

MEETING NOTES

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
POLICY TASK FORCE**

DATE: Wednesday, May 31, 2000
TIME: 12:30 P.M.
PLACE: COG, 777 North Capitol Street, NE
CHAIR: Mayor David Snyder
City of Falls Church

ATTENDANCE:

Brien Benson, George Mason, bbenson@gmu.edu
James Chang, Virginia Tech, jachang@vt.edu
John Collura, Virginia Tech, collura@vt.edu
Kathleen Donodeo, WMATA, kdonodeo@wmata.com
Jonathan Gifford, GMU, jgifford@gmu.edu
Doug Ham, Parsons Brinckerhoff/DBH Consulting, dham@dbhcon.com
Kamal Hamud, DCDPW, khamud@wam.umd.edu
Frank Mirack, FHWA
Danilo Pelletiere, George Mason University, dpelleti@gmu.edu
George Phillips, Loudoun County Transportation, gphillip@co.loudoun.va.us
Honorable David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Kenneth Todd, Member of the Public
Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax, DPW, averzosa@ci.fairfax.va.us
Edward Willhaus, Virginia Tech, ewillhaus@aol.com

COG Staff:

Malaika Abernathy, mabernathy@mwcog.org
Andrew Meese, ameese@mwcog.org
Gerald Miller, gkmiller@mwcog.org

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ACTIONS:

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mayor David Snyder called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. The following changes were made to the February 16, 2000 meeting notes:

- Kathleen Donodeo stated that on page 5 of the notes the correct amount of State and WMATA contributions under 'Funding Sources' should be \$310,000. The total amount of the project funding was \$1.56 million, however only \$310,000 has been identified as available matching funds. *** *The TPB subsequently approved (February 16, 2000 meeting) the previous project funding needs and funding sources.*

2. Update on Virginia Tech/George Mason University Traffic Signal Preemption/Prioritization Study

John Collura presented the group with an update on the Traffic Signal Preemption/Prioritization Study. This project was a comprehensive review of a series of traffic signal preemption and priority issues, which have a history within the metropolitan Washington region. The project would help policy and technical level officials understand the associated merits and limitations of vehicle priority technologies and strategies. The study was to include an assessment of in-vehicle and traffic system technologies, and evaluation costs, benefits and other impacts associated with varying levels of priority. The following identifies the progress of the study:

- Task 1- Interviews with the stakeholders were still underway; literature review would be synthesized further.

Ms. Donodeo suggested that local transit authorities need to be included in the interviews. This would provide a balanced group of transportation authorities from both state and local jurisdictions. She suggested specific names for contact.

- Task 2- A comprehensive effort to gather information on various technologies would be continued.
- Task 3- Simulation models would be used to evaluate alternative priority strategies on selected arterials.
- Task 4- Operational field tests would be conducted to evaluate alternative priority strategies and levels.
- Task 5- Guidelines to assist the Washington metropolitan region in planning of vehicle priority strategies would be developed.

The study completion was scheduled over an eighteen-month period. The first draft of the report was scheduled for completion in June, with the final draft expected during the latter part of July.

3. Update on the Regional ITS Strategic Plan Development

Mr. Meese discussed the nature and progress of the ITS Strategic Plan. Presently, COG staff was coordinating with the ITS Technical Task Force in developing the Plan. Efforts with the

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Regional ITS Architecture development would be concurrent and coordinated with the ITS Strategic Plan development. The Strategic Plan would be in accordance with the new federal guidance rules which were released in May. The work schedule of the ITS Strategic plan would be as follows:

- TPB Staff works with the technical staffs and drafts plan: July-September;
- Draft reviewed by both Task Forces; September-November;
- Finalize and published: November-December.

Mr. Meese discussed the plan format and resources. Resource and precursor documents from the Washington metropolitan region's transportation agencies would be utilized, ensuring consistency and avoiding "reinventing the wheel". The primary outline of the plan would be as follows:

- Executive summary;
- Overall context of ITS;
- Areas for collaboration identified by ITS components;
- Overarching findings and recommendations.

The end result of the ITS Strategic Plan should be a comprehensive report identifying recommendations associated with each ITS Component findings section, and additional recommendations include highlighting integration issues in the "overarching" section. The ITS Strategic Plan would potentially foster the development of sustainable ITS activities within the region, reflect future technological advances, and would be updated periodically.

Mayor Snyder suggested that the ITS Strategic Plan should further emphasize how ITS projects/activities contribute to improving air quality conformity issues. He asked that the ITS Strategic Plan be taken to the TPB as an information item on June 21.

4. Briefing on ITS Technical Activities and Focus Areas

Mr. Meese presented an update on the ITS Technical Task Force activities. He discussed the status and progress in a number of identified focus areas:

- Regional ITS architecture
- Regional telecommunications study
- ITS as a data resource for transportation planning
- Professional capacity building/training
- Computer model to assess potential air quality and other benefits of ITS
- Electronic payment systems
- N-1-1 abbreviated digit dialing number for traveler information
- Traveler information systems
- Traffic signals and operations.

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Mr. Meese discussed the relation of each focus area to the ITS Strategic Plan development. Additional future areas of interest for the ITS Technical Task Force include commercial vehicles, bicycle and pedestrians, and ADA compliance.

5. Proceedings of the January 19 ITS Conference

Mr. Meese introduced the draft proceedings of the January 19, 2000 ITS conference. The conference, "*Understanding and Communicating Policy and Technical Perspectives on ITS*", provided a forum for technical and policy level officials to identify successful communication measures to introduce technical issues to elected officials. An HTML version of the conference proceedings was available at <http://www.mwcog.org/trans.html> on COG's Web Site. These proceedings contained an extensive report of the panelists and elected officials comments and discussions, available at the click of a button. Mr. Meese encouraged the group to visit the site and tell others about it. Mayor Snyder and the group made the following comments:

- The site should be introduced at the next TPB meeting;
- COG staff should do extensive publicizing of the site; this would increase visibility;
- The Congressional delegation should be aware of the site; efforts to market the site to them should be considered;
- COG staff should work with ITS Maryland and ITS Virginia to encourage publicizing the site;
- This effort can serve as model to other MPOs around the nation; ITS America should be used to encourage this effort;
- Use of more pictures and graphics would foster more interest and to make the proceedings more attractive.

Staff agreed to have the draft electronic version available for viewing and comments at the ITS Virginia Conference, which would be held on June 7-8, 2000, at George Mason University in Fairfax.

6. Announcement of Upcoming ITS Simulation Game Exercise

The ITS Technical Task Force had arranged to host the ITS Deployment Game, a learning opportunity about ITS for public or private sector officials who may be decision makers or managers facing ITS deployment. The game would involve sixteen participants from the ITS Technical and Policy Task Forces, and give the opportunity to interact with one another. The Federal Highway Administration and the University of Michigan developed the game, and would conduct the four-hour game at only the cost of providing the COG meeting room and lunch. The game was scheduled to take place Thursday, July 6, 2000, 12:30 p.m., in COG Meeting Rooms 4/5. Interested parties were asked to RSVP to Mr. Meese at (202) 962-3789.

7. Other Business

There was no other business. Mayor Snyder adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.