

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## **MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (MOITS) TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014

**TIME:** 12:30 PM – Lunch will be provided at 12:15 PM

**PLACE:** COG, First Floor, Meeting Room 1

**CHAIR:** Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, Maryland State Highway Administration

### **Attendance:**

Melissa Chow – WMATA  
Denise Harris – NVTA (on the phone)  
Warren Henry – Jacobs Engineering/SHA (on the phone)  
Keith Jasper – NVTA (on the phone)  
Peter Meenehan – WMATA (on the phone)  
Amy Tang McElwain – VDOT (on the phone)  
Jean Yves Point-du-Jour – SHA  
Tom Scherer – Arlington County  
John Thomas – Montgomery County DOT (on the phone)  
Will Truong – MATOC (on the phone)

### **COG/TPB Staff:**

Elliot Harkavy  
Andrew Meese  
Erin Morrow  
Wenjing Pu  
Jon Schermann  
Daivamani Sivasailam  
Marco Trigueros  
Patrick Zilliacus

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Notes**

Participants introduced themselves. Meeting notes from March 11 and April 8 were reviewed. Any comments or corrections can be directed to Mr. Meese.

### **2. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft 2014 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Technical Report**

Wenjing Pu and Erin Morrow, COG/TPB Staff

Mr. Pu and Ms. Morrow presented the highlights of the draft CMP technical report. The report is released every two years. This version follows the same outline as the previous one, released in 2012. The I-95 Corridor Coalition Vehicle Probe Project (VPP)/INRIX data and the web-based

## **MOITS Technical Subcommittee**

Notes from the May 13, 2014 Meeting – **DRAFT**

Page 2 of 5

analytical tools developed by the CATT Lab of the University of Maryland, the VPP Suite, were used for the state of congestion analysis in this report.

From 2010 to 2012, VMT in the region slightly decreased despite growth in employment and population. The region has seen a decrease in congestion and improvement in travel time reliability compared to previous years. However, it is unclear whether this is a short-term blip or a long-term change. The report contains maps and illustrations that describe the congestion patterns in the region.

Ms. Morrow presented on new strategies that are comprised in the 2014 CMP Report. These include:

- New transit investments – Silver Line, DC Streetcar, Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway, weekend MARC service
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Programs – Transportation Alternatives Program
- Land use – new regional activity centers
- Operational strategies – I-495 express lanes, DDOT traffic signal timing, MATOC enhancements, I-66 active traffic management
- Integrated/multimodal strategies – ICM project in I-95 and US-1 corridor, advanced traveler information systems, mobile devices and social media

The CMP makes a number of recommendations to improve the Congestion Management Process and additional strategies to manage congestion going forward.

It is requested that subcommittee members submit comments by May 28<sup>th</sup> to be included in the document that will be presented to the TPB Technical Committee on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Meese noted that comments can still be submitted after May 28<sup>th</sup> as there will be a comment period after the June 6<sup>th</sup> TPB Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Meese added that the presentation focused on new strategies included in the 2014 report, a lot of the transit analysis was not discussed but has not been neglected.

Mr. Sivasailam brought up the issue of capacity constraints for transit and how this is discussed in the CMP Report. The modeling does make some assumptions about this, and it could be included in the report.

To a question regarding the status of a WMATA station parking information study, Mr. Meenehan replied that Patrick Schmidt would know more but there may have been some pilot projects underway. Ms. Chow will check and get back to the group to make sure that we include new information.

To a question regarding potential impacts of climate change on congestion, Ms. Morrow noted that this has been discussed by the group but is not included in the CMP Report. There are some resources available for the region which will be presented separately, but it may be appropriate to include in the CMP Report.

## **MOITS Technical Subcommittee**

Notes from the May 13, 2014 Meeting – **DRAFT**

Page 3 of 5

Any member that notices a strategy that has been left out of the report is asked to contact Ms. Morrow to ensure their strategies are being accounted for.

### **3. Update on the National Capital Region Congestion Report for Traffic Conditions in the 4th Quarter, 2013**

Wenjing Pu, COG/TPB Staff

The draft Congestion Report has been enhanced in response to comments received in presentations to MOITS and the TPB Technical Committee in March, April and May.

Mr. Pu is awaiting final comments following the presentation to the TPB Technical Committee meeting before making it final and posting it on the TPB website [www.mwcog.org/congestion](http://www.mwcog.org/congestion). Once the format is finalized, the next quarterly report will be developed and posted. Comments from the subcommittee are always welcome – even after the document is posted.

The Congestion Report is only one of the activities undertaken to monitor congestion in the region and is intended to be a timely report that deals only with the most recent quarter. The report will show the top bottlenecks and congestion maps as well as a “spotlight” feature that will highlight different topics of interest.

### **4. Regional Emergency Support Function #1 (RESF-1) Emergency Transportation Committee Update**

Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/TPB Staff

Mr. Sivasailam briefed the subcommittee on the status of RESF-1 activities. The projects submitted for 2014 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants include: regional traffic signal power back-ups, evacuation trailers, RITIS maintenance, enhancements, and simulation capabilities, DC evacuation plan annex, and inter-DOT radio communications. The power back-up and evacuation annex projects were placed in Category A, meaning they are expected to receive funding in September. The evacuation trailers were placed in Category B, meaning that there is less certainty in when funding will become available. The RITIS simulation project is not clear whether it will be placed in Category A or B. The radio communications project is no longer being pursued. The next step for the power back-up project is to complete the environmental/historic preservation paperwork for each for the proposed locations.

Mr. Harkavy discussed the evacuation exercise scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>. The first half of the day will be a seminar reviewing the 3 state evacuation plans. The second half would be a tabletop exercise involving transportation, emergency management, EMS, police, and possibly others. Invitations will be discussed at the upcoming RESF-1 meeting. Anyone interested in participating is requested to contact Mr. Sivasailam or Mr. Harkavy.

## **MOITS Technical Subcommittee**

Notes from the May 13, 2014 Meeting – **DRAFT**

Page 4 of 5

### **5. Update on the Regional ITS Architecture and Strategic Planning**

Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/TPB Staff

Mr. Sivasailam briefed the group on the status of updating the Regional ITS Architecture, as well as a review of aspects of the 2010 MOITS Strategic Plan. The plan was guided by two TPB Vision Goals regarding the importance of management, performance, maintenance, and safety of all modes and facilities and employing the best technologies to maximize the system effectiveness. There are nine emphasis areas and ten regional projects listed to achieve the regional objectives and goals. The memorandum discussed at the meeting provides updates as to the status of each of the projects.

Regarding the status of project #1, Mr. Meese noted that although RITIS stores data in its own archives, it does not act as a data warehouse for outside agencies, something that is specifically addressed in the strategic plan. The memo will be reworded to reflect this. Additionally, the strategic plan may be modified to change this expectation (detailed in project #2) if members feel that it should.

Regarding the trip planning tool being developed in RITIS, Mr. Scherer noted there is a multimodal tool being developed in Arlington, as well. It was planned as a mobile app but turned into TDM tool where they work with employers to send customized emails with transportation options to employees. It is currently in beta testing now. This information will be relayed to the MATOC and CATT Lab staff working on the tool.

Regarding project #2, Mr. Thomas suggested expanded outreach so that VPP Suite tools would be available to more users across the region. Mr. Meese mentioned the idea of creating a work group that would provide training and document/standardize input assumptions so that regional analyses are comparable.

Regarding project #5, Ms. McElwain gave a VDOT ICM update. Comparative travel signs have been installed to show the difference between general purpose and HOV lanes – eventually to be expanded to express lanes. They have added a new page under the 511 website for I-95/395 to compare travel times, bus schedule, VRE schedule, and park and ride lot location and typical percentage utilization – working to provide real-time parking space availability. They are currently working on a parking management system.

Regarding project #9, Mr. Meese described the scope of the construction coordination study. It has recently kicked off, and includes representatives of VDOT, DDOT, SHA, and WMATA. The group will coordinate to minimize the impact of work zones across the region.

### **6. Update/Briefing on Proposed MAP-21 Regulations**

Marco Trigueros, COG/TPB Staff

Mr. Trigueros briefed the group on the status of proposed new federal regulations following from the MAP-21 legislation, including on the topic of transportation safety performance measures. The safety rule is the first of the MAP-21 releases that will describe the process by which states and

## **MOITS Technical Subcommittee**

Notes from the May 13, 2014 Meeting – **DRAFT**

Page 5 of 5

MPOs track and are assessed on the 12 performance measures listed in the law. As it is the first of this set of rules set to come out this year, it gives us an idea of what to expect for the other 8 performance measures. We are still waiting on the state and metropolitan planning rule to clarify some aspects of the reporting process that were not detailed in the safety rule.

### **7. Brief Updates**

Andrew Meese and Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/TPB Staff

#### **a. Freeway Congestion Monitoring Program**

Mr. Sivasailam gave an update on the status of the monitoring being performed by Skycomp. It is currently underway and should be completed by the end of May/early June. Data analysis and report preparation will be completed in the early fall. Additionally, one-second time-lapse photography will be tested in a pilot program.

#### **b. Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Activities**

Mr. Sivasailam noted that DDOT recently held a workshop geared towards first responders and TOC managers.

#### **c. Federal Section 1201/Real-Time System Management Information**

No Updates.

### **8. Other Business**

### **9. Adjourn**

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, COG Meeting Room 1