

MEMORANDUM**To: MOITS Subcommittee****From: Erin Morrow, COG/DTP****Date: May 14, 2013****Subject: Update on MOITS-Related Climate Change Adaptation Activities**

As part of the MOITS work task in the FY 2013 UPWP, DTP Staff are monitoring local and national practices regarding transportation operational procedures to adapt to climate change effects. This memorandum provides a summary of MOITS-related items in the District Department of Transportation's recently released Climate Change Adaptation Plan. In addition, there is a summary of two current MWCOG climate change adaptation activities that are being led by MWCOG's Department of Environmental Programs.

District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Climate Change Adaptation Plan

DDOT has recently completed a climate change adaptation plan for transportation based on research and guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). The purpose of the plan is to "develop and identify strategies to ensure that DDOT's transportation infrastructure can withstand changes in climate and extreme weather conditions." DDOT conducted a "high level, qualitative vulnerability assessment of its infrastructure" based on potential future impacts of four climate indicators: temperature, sea level rise, precipitation, and storms.

The plan listed potential adaptation strategies for each of the climate indicators. Most of the strategies focused on DDOT's capital investments rather than transportation operations. Related to MOITS activities, for storms, potential strategies include evaluation of sign conditions, and evaluation of wind design issues in street lights and other structures.

There are thirteen action items listed in the plan, two of which relate to MOITS activities:

- Incorporate climate adaptation needs as a criterion for project selection and investment decisions during system planning and capital program development
- Coordinate with other local and regional agencies to ensure that wide reaching impacts from extreme weather events are minimized and share best practices

Also on DDOT's list of action items are to seek funding for climate change adaptation and to develop a detailed climate change adaptation plan.

http://dc.gov/DC/DDOT/Publication%20Files/Projects%20and%20Planning/Environment/Climate%20Change/DDOT_Climate-Adaptation-Plan.pdf

MWCOG Climate Change Adaptation Activities (provided by Amanda Campbell, Department of Environmental Programs)

1. National Capital Planning Commission's National Capital Climate Adaptation Working Group and Task Force

This is a two-year project with 21 agencies, mostly federal agencies that have facilities located in the 'Monumental Core' downtown DC/Pentagon district, plus the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), DC Water, WMATA, and MWCOG. The outcomes include an issues paper, action plan, cost benefit analysis, and brochure. Many of the federal agencies are completing their own adaptation plans, including GSA, to meet Executive Order 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance), and in response to the GAO's report that highlighted fiscal risk from climate change.

2. DDOE Adaptation Project

DDOE was awarded funds through the Sustainable DC internal grant program to work on adaptation. They have held two informative symposiums this year, the most recent on sea level rise and extreme events. They also held some planning meetings.

DTP Staff are interested in learning about climate change related work in the transportation sector that is being undertaken by local jurisdictions. Please contact me via e-mail (emorrow@mwco.org) if you have information to share. Additionally, if there is interest from the MOITS Subcommittee in pursuing climate change adaptation related work at the regional level, please contact me via e-mail for discussion.