

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board


777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202)962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

May 16, 2007

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby 
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Additional Letters Sent/Received

The attached additional letters sent/received will be reviewed along with other letters sent/received under item #5 of the May 16th TPB agenda.

Attachments



May 8, 2007

Ms. Catherine Hudgins
Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

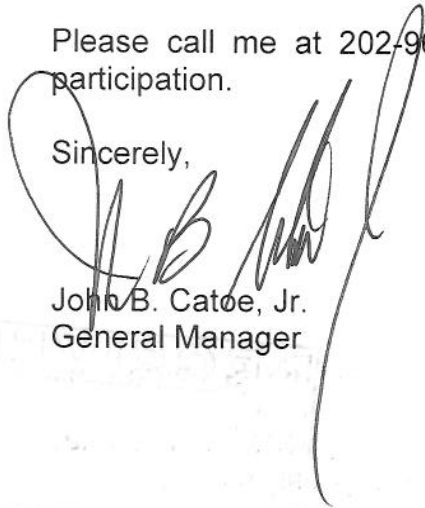
Dear Ms. Hudgins:

In past years, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) participated in the Street Smart pedestrian and bicyclist safety program by working with local jurisdictions to provide public outreach. Metro will become a funding partner for the expanded campaign, providing \$150,000 in FY 2008. We will assess the value of continuing this level of financial commitment to the campaign beyond FY 2008.

The Street Smart campaign is an important element of Metro's overall pedestrian and bicyclist safety program. We believe that our new role of funding partner will allow us to more fully use the Street Smart philosophy and brand in many aspects of our program.

Please call me at 202-962-1000 if you have any questions about our participation.

Sincerely,



John B. Catoe, Jr.
General Manager

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

By Metrorail:
Judiciary Square—Red Line
Gallery Place-Chinatown—
Red, Green and
Yellow Lines
By Metrobus:
Routes D1, D3, D6, P6,
70, 71, 80, X2

A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Beverly K. Swaim-Staley
Deputy Secretary

May 8, 2007

John Catoe, General Manager
Washington Metropolitan Area Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Pierce R. Homer, Secretary
Virginia Department of Transportation
202 North Ninth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Ron Kirby, Director
Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

Emeka Moneme, Director
District of Columbia
Department of Transportation
2000 14th Street, NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Secretary Homer and Messrs. Catoe, Kirby, and Moneme:

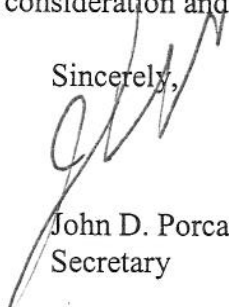
I would like to acknowledge the fine work that our respective staff have done in framing the "Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Committee" (MATOC). The agreement we all recently signed represents a milestone in regional coordination and cooperation, addressing how we might better work together on major transportation incidents.

That agreement calls for each of us to name members of our staff to a "Steering Committee" who will guide the development of this concept and provide direction to the Washington Council of Governments (COG) and any consultants assisting in this endeavor. The Steering Committee is certainly needed to work through all of the inevitable details associated with this effort.

Nevertheless, I suggest that we, as the executive sponsors of this effort, have a key role to play. I believe it is worth our attention to come along side the Steering committee and support this important work. Therefore, I ask that we come together to form a MATOC "Executive Committee", meeting periodically (once or twice per year) to review the progress of this effort and provide executive input.

Given the importance of this effort, its visibility within the region and its potential funding and operational ramifications, I urge you to support this proposal. Should you wish to discuss this, please contact Mr. John Contestabile, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, at 410-865-1120. I look forward to your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



John D. Porcari
Secretary

- cc: Mr. John Contestabile, Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration, Maryland
Department of Transportation
Mr. Soumya S. Dey, P.E., Interim Associate Director, District Department of
Transportation, Traffic Services Administration
Mr. Andrew Meese, Principal Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council
of Governments National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Mr. W. Mark Miller, Emergency Planning-Operations Coordinator, Washington
Metropolitan Area Transit Authority



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Andrew J. Meese, AICP *ajm*
Principal Transportation Planner

DATE: May 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Update on the Washington Region Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program

Background: This memorandum provides an update on the status of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program, following the last update to the TPB on April 18, 2007. As previously discussed, MATOC is a regional program to enhance the availability of real-time transportation information and strengthening coordination among transportation agencies, including:

- Improving technological systems for sharing transportation information among agencies involved in managing regional incidents
- Enhancing the transportation sector's standard operating procedures and notification practices for incidents
- Providing more timely and accurate transportation information to the public during incidents.

(The name MATOC has replaced the former name "CapCom" which was withdrawn due to potential trademark conflicts.) MATOC participants are DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA, and TPB. Initial funding for the program has been designated from a SAFETEA-LU grant supported by Congressman James Moran.

As reported on April 18: All parties have now signed the package of agreement documents to fund and guide the program. The agreement formalizes the MATOC Steering Committee and enables COG/TPB to engage a MATOC support contractor. Following up on a request from MDOT Secretary Porcari, the formation of a top-level MATOC Executive Committee is being explored. COG was anticipating to re-advertise for MATOC contractor support in April or May, last year's original procurement process having been withdrawn due to administrative issues. A first official meeting of the MATOC Steering Committee was anticipated in the May or June time frame, following completion of the appointments of member representatives (in the meantime, the Ad Hoc Steering Committee continues to meet regularly). A special TPB Work Session on MATOC, enabling a detailed look at MATOC and RITIS activities, is being planned for immediately prior to one of the upcoming TPB meetings.

New since April 18: The MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee held an April 19 work session with key operations personnel looking at coordination and notification procedures. The session also examined the prototype Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) under development, which will be key to MATOC success. Due to scheduling difficulties, the MATOC Steering Committee has not held a business meeting since before the last TPB meeting, but will meet tomorrow (Thursday, May 17) to address next steps. At that time, the Steering Committee will review a revised Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for contractor support, which is anticipated to be issued shortly afterward in keeping with the previously announced April/May time frame.



May 1, 2007

Mr. Roger Boothe
Virginia Department of Transportation
Capital Beltway HOT Lanes Project Manager
14685 Avion Parkway
Chantilly, Virginia 20151-1104

Re: Capital Beltway HOT Lanes

Dear Mr. Boothe:

Tysons Corner Center (Macerich) has worked collaboratively with public officials and the community over the past three years to create a plan for a dynamic development that is responsive to their vision for Tysons Corner: a vibrant community in which people and place intersect to create a live-work-shop destination like no other.

As we realize the community's vision for Tysons Corner, significant initiatives like the Capital Beltway HOT lanes project will play an important role in defining the area's future. It is in this regard that I am writing to clarify certain issues that are contained in my letter to you dated April 6, 2007.

First, Macerich is highly supportive of the Capital Beltway HOT lanes project. As you know, the Tysons area is a significant center of commerce and is in need of substantial transportation infrastructure investment. We view the HOT lanes as an important element of the overall planned investment, which includes significant road and transit improvements that Macerich has previously committed to help fund and build.

The concerns raised in my letter of April 6 identify specific changes that have occurred in the design of HOT lanes interchanges in the Tysons area since the project was first proposed. After repeated attempts over a prolonged period, we have been unsuccessful in getting our concerns addressed by the HOT lanes contractor, Fluor/Transurban. These changes have raised significant concern about the operational viability of the HOT lanes with the surrounding road network and potential corresponding environmental impacts.

We appreciate the very important oversight role VDOT has on this project. We have renewed confidence that through this oversight, operational concerns at the interchanges in the Tysons area and any potential corresponding environmental impacts will be addressed. For this reason, I am formally withdrawing our request for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the project.

We look forward to the opportunity to work together to create fully functional HOT lanes in the Tysons area.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify our concerns. Please contact John Harrison at 585/746-8406 if we may answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Melanie Balfour Heywood
Senior Vice President, Development


Pc: The Honorable Pierce Homer, Virginia Secretary of Transportation
David Eckern, Commissioner, VDOT
Dennis Morrison, Northern Virginia District Engineer, VDOT
Matt Tucker, Director of Rail and Public Transportation, VDOT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ron Kirby, Director, Department of Transportation Planning 

SUBJECT: Status of Transportation/Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program Technical Assistance Projects and Clearinghouse Web Site

DATE: May 16, 2007

The TPB at its March 2007 meeting approved the selection of six technical assistance projects for completion in the pilot phase of the TLC Program. Working with representatives from the local agency applicants, TPB staff has selected consultants for each project and contracts are currently being finalized. Project kick-off meetings involving TPB, local agency, and consultant staff have been completed for all five of the localized technical assistance projects, and work has begun on the sixth project – development of a public presentation about density and development issues for regional application. TPB staff is confident that these projects are on track and that a majority of the work can be completed by the June 30, 2007 goal. A list reviewing the six pilot projects can be found below.

During the development of the TLC Program, several TPB members and professional staff indicated that it would also be useful for the program to facilitate the sharing of information about planning and development activity around the Washington Region, and best practices information from around the country. The second prong of the program, the TLC Clearinghouse, attempts to fill that need. Working with the non-profit organization Reconnecting America and a Web design consultant, TPB staff will soon be launching the TLC Clearinghouse Web site, which will contain a wealth of information about noteworthy activity in the region as well as useful resources for the region's local governments as they seek to promote vibrant, mixed-use communities with multimodal transportation options. Following the launch, TPB staff will continue to work to improve the usefulness of the site and add content, including reports on each of the TLC technical assistance pilot projects.

The TPB will be updated again on the status of these projects at its July meeting.

TLC Technical Assistance Pilot Projects:

- **Montgomery/Prince George's Counties, Langley / Takoma Parks Pedestrian Study**
Develop a pedestrian safety and mobility study to support planning efforts for the Takoma/Langley Park Crossroads Sector Plan.
- **St. Charles Urbanized Area, Urban Roads Standards**
Provide assistance in the development of Urban Road Design Standards to better serve pedestrians and relieve congestion.

- **Fairfax County, Levels of Service around Transit Oriented Development**
Review best practices and report on how traffic congestion should be addressed within and adjacent to transit stations.
- **Prince William County, Scoping Assistance for BRAC Impacts**
Develop effective methods of preparing request for Department of Defense funding and to incorporate potential Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) transportation and land use impacts into the Potomac Communities Revitalization Plan.
- **District of Columbia, Potomac Avenue Metro Station Area Scoping**
Build on past visioning efforts to develop a strategy and community process for implementation of revitalization plans in the Potomac Avenue Metro Station area.
- **Public Presentation on Density Issues for Use in Multiple Jurisdictions As Requested**
Develop and execute a public presentation on how to incorporate density around key transportation facilities.



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 10, 2007

Contact: Heather Mueller, 202.962.3756

Floreen to Chair COG Climate Change Steering Committee
Major Initiative Will Recommend Ways to Reduce Region's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Washington, D.C. -- Montgomery County Council Member Nancy Floreen will chair a new steering committee to guide one of the nation's first regional climate change initiatives to focus on controlling greenhouse gas emissions locally, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) announced at its monthly meeting. Floreen also serves as 2007 chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

"I am honored to be named Chair of this important regional committee," Floreen said. "I am convinced this group will roll up its sleeves and come up with meaningful, constructive proposals that can have a positive effect on the environmental future of this area. Montgomery County has long been a leader in developing initiatives to control climate change, and I am pleased to join forces with our neighbors to make an even bigger impact."

Floreen will lead the steering committee as it meets for one year to develop a program to help the region reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to recommending strategies and establishing regional goals, the committee will also:

- measure local greenhouse gas emissions;
- examine the local impacts of climate change;
- catalogue activities currently underway;
- identify best practices for local governments
- develop educational materials for elected leaders, citizen and businesses;
- evaluate the feasibility of a fund that would help finance projects to reduce greenhouse gases;
- and recommend policies.

"We are grateful that Ms. Floreen for graciously agreed to chair this steering committee," said Board Chair and D.C. Council Chairman Vincent C. Gray. "Very few things are more important to our future at this stage."

Committee members were appointed to represent a broad range of jurisdictions and agencies to assist the region with addressing climate change at the regional level:

- **Mary M. Cheh**, Council of the District of Columbia

- **George S. Hawkins**, Director, District of Columbia Department of the Environment
- **Emeka Moneme**, Director, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
- **Harriet Tregoning**, Director, District of Columbia Department of Planning
- **Nancy Floreen**, Montgomery County Council
- **Tad Aburn**, Director, Maryland Air Program
- **Judith Davis**, Mayor, City of Greenbelt
- **Roger Berliner**, Montgomery County Council
- **Camille A. Exum**, Prince George's County Council
- **Paul Ferguson**, Arlington County Board
- **Mercury Payton**, City Manager, City of Manassas Park
- **Gerry Connolly**, Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- **David Snyder**, City of Falls Church Council
- **Lori Waters**, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
- **John Catoe**, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Governments of the National Capital Region continue to lead the nation in implementing practices and policies that help sustain the natural environment. COG's regional climate change initiative builds upon the programs and policies that many of the region's local governments have put in place, such as energy efficiency programs, cooperative wind energy and alternative fuel and hybrid vehicle purchases, green building incentives, and public education.

COG is the association of 21 jurisdictions working for a better metropolitan region.

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For Immediate Release
May 14, 2007

Contact: Makeda Saggau-Sackey
(202) 962-3284

- MEDIA ADVISORY -**Bike to Work and Give Some Fresh Air
6,500 WILL SPIN THEIR WHEELS FRIDAY, MAY 18**

- WHO:** District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty and Fairfax County Board Chairman Gerry Connolly, other elected officials and dignitaries (see extended list below) will join thousands of area bicyclists as they bike to work in an effort to reduce drive-alone commuting and improve air quality in the Washington Capital region.
- WHAT:** Annual Bike to Work Day, a free event co-sponsored by Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). The event promotes bicycling as an alternative to drive-alone commuting and is held each year to cap off National Bike to Work Week.
- WHEN:** Friday morning, May 18, 2007 (*times vary by location*)
- WHERE:** 25 local governments and area employers will host "pit stop" locations throughout the region: Downtown Washington D.C. Maryland - Bethesda, Bowie (2), College Park, Frederick, Hyattsville, National Institutes of Health, North Bethesda, Rockville (2) and Silver Spring (2). Virginia - Alexandria, Arlington (2), Dulles, Fairfax (2) Leesburg, Reston, Springfield, Sterling, Tysons Corner and Vienna.

BACKGROUND:

Bicycling is a healthy and cost-efficient option to drive-alone commuting. Commuting by bike helps reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. That is why Commuter Connections is again partnering with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) to encourage bicycling to work in the Washington region. Because May is national Bike Month and Clean Air Month, it is a good time to bring awareness to the issue of drive-alone commuting and its damaging affects on air quality and traffic congestion.

Cyclists will celebrate at 25 "pit stop" locations in the Washington region where food, giveaway items, entertainment, and chances to win bicycles and other valuable prizes will be offered. The first 6,500 riders who register online at www.waba.org will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-Shirt and each registrant will be entered into a drawing to win one of several bicycles or health club memberships, valued up to \$1,000. Also, 21 bicycle commuter "convoys," led by experienced cyclists, will guide riders as they roll in to downtown D.C.'s Freedom Plaza for a fun-filled rally.



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Visit www.waba.org for information on Bike to Work Day 2007 including pit stop locations, convoy routes and online registration. Bike to Work Day 2007 is also sponsored by goDCgo.com.

A number of elected officials and other speakers will join bicyclists at area celebrations including but not limited to:

Washington D.C. (Freedom Plaza)

Mayor, District of Columbia, Adrian Fenty
 Congresswoman, District of Columbia, Eleanor Holmes-Norton
 Council Member, District of Columbia, Phil Mendelson
 Council Member, District of Columbia, Tommy Wells
 Council Member, District of Columbia, Yvette Alexander

Alexandria (City Hall)

Council Member, City of Alexandria, Rob Krupicka
 Council Member, City of Alexandria, Del Pepper

Arlington (Rosslyn Gateway Park)

Board Member, Arlington County, Vice Chairman J. Walter Tejada
 Board Member, Arlington County, Chris Zimmerman

Bethesda (Reed St.)

Maryland State Delegate, Bill Bronrott
 Director, Montgomery County Dept Public Works & Transportation, Arthur Holmes
 Senator, Brian Frosh
 Secretary of Transportation, Maryland Dept of Transportation, John Porcari
 Councilmember, Montgomery County, Roger Berliner
 Councilmember, Montgomery County, Nancy Floreen

College Park (City Hall)

Mayor, City of College Park, Stephen A. Brayman
 Vice President for Administrative Affairs, University of Maryland, Doug Duncan

Fairfax (Fairfax Corner, Main Plaza)

Chairman, Fairfax County, Gerald Connolly

Frederick, MD (Downtown Transit Center)

Alderman, City of Frederick, Marcia Hall

North Bethesda (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-Plaza)

Council Member, Montgomery County, Nancy Floreen

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Telephone (202) 962-3200 TDD (202) 962-3213 Fax (202) 962-3201 Internet: www.mwcog.org**Reston** (Reston Town Center)

Supervisor, Fairfax County, Catherine Hudgins

Virginia State Delegate, Ken Plum

Silver Spring (Downtown Discovery Communications)

Council Member, Montgomery County, George Leventhal

Silver Spring (FDA White Oak)

Bicycle & Pedestrian Director, Maryland Dept of Transportation, Michael Jackson

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Departments of Transportation as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation. Commuter Connections promotes bicycling to work and other alternatives to drive-alone commuting, and provides ridematching for carpools and vanpools and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association creates a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment, and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling.