



Aviation Technical Subcommittee Highlights of the March 25, 2021 meeting

Meeting Participants:

- Mark Rawlings (DDOT)
- Keith Meurlin (WATF)
- Mike Hewitt (MWA)A
- Shawn Ames (MAA)

TPB Staff:

- Tim Canan
- Arianna Koudounas
- Kenneth Joh

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND APPROVAL OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (JANUARY 28, 2021)

The meeting, which was held by Microsoft Teams teleconference, was called to order by Mr. Rawlings at 10:30 A.M. The highlights of the previous meeting were approved.

2. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Canan updated the Subcommittee on the status of the next CASP grant application (CASP 36). The application was complete and ready to be submitted; however, FAA advised COG to wait to submit pending further guidance that could include information on the local match requirement. COG will hold off submitting the application until advised by FAA.

Mr. Canan also informed the Subcommittee that Arianna Koudounas has accepted another position within COG and will no longer be supporting the CASP Program after March 26, 2021. Ms. Koudounas thanked the Subcommittee members for their support and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to support them and for the work they do to plan and operate the region's airports.

3. COMPREHENSIVE RASP PRIORITY PROJECTS DISCUSSION

Mr. Canan updated the Subcommittee on the March 17, 2021 briefing to the TPB by Ms. Koudounas on the priority ground access projects contained in the recently-completed Regional Air Systems Plan (RASP) Update. He indicated that there were several questions from TPB members on the projects included in the priority list. These included questions on why there were not more transit project identified, including the Purple Line and the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; why projects not included in the region's long-range transportation, Visualize 2045, were not considered (for example SCMAGLEV); and why larger considerations were not made, such as those not necessarily directly tied to airport ground access. Ms. Koudounas reviewed the questions and her responses to TPB during the briefing. During the briefing to TPB, Ms. Koudounas mentioned that she would share the questions and comments with members of the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

Mr. Hewitt inquired why the Subcommittee is only identifying projects that already have funding and included in the long-range transportation plan. Mr. Canan indicated that, while this has been the practice of this Subcommittee, there is no reason the Subcommittee could not recommend a new project yet to be funded if it believes it has the potential to significantly address ground access. However, Mr. Canan pointed out that, in addition to including it in a priority list to TPB, an implementing agency would need to develop and fund the project and carry it through the regulatory process before it could be included in the region's long-range transportation plan.

Mr. Rawlings asked if a response from the Subcommittee was needed. Mr. Canan indicated that he would close the loop with TPB by preparing a memo that documented the Subcommittee discussion and include it in the TPB director's report at the April meeting.

4. GROUND ACCESS TRAVEL TIME STUDY

Mr. Canan informed the Subcommittee that the start of this project may be delayed due to current lack of staffing resources. He said that he is consulting with TPB's Systems Planning Performance Team to determine if the use of vehicle probe data and other data sources could be leveraged to estimate ground access travel time. Conducting the data during the COVID-19 pandemic may not be optimal to inform long-range ground access planning needs, but there may be interest in better understanding the impact of the pandemic on airport ground access. Although this project will start later, it is not expected there will be any implications for the grant that funds this effort.

5. AIR CARGO STUDY DISCUSSION

Similar to the Ground Access Travel Time Study, this project will get a later start due to both staffing resources as well as the fact that the grant that will fund this activity has not yet been awarded. Mr. Canan advised the Subcommittee that he is consulting with TPB's Systems Planning Performance Team, which oversees regional freight planning activities, to explore ways to align the Air Cargo Study and the Regional Freight Plan Update as much as possible in order to have each inform and complement the other.

Mr. Ames suggested that, since the details of this project's scope are not yet finalized, it would be worthwhile to include an analysis of air cargo companies' networks beyond the region and how they connect and relate to the air cargo facilities within the region. He also suggested that this study involve external stakeholders on this matter to better understand and account for these important regional air cargo considerations. Mr. Canan confirmed that these suggestions can be incorporated in the detailed scope.

6. AIR PASSENGER SURVEY RESPONSE RATE & QUALITY STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Canan reported the project is on time and on budget in accordance with the scope of work. He mentioned the Technical Advisory Committee convened for this effort has met several times and provided important input and insight to guide the work of the project consultant. He noted that Ms. Koudounas had been leading the day-to-day management of this project, but since she will no longer be supporting the CASP Program, Mr. Canan will be managing the project. He will

be supported by Dr. Kenneth Joh, who has been engaged in the project providing important guidance and input as COG's senior statistical survey analyst.

Ms. Koudounas reviewed recent activities of the project, including finalization of a longitudinal analysis of past surveys and delivery of Technical Memorandum #2. She mentioned airport site visits were under way during March and early April and the findings from that activity will be documented in the forthcoming Technical Memorandum 3. The project is heading into its final stretch of activities and all previous analyses and all findings and recommendations will be compiled into comprehensive final report to be delivered later this spring. Mr. Hewitt indicated that he will help identify an MWAA POC to accompany the consultant on its DCA site visit.

Ms. Koudounas, as part of this item, also mentioned that the geographic findings report from the 2019 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey was being finalized. She mentioned that Mr. Canan will present the geographic findings to the TPB Technical Committee at its April meeting and he will make a presentation to the TPB on the combined general and geographic findings later this spring.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

There were no roundtable discussion items, but members expressed their gratitude and well wishes to Arianna Koudounas as she prepares for her new position within COG.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2021 from 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. via Microsoft Teams.