

ITEM 14 - Information
February 20, 2008

Update on the Washington Metropolitan Area
Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program

Staff

Recommendation: The Board will be briefed on recent actions taken to implement the program.

Issues: None

Background: At the June 20, 2007 meeting, the Board was briefed on the status of the MATOC program, which is overseen and supported by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Andrew J. Meese, AICP
Systems Management Planning Director

DATE: February 14, 2008

SUBJECT: Update on the Washington Region Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program

Background: This memorandum provides an update on the status of the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program. As previously discussed, MATOC is a regional program to enhance the availability of real-time transportation information and strengthening coordination among transportation agencies, including:

- Improving technological systems for sharing transportation information among agencies involved in managing regional incidents
- Enhancing the transportation sector's standard operating procedures and notification practices for incidents
- Providing more timely and accurate transportation information to the public during incidents.

MATOC participants are DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA, and TPB. Initial funding for the program has been designated from a SAFETEA-LU grant supported by Congressman James Moran.

The TPB last received a briefing on the MATOC Program at the June 20, 2007 TPB meeting, and at an in-depth work session immediately prior to that meeting. As noted on June 20, all parties (DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, WMATA, and COG/TPB) have signed the package of agreement documents to fund and guide the program. The agreement enabled creation of the official MATOC Executive and Steering Committees, and enabled COG/TPB to engage a MATOC support contractor.

What's New:

- **Selection of a Consultant Team:** In May and June of 2007, in anticipation of funding authorizations from the supporting state agencies, COG/TPB released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and selected a consultant team, led by Telvent Farradyne, Inc., to support the MATOC Program. The designated Program Implementation Manager from the consultant team is Gary Euler. (Mr. Euler replaces the originally designated manager, Douglas Ham, who has moved to a position with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.) Mr. Euler has over 30 years of experience in transportation management, including as the Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office.
- **Receipt of Annual Funding Authorizations:** Funding authorizations had to be received by COG/TPB before a consultant contract could be signed and work funded under the grant begun. The last of the state funding authorizations was received by COG/TPB on January 28,

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2008. Now that all necessary funding authorizations have been received, it is anticipated that the consultant contract will be signed and consultant work begun in mid-February.

- **Official Establishment of the MATOC Steering Committee:** The MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee has continued to meet and coordinate on a frequent basis. Steering Committee participants have continued to express full support and interest in implementing the MATOC Program, and have devoted continuing attention to resolving the administrative issues which have delayed implementation. The Committee has scheduled March 11, 2008 as the date of its first official meeting. At the March 11 meeting, they are to adopt bylaws, elect a chair and vice chairs, and continue to address the many goals of the program, now as an official entity with the active support of the expert consultant team.
- **Coordination with the Regional Emergency Support Function 1 – Transportation Committee (RESF-1):** The MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee has continued to work in close coordination with the RESF-1 Committee. MATOC is positioned to provide the regional coordination bridge between day-to-day incident management activities that transportation agencies undertake in their routine operations and the RESF structure's emergency preparedness activities for catastrophic events.
- **Enhancements of the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS):** RITIS is an automated system designed to support MATOC activities by compiling real-time traffic and transit data from agencies around the region, putting it together in a common format, and enabling it to be shared with agencies, the media, and the public. RITIS is being developed by the University of Maryland on behalf of the region. A prototype is now in operation sharing information with several agencies. Since the June 20 report to the TPB, many technical and data enhancements have been made to RITIS. Data provided through RITIS is now in daily use by the region's major transportation operations centers.

Outlook: With the completion of the administrative processes needed to set up the MATOC Program, it is anticipated that work will proceed at an accelerated pace over the coming months. A more extensive briefing on the ongoing and planned activities for MATOC could be provided to the TPB in late spring of this year.