



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TPB FREIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – FREIGHT TECHNOLOGY

The TPB Freight Subcommittee met on October 2, 2014 at COG. Highlights of the meeting are described below.

Clean Diesel Moves the National Capital Region

Mr. Ezra Finkin, Diesel Technology Forum, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on recent research sponsored by the Diesel Technology Forum. Diesel technology is a significant contributor to the economy of the United States generating \$275 billion in economic activity per year. Diesel fuel is more energy dense than gasoline, propane, liquefied natural gas, ethanol, methanol, liquid hydrogen, compressed natural gas, compressed hydrogen, or nickel-metal-hydride batteries. New clean diesel truck engines have NOx and PM emissions that are more than 95 percent lower than engines manufactured 25 years ago. The share of the heavy-duty truck fleet deployed with model year 2007+ engines is rising steadily and reached a national average of about 33 percent in 2013. Fleet deployment in Maryland is above the national average (about 38% in 2013), while that of Virginia and the District of Columbia lags the national average (about 28 percent and 22 percent respectively).

Maryland Virtual Weigh Station Program Update

Mr. Pansare and Mr. Pearce spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on Maryland's Virtual Weigh Station (VWS) Program. The program has been active since 2009 when the first location was deployed. Today there are seven VWS's deployed in Maryland. The deployment is straightforward. There is a loop detector, two sensor pairs in a staggered configuration to measure the speed and weight of vehicles, a camera with infrared illumination to light up the trucks at night, an over height detector, a processing unit to perform the necessary calculations, and a cabinet to protect the electronic components. VWS's are screening tools that identify vehicles for law enforcement to inspect. Enforcement officers receive information about violations from the VWS via phone or laptop and can then pull over the vehicle. Data streams from each VWS are processed through the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) which integrates them into a central repository that allows for multiple concurrent logins and a broad range of analytics including vehicle counts by date, hour of day, speed, class, etc. Enforcement personnel analyze these data to determine when and where to employ their limited resources for the most impact.

VA-DMV Motor Carrier Operations

Mr. Davis spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on Virginia's Motor Carrier Operations. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles operates 13 permanent motor carrier service centers (weigh stations), has 12 full-time mobile crews, and three permanent turn-outs. In FY 2013 over 17.9 million trucks were weighed resulting in 37,851 weight violations and 66,999 loads that were allowed to shift. 88,713 oversize/overweight permits were also issued. The technology used within the service centers includes Prepass, Drivewyze, license plate readers, and infrared inspection stations. The mobile units feature internet access for electronic submittal of citations, printers for driver citations and weight reports, and scanners. The DMV is currently testing bar code readers that increase accuracy and eliminate the time previously needed to key in relevant information. Virginia also has one Nomad Unit that travels to different sites around the Commonwealth. This unit and its crew install portable piezo strips (8 portable weigh-in-motion stations) at key locations for two week periods. Reports that quantify the number and type of trucks, their weights, time of day and speed are generated from these portable weigh-in-motion stations. These reports highlight areas where mobile units can be deployed for special checks.

Freight Subcommittee Working Session

The Subcommittee was provided an updated list of regional freight issues and detailed maps and descriptions of the draft regional freight network. Subcommittee participants were requested to review these materials and provide feedback to Mr. Schermann within the next two weeks.

ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Bowden, Maryland Department of Transportation
Eulois Cleckley, District Department of Transportation
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern
Wayne Davis, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
Richard Easley, E-Squared Engineering
Sharon Easley, E-Squared Engineering
Ezra Finkin, Diesel Technology Forum
Diana Herriman, URS Corp
Sandra Jackson, Federal Highway Administration
Dominic Jordon, UPS
Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics
Chip Millard, Federal Highway Administration
Michael Onder, CDM Smith
Manoj Pansare, Maryland State Highway Administration
Duane Pearce, Maryland State Highway Administration
Laura Richards, District Department of Transportation
John Thomas, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Jacqueline Thorne, Maryland Department of Transportation
Coral Torres, Federal Highway Administration
Rahul Trivedi, Virginia Department of Transportation

MWCOG STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Andrew Meese, MWCOG-DTP
Erin Morrow, MWCOG-DTP
Wenjing Pu, MWCOG-DTP
Richard Roisman, MWCOG-DTP
Jon Schermann, MWCOG-DTP
Patrick Zilliacus, MWCOG-DTP

Next TPB Freight Subcommittee Meeting: December 4, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Air Freight