
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

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

DRAFT Highlights of the meeting of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee

Thursday, November 17, 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon

Meeting Attendees

- Anita Kayser (WATF)
- Mike Hines (MWAA)
- Amber Carran-Fletcher (DDOT) – via teleconference
- Tony Storck (MAA)

COG/TPB staff in attendance

- Bob Griffiths
- Clara Reschovsky
- Abdul Mohammed
- Rich Roisman

Chair Mike Hines called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

1. Approval of highlights from the previous meeting (September 21, 2011)

Mr. Storck noted that the typeface sizes in the draft minutes shifted between different agenda items. Mr. Roisman indicated he would correct that problem. The September 21, 2011 meeting highlights were approved with corrections. The approved meeting summary will be available on the MWCOG website.

2. 2011 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey Update

Abdul Mohammed from COG/TPB staff provided a status update on the air passenger survey. Data collection has ended and the survey was successful. WB&A Market Research was the survey consultant. The survey sample was based on the November 2011 Official Airlines Guide. There were a total of 7,551 flights for the month: 2,505 at BWI, 1,658 at DCA, and 3,388 at IAD. Based on recommendations from the subcommittee, the sampling plan was revised from what was used for the 2009 survey. The number of strata has increased from 45 for prior surveys to 335 for the 2011 survey: at BWI, 89 domestic strata and 6 international for a total of 95; at DCA 93 domestic and 4 international for a total of 97; at IAD, 98 domestic and 45 international for a total of 143. For all three airports, there were a total of 280 domestic strata and 55 international strata.

Per the sampling plan, the number of surveyed flights was relatively uniformly distributed throughout the survey period, which ran from Wednesday, November 2nd to Tuesday, November 15th. An average of 49 flights per day was surveyed. Total survey flights were 690: 610 domestic and 80 international. By airport, the number of flights surveyed was 229 at BWI (216 domestic, 13 international); 217 at DCA (209 domestic, 8 international); 244 at IAD (185 domestic, 59 international).

The survey period ended on Tuesday, November 15th. Preliminary results indicate a 95% success rate for the initial surveys. A surveyed flight is considered successful when more than 20% of the revenue passengers complete a survey questionnaire. Those flights that were not successful will be resurveyed; most of those flights are at IAD, where the size of the aircraft (i.e., more passengers to survey) and language barriers for international departures are contributing to failed flights. If the re-surveyed flights are not successful, there are ways of factoring the resulting data to make it useful in the overall survey.

One added challenge with this year's survey was the need to provide replacements flights from the revised November and December OAG. Because of the multi-week delay in the survey period, some flights in the initial sample stopped operating during the survey period as airlines began shifting their schedules in anticipation of the Thanksgiving Day holiday. This issue underscores the importance of planning ahead for the 2013 survey to make sure the survey period can return to its original time of early to mid-October.

After the re-survey period is completed and the surveys retrieved and the survey offices closed down, COG staff and temporary workers will perform some initial quality checks of the completed surveys before sending everything off for keypunching (data entry). The delays experienced for the actual survey period will cascade into the analysis and reporting, so having a preliminary report for the January 2012 subcommittee meeting is unlikely. A further issue is the lack of firms performing manual data entry – most have moved to optical character recognition (OCR) scanning. The current questionnaire is not suitable for OCR scanning.

3. 2011 Ground Access Travel Time Update – Draft Report

Rich Roisman of COG/TPB staff presented the draft Ground Access Travel Time report, which was deferred from the previous meeting. Subcommittee members were requested to provide comments on the draft report within 30 days. The final report is the last deliverable to FAA under the current CASP grant (CASP 25). Previous studies were performed in 1988, 1994, and 2003. At the subcommittee's recommendation, the HCM method of delay and level of service used in the 2003 study has been replaced with overall travel speed compared with posted speed limits on the facilities. The report identifies bottlenecks where the observed speed is less than 50% of the posted speed limit. Mr. Roisman highlighted the bottlenecks and comparative travel times shown in the report. Mr. Storck asked COG/TPB staff to double-check the 2003 PM peak period travel time from Gaithersburg to BWI as the reported figure is very low.

4. Roundtable Discussion

The subcommittee recognized Anita Kayser from the Washington Airports Task Force for her contributions to the group and advancing aviation policy in the region. Ms. Kayser is relocating to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and this subcommittee meeting will be her last in attendance.

USA Today reports that available domestic seats are down 4% at all three regional airports comparing December 2011 to December 2010.

Mr. Storck discussed the upcoming capital improvement at BWI to improve the security checkpoints and improve egress at Terminals B and C and add a secure connection between B and C.

The subcommittee expressed its concern with the continuing FAA reauthorization delays.

There will be a blind electronic auction next Tuesday for eight round-trip slots at DCA. MWAA has interviewed candidates to replace Mike Hackett and should make a hire by the end of the calendar year or early next year.

Lufthansa has informed MWAA of its intent to begin daily service to Frankfurt using Boeing 747-8 aircraft during spring 2012.

5. Other Business

Chair Hines adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.

The next Aviation Technical Subcommittee meeting will be Thursday, January 26, 2011 at 10:30 AM at the Frederick Municipal Airport.