

## TPB to Look at Transportation Impacts of Military Base Shifts

The Transportation Planning Board is launching an analysis of the regional transportation impacts of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) proposal to close and realign military bases.

“We need to know whether this proposal would be forcing development and traffic onto



Walter Reed Hospital in the District of Columbia is slated for closure under the Pentagon's recommendations.

highways that we currently don't have the capacity for,” said TPB Chair Phil Mendelson at the board meeting on May 18. “We need to get the best kind of data on what the

transportation impacts will be. That's something the TPB is uniquely qualified to do.”

Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, on May 13 released the Defense Department's recommendations for closing, realigning and expanding defense-related facilities. The recommendations would affect facilities across the Washington region. In addition to base-specific recommendations, the Defense Department has recommended not renewing leases for building that do not meet the Department's Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for design and security.

Under the plan, Arlington and Alexandria would be hardest hit, losing nearly 23,000 defense workers. Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County

would gain more than 18,000 employees, while Fort Meade in Ann Arundel County would grow by nearly 5,400 workers. The plan would close Walter Reed Military Hospital in the District of Columbia.

### *Fast-track analysis*

The COG Board of Directors and the TPB have asked staff to conduct a fast-track analysis of the DOD proposals. The study will begin

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## TPB Endorses Backup Operations and Control Center for Metro

The TPB has endorsed a proposal to develop a backup operations and control center for the Metro system. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has requested \$6 million in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding for the backup center.

At the TPB meeting on May 18, Deborah Lipman of WMATA explained that in 2004, the Department of Homeland Security identified Metro's Operations and Control Center as the system's most critical asset and its highest risk. She said the center is essentially the brain and nervous system of the Metro system, providing one point of contact among the trains. If the

See **Metro Backup Center** on page 3

## Base Closings *continued from page 1*

with a quantitative analysis for the years 2010 and 2020 of the employment relocations. This analysis will look at both owned and leased facilities. It will also measure impacts resulting from the relocation of defense contractors who would be likely to move closer to new or expanded DOD facilities. Such movements would significantly impact areas like Crystal City, which would have to seek opportunities for backfilling or redevelopment.

After the anticipated employment relocations are specified, the TPB staff will analyze transportation and air quality impacts of the proposed changes. This analysis will use travel demand models to look at transportation measures such as vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and changes in transit usage.

The TPB analysis will use the study approach developed for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study, which is measuring the impacts of various transportation and land use scenarios.

### *September deadlines*

The Department of Defense recommendations were forwarded to the federal Commission on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), which is scheduled to send its report on the recommendations to President Bush by September 8. The president will have until September 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the Department of Defense.

At its meeting on June 15, the TPB is scheduled to review and approve a work plan for the regional analysis of the DOD recommendations. ■

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## **Also on the May Agenda**

Other items on the TPB's May agenda included:

- **Discussion of the draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Land Use Forecasts.** COG's Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) is responsible for developing the Cooperative Land Use Forecasts, which provide the jobs and housing inputs for the TPB's travel demand and emissions forecasts. A draft version of the latest Cooperative Forecasts, known as Round 7.0, was transmitted to the TPB by the MDPC on March 15, 2005. Accompanying this transmittal was a letter from the District of Columbia Office of Planning staff expressing serious concerns about an imbalance in the draft forecasts between jobs and housing: the households forecasted for the Metropolitan Statistical Area through the year 2030 were far short of the number needed to supply workers for the jobs in the forecasts. In response, the TPB at its May 18 meeting approved a letter to the MDPC expressing interest in working with the MDPC in evaluating these forecasts, and in particular in participating in a special meeting on this topic scheduled by the MDPC for 10 am on June 8.

- *Update on actions to improve regional transportation communication and coordination during incidents.* The TPB and its partners agencies have strongly supported the establishment of the CapCom regional transportation coordination program under a partnership involving the region's transportation agencies and the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology. At the May meeting the board was briefed on progress toward establishing and funding CapCom, including an announced \$1 million FY2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant for the program. A special TPB work session on CapCom will be convened on July 20 prior to the regular TPB meeting.

- *Followup on the Street Smart pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign.* The board was briefed on a proposed plan for coordinating the Street Smart campaign with law enforcement.

- *Briefing on the draft FY2006 Commuter Connections work program.* The board will be asked to approve the work program at its meeting on June 15. ■

## Metro Backup Center *continued from page 1*

center were to be disabled, she said the system could continue running for only a few hours. The Operation and Control Center is also the central coordinating point for data coming from the system's chemical sensors.

The backup center will cost approximately \$75 million. The requested \$6 million in UASI funding would be used for the design, purchase and installation of fiber optics equipment for the center.

The UASI funds originate in a federal Homeland Security program. The funds are dispersed through a process that includes a review of applications by the Council of Governments Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) Committee.

In addition to its endorsement of the Metro backup center, the TPB has strongly supported the use of UASI funding to help establish CapCom, which would be a regional center to share and coordinate information among agencies in the event of incidents affecting transportation. CapCom has received \$1 million in UASI funding. ■

## June Agenda

The TPB's June agenda is expected to include:

- Approval of FY 2006 Commuter Connections Work Program.
- Briefing on the proposed Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) proposal and possible impacts on land use and transportation.
- Briefing on activities of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee to evaluate the impacts of the draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Land Use Forecasts.
- Briefing on the Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments for the new PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard and on the draft scope of work for conducting analysis of the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-11 TIP.
- Status report on the air quality conformity assessment for the 2005 CLRP and the F2006-11 TIP
- Briefing on recent Congressional actions to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. ■

### TPB Alphabet Soup

<b>CAC</b>	- Citizens Advisory Committee
<b>CLRP</b>	- Constrained Long-Range Plan
<b>COG</b>	- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
<b>DDOT</b>	- District Department of Transportation
<b>FHWA</b>	- Federal Highway Administration
<b>FTA</b>	- Federal Transit Administration
<b>HOT lanes</b>	- High Occupancy/Toll lanes
<b>MDOT</b>	- Maryland Department of Transportation
<b>MDPC</b>	- Metropolitan Development Policy Committee
<b>MWAQC</b>	- Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
<b>TIP</b>	- Transportation Improvement Program
<b>TPB</b>	- Transportation Planning Board
<b>UASI</b>	- Urban Area Security Initiative
<b>VDOT</b>	- Virginia Department of Transportation
<b>WMATA</b>	- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

# Calendar of Events

Dates and times subject to change. All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., NE (Enter from 1st Street).

## June 2005

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 7 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 9 COG Geographic Information Systems Committee (1 pm)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 10 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am) *tentative*
- 21 Commuter Operations Subcommittee (10 am)
- 21 Transportation Management Association (TMA) Advisory Group (noon)

## July 2005

- 6 Telecommuting Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 8 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 8 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 14 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 19 Employer Outreach Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 19 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 19 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 28 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 28 TPB Access for All Subcommittee (noon)

## August 2005

- 2 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)

## September 2005

- 9 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 9 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee (10 am)
- 9 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 13 Commuter Operations Center Subcommittee (10 am)
- 13 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 13 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 15 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 16 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 20 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 21 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 22 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)
- 23 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 27 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am) *tentative*
- 29 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)

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