts studies, but our model gets used by those who do
 - Although Ver. 2.3 model has been out for a while, it appeared that many consultants continued to use Ver. 2.2 for New Starts work
 - We wanted CS to review features of the Ver. 2.3 model that would need to be changed or added to conform to FTA guidance



Review of transit modeling w.r.t. FTA guidance (Task Order 15.3)

- Tasks
 - ▣ Review documentation for the latest version of the TPB model (2.3.57);
 - ▣ Review the latest FTA guidance on ridership forecasting for New Starts and Small Starts;
 - ▣ Discuss the potential companion use of the FTA Simplified Trips-on-Project Software (STOPS); and
 - ▣ Propose options and recommendations for addressing the FTA guidance



Review of transit modeling w.r.t. FTA guidance (Task Order 15.3)

- Schedule: About 3 months
- Status: CS has just started, so there is nothing to report at this time.



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Developing a strategic plan for models development (Task Order 15.2)

- Last strategic plan for models development at COG
 - ▣ Occurred over 20 years ago (1993 by PB)
 - ▣ 7-year plan (FY 1993-1999)
- Intervening years
 - ▣ TRB review (2003-2004)
 - ▣ Consultant scan project (2005 to present)
 - ▣ But no formal strategic plan



Developing a strategic plan for models development (Task Order 15.2)

- 2012: COG/TPB staff undertook a comprehensive review of all the consultant recommendations from first 6 years
 - Goal: Document the TPB staff response to the consultant recommendations
 - *TPB Staff Review of Six Years of Consultant Recommendations from the Ongoing Consultant-Assisted Project for Models Development (NCRTPB, MWCOG, July 19, 2012)*



Developing a strategic plan for models development (Task Order 15.2)

- COG/TPB staff proposed getting CS to help develop a new strategic plan (meeting on 8/1/14 and a memo dated 8/1/14)
- CS sent a proposal to COG/TPB staff dated 9/17/14
- Since COG's Dept. of Transportation Planning (DTP) has a new director, the legacy staff wanted to
 - Bring the new director up to speed about the scanning contract, in general
 - Discuss the plan for Task Order 15.2, in particular, to make sure that there was buy-in from the director



Developing a strategic plan for models development (Task Order 15.2)

- Several internal meetings were held
- Based on these meetings, staff chose to revised the proposed scope of this task order
- COG/TPB staff is putting the revised proposal into written form, to share with CS
- Once CS has had a chance to review the new COG proposal, CS will prepare a revised proposed scope of work, budget, and schedule



Side note related to strategic plan

- ❑ WMATA sent a letter, dated 10/30/14, to TPB chair advocating for several updates to the regional travel demand model regarding transit, walking, and biking
- ❑ 11/19/14: TPB chair indicated that, given its technical nature, COG staff should respond to the letter
- ❑ COG/TPB staff is working on a response, and plans to meet with WMATA technical staff in the future
- ❑ Staff views these suggestions as important input to the strategic plan



Carry-over work from FY 14

- At the end of the last fiscal year, AECOM sent COG/TPB staff a revised version of the regional model, which included new proposed procedures for modeling HOT lanes and performing toll setting
- COG/TPB staff has been reviewing the revised modeling scripts and running/testing the new procedures to assess their viability
- COG/TBP staff sent memo to AECOM on 9/25/14 and had a follow-up conference call the next day
- Toll setting model runs have varied from 30 hours to over 30 days, depending on values of parameters
- We plan to update the TFS in the future



Next steps

- Task Order 15.2
 - ▣ COG/TPB staff will send revised proposal to CS
 - ▣ CS will respond with a revised scope of work & budget
- COG/TPB staff will continue testing AECOM's proposed modeling enhancements (HOT lane & toll setting)
- Once budget for Task Order 15.2 has been set, COG/TPB staff plans to propose one or more FY 15 task orders



Questions?

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