

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Andrew J. Meese, AICP
Principal Transportation Planner

DATE: March 21, 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 since the Board was briefed at the February 21, 2007 meeting. 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(The name MATOC has replaced the former name "CapCom" which was withdrawn due to potential trademark conflicts.)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 at the February 21 TPB meeting: Recent updates to the TPB on MATOC have discussed a package of agreement documents to fund and guide the program, circulated to obtain official signatures from the region's major transportation agencies. When all parties have signed, actions can proceed to engage the services of a contractor and increase the level of effort in developing MATOC activities. Superseding a previous "final" version of the agreement package, in February legal staffs of the transportation agencies agreed that additional changes were needed. A new version was developed and circulated. As reported on February 21, the new funding agreement package has been signed by Director Moneme of DDOT, Commissioner Ekern of VDOT, Director Tucker of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation of Virginia, and General Manager Catoe of WMATA.

New since February 21: Signatures that were still in process from DDOT procurement and financial personnel are now complete. COG/TPB signatures are also now complete. Though Maryland Department of Transportation officials had signed the previous package, they have since determined that the new Secretary of Transportation and staff will need to review the new revised agreement before signing, a process that could take several weeks. MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee participants have agreed to look into ways this approval might be fast-tracked.

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Transportation Planning Board

March 21, 2007

Page 2 of 2

Upcoming activities: Next steps for the formalization of the MATOC Program include member agencies appointing their official representatives and alternates to the MATOC Steering Committee; a number of representatives have already been appointed. Once all agreement signatures are complete, the MATOC Steering Committee will hold its first official meeting, date to be determined pending Maryland's approval of the agreement package. (Previous meetings have been held as an ad hoc committee.) At this first official meeting, the Steering Committee will undertake actions required by the agreement, including election of a chairperson and official adoption of the committee charter and bylaws. Following those actions, MATOC will proceed as an official program.

Also discussed previously was COG's hiring of a consultant program management and technical support team, last year's original procurement process having been withdrawn due to administrative issues. Once all necessary signatures are in place, COG will re-advertise for MATOC contractor support as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the MATOC Steering Committee will be reconvening their agencies' key operations personnel, likely in April, to ramp up work on enhancing coordination and notification procedures. The Steering Committee itself continues to meet regularly to work on MATOC issues. The members of the MATOC Steering Committee continue to express their strong interest and commitment for timely progress on identified needs.