

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

MEMORANDUM

November 6, 2009

To: Stuart Freudberg, Director
Department of Environmental Programs

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

Subject: Comments to COG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
on its Draft 2009 – 2012 Regional Climate Action Workplan

Following up on the November 2008 COG publication, National Capital Region Climate Change Report, COG's new Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) has undertaken work activities to address greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets established in that initial work effort. An ad hoc committee of CEEPC has released for review and comment a draft workplan (Attachment 1) to obtain emissions reductions from all emissions sources to achieve the 2012 goal, a 10% reduction below 'business as usual' emissions levels.

TPB staff and VDOT provided comments upon the initial draft workplan (Attachments 2 and 3) and, in an October 22nd conference call of the ad hoc group, were asked to suggest more specific recommendations for consideration at the group's next conference call, scheduled for November 9th. Following discussion of the topic with the state transportation agencies and at the November 6th meeting of the TPB Technical Committee, this memo provides additional detail in that regard.

General Observations on the Workplan

Since the TPB already has mobile source GHG emissions inventory and control strategy assessment work activities funded and in progress, these activities could be directly cited as a resource within the CEEPC workplan. The TPB's current technical work efforts will inform the discussion of near term actions, performance measures and goal-setting. We request that the TPB be given the opportunity to report on the results of these technical assessments before any specific implementation measures for which the TPB has responsibility are advanced by CEEPC.

Specific Recommendations

Based upon these general observations, staff has prepared the following recommended changes to the workplan. The changes are shown in Attachment 4.

1. Insert the major work tasks being conducted by the TPB as item III.1 of the workplan;
2. Transfer to the TPB work tasks 3 and 4 all of the 'Recommendations' and 'Performance Measures' for which the TPB has responsibility, i.e., III.2.B.1, 8, and 11, and III.2.D.1 - 3; and
3. Re-label section III.2.B as Travel Efficiency.

Transmittal

TPB staff and the TPB Technical Committee recommend advancing the specific elements and language contained in Attachment 4 for consideration by the CEEPC ad hoc work group. This memo is being provided for inclusion in the materials which you are providing to the ad hoc work group. TPB staff will be available to assist in the work group's discussion of comments at the November 9th conference call.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment upon the draft workplan.

Attachments (4)