

Highlights of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee Meeting: February 7, 2008

[Rescheduled from January 24, 2008]

1. Call to Order/Approval of September 27, 2007 Meeting Highlights

Bob Griffiths, COG/DTP, chaired this meeting. The September 27, 2007 meeting highlights were approved as written.

2. Update on Aviation Policy Committee

Tim Canan, COG/DTP, presented this item on behalf of George Nichols, COG/DEP, who was unable to attend because of a conflict. Mr. Canan reported that the Aviation Policy Committee (APC) was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 10:00 AM at MWCOG. The meeting will include the following items:

- Featured Presentation: “Local Government Best Management Practices – General Aviation.” The presentation will be made by Ashish J. Solanki, Director, Office of Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration.
- Part 150 Update for DCA. Mr. Neal Phillips, MWAA, will brief the APC on the Part 150 Plan for DCA, including findings made by the FAA as part of its review, which has been completed. Mr. Phillips will also update the APC on future implementation activities.
- The APC will consider recommending including a project to be proposed in the forthcoming Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP): the Development of a Helicopter Noise Program.

3. Progress on Fall 2007 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey

Abdul Mohammed, COG/DTP, distributed a handout and presented this item. Mr. Mohammed reported that data collection for the 2007 Air Passenger Survey of the region’s three major airports (BWI, DCA and IAD) was complete and staff was in the process of editing the data to be used in the final analysis. It was reported that security logistics for conducting the survey went very smoothly and all security badges had been returned to the respective airports. Mr. Mohammed thanked representatives from MWAA and MAA for their agencies’ assistance with logistical arrangements for the survey.

The survey occurred from Sunday, October 7, 2007 to Saturday, October 20, 2007, and this was followed by re-survey, which occurred between Sunday, October 21, 2007 and Saturday, November 3, 2007. A total of 685 flights were randomly sampled for the survey. Of these, 606 were domestic flights and the remaining 79 were international flights. The 685 flights were distributed among the three airports as follows: 227 at BWI, 212 at DCA, and 246 at IAD. Mr. Mohammed presented several data tables containing additional survey metrics (surveys conducted, response rates, numbers of records, etc.) and some initial data tabulations; however, he underscored that the tables were preliminary and subject to change following completion of the data editing process.

Following a discussion about confusing responses concerning mode trip modes to the airports, Clara Reschovsky, COG/DTP, recommended that the survey instrument be reviewed and refined, where necessary, before the next survey is conducted. This would help minimize confusion among respondents over some of the questions.

Upon completion of data edits and logic checks, staff will factor the data to 2007 annual enplanement data (anticipated shortly) and prepare a draft report to present to the Subcommittee at its March 27, 2008 meeting. This report will not contain data geocoded to respective MWCOG and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs). Staff will geocode the data later in the spring and then present the detailed geographic results to the Subcommittee.

4. Draft Report on Findings from the Regional Air Passenger Origin/Destination Forecasts

Mr. Mohammed briefed the Subcommittee on the draft report, which provides base and forecast years of local originating air passenger trips from each Aviation Analysis Zone (AAZ) to the three regional commercial airports: BWI, DCA and IAD. Three handouts were distributed, including (1) the December 2007 draft report, (2) February 7, 2008 briefing on the data and findings, and (3) two tables containing enplanement forecasts for DCA and IAD. Mr. Mohammed detailed the methodology used to prepare the forecasts and reviewed the associated data tables developed in the preparation of the forecasts.

Subcommittee members were asked to provide any comments or additional input to Mr. Mohammed within the next few weeks. Once received, staff will finalize the report and present it at the next Subcommittee meeting, March 27, 2008.

5. Progress on Washington-Baltimore Regional Airport System Plan Air Cargo Element Update

Tim Canan, COG/DTP, distributed a report outline and draft project schedule for completing the Air Cargo Element Update. Mr. Canan explained that the report is scheduled to be completed before June 2008. The report will essentially constitute an update to the 1997 report, which entailed three (3) technical memoranda: (1) Demand Analysis, (2) Facility and Infrastructure Analysis, and (3) Regional Needs Assessment. The 2008 update will include generally the same three overarching components, but will likely be prepared in a single report. In addition, the report will also include a network analysis that provides key information on the performance of the surface transportation network with respect to air cargo.

Mr. Wayne Schuster, MAA, requested a copy of the project scope to better understand the requirements before he provides comments on the outline and schedule. He advised staff to direct any additional data requests and questions to Bob Shaffer (sp?) of his staff. A working draft of the report will be presented to the Subcommittee at its March meeting and a final report will be presented at its May meeting.

6. Draft Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP)

Mr. Canan, COG/DTP, presented this item and distributed three handouts: (1) one-page chart depicting Continuous Airport Systems Planning (CASP) process, (2) 2009 ACIP Development Deadlines, and (3) the Draft Proposed FFY 2008 – 2012 ACIP. Mr. Canan provided an overview of the CASP program,

explaining the that three major planning phases entailed conducting surveys to gather baseline and trend data, preparing ground access forecasts, and using these data to update the Ground Access Element.

Following the overview of the CASP program, Mr. Canan reviewed the draft ACIP and explained how the timing of the projects show in the draft reflected the sequence of the program. Moreover, in addition to the standard CASP elements included in the draft ACIP, Mr. Canan noted that the draft also included the next update of the Ground Access Travel Time Study as well as the potential for an additional project to be proposed by the Aviation Policy Committee.

The Ground Access Travel Time Study update will entail field crews driving along pre-identified ground access routes with GPS devices that will be used to record the routes and the travel time from these origins to their destination airports. These data would then be fed into the overall regional travel demand model to produce more refined output.

Mr. Schuster asked if the funding in the ACIP were part of the same source for which MAA would be competing. Mr. Rawlings, DDOT, explained that ACIP funding comes from state allocations, whereas funding to which Mr. Schuster was referring comes from other sources, so there is not competition for ACIP funds among COG/TPB, MAA, and MWAA. Mr. Schuster also inquired if staff coordinates with state efforts when it prepares the various studies identified in the ACIP. Mr. Griffiths, COG/DTP, explained that such coordination does occur in both directions to avoid overlap and to incorporate updated information produced by one entity into the work of another. Mr. Schuster requested copies of recent ACIP products to become more familiar with these items.

Mr. Canan requested that any input from Subcommittee members on the draft ACIP should be provided to him by March 14, 2008, so it can be reflected in the revised draft ACIP that will be reviewed at the Subcommittee's March 27, 2008 meeting. The revised draft is also expected to contain any projects proposed by the Aviation Policy Committee. The Aviation Technical Subcommittee will be asked to endorse the draft ACIP at the next meeting so that it can be submitted to FAA by April 1, 2008, in accordance with the schedule provided by FAA.

7. Regional Airport, Airline and Aviation Industry News Group Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for Subcommittee members to share information on regional airport, airline and aviation industry news.

Mr. Hackett, MWAA, noted a recent article that reported that 2007 saw a record number of passenger volumes at DCA. Mr. Schuster, MAA, confirmed a similar milestone is anticipated for BWI and further noted that a quarter of all of AirTran's growth in 2008 is anticipated to occur at BWI.

Mr. Mohammed, COG/DTP, requested that COG staff be notified of upcoming airline managers' meetings. Notice can be sent via e-mail to Tim Canan, COG/DTP. Mr. Griffiths, COG/DTP, noted that with increasing demands for limited funding, both MWAA and MAA may wish to begin mobilizing for funding the next Air Passenger Survey.

8. Other Business

The next meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee will be held Thursday, March 27, 2008 at MWCOG/TPB offices: 777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC.

**Aviation Technical Subcommittee
February 7, 2008 Meeting Attendance**
[Rescheduled from January 24, 2007]

Attendance

Name	Agency / Organization	E-mail Address	Phone Number
Michael Hackett	MWAA	Michael.hackett@mwaa.com	(703) 417-8164
Wayne Schuster	MAA – OPES	wschuster@bwiairport.com	(410) 859-7787
Mark Rawlings	DDOT	Mark.rawlings@dc.gov	(202) 671-2234
Bala Akundi	BMC	bakundi@baltometro.org	(410) 732-0500 x1019
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Clara Reschovsky	COG/TPB	creschovsky@mwkog.org	(202) 962-3332