

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director
Department of Transportation Planning

DATE: June 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Update on Implementation of the Regional Transportation Coordination Program

Introduction: On October 19, 2005, the TPB amended the FY2006 TIP to include \$2 million over five years to initiate the Regional Transportation Coordination Program (RTCP, previously referred to as “CapCom”). The RTCP is guided by a Steering Committee composed of DDOT, MDOT, VDOT, and WMATA. The intent of the RTCP is to facilitate coordination and information sharing among the region’s transportation agencies, as well as public information dissemination, during both everyday transportation incidents and regional emergencies.

Volpe Report: The Steering Committee has been meeting regularly throughout 2005 and 2006. Through support from the District Department of Transportation, the Steering Committee worked with experts from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s research arm, the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, on steps toward RTCP development. Volpe drafted a program management plan (with timelines and cost estimates), a mission needs statement, and a Steering Committee charter. Addressed were technological issues, operating procedures and information sharing issues for the regional program. A critical component of the Volpe effort was increased buy-in gained from the region’s key transportation operations management personnel on the RTCP concept. The TPB received a briefing from Volpe staff at its December 21, 2005 meeting. Volpe completed its work in March 2006, and this work continues to be the guide for RTCP development.

Request for Qualifications for Contractor Support: At its December 21, 2005 meeting, the TPB endorsed contracting for a program manager through COG/TPB, to work with Steering Committee member agencies on moving the regional coordination program forward. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking a “Program Implementation Manager and Technical Support Team” was issued by COG/TPB on March 10, 2006, and a number of proposals were received by an April 7 deadline. The Steering Committee and staff reviewed proposals received, conducted interviews with bidders on May 22, and selected a winning team.

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Team Selection: Today we report that we have selected a consultant team led by PB Farradyne, Inc., one of the leading firms in the transportation operations and technology field, with additional technical support from Sabra, Wang, and Associates, and Street Smarts, Inc. The members of this team have a wealth of experience both with all major transportation agencies of the Washington region, as well as in technology, operations, and management efforts around the country. This experience includes support for the TRANSCOM organization of metropolitan New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, for the TravInfo public information system in the San Francisco Bay area, and in the traffic management centers of a number of states and major metropolitan areas.

Notes on Contracting: This contract is being accomplished through SAFETEA-LU transportation-source funding. It does not use Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funds, and is not affected by recently announced cuts in the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative program. However, contracting and funding agreement paperwork for the states to provide funding are still in process.

Introduction of the Program Manager: The designated new Program Implementation Manager for the RTCP will be Mr. Douglas B. Ham of PB Farradyne, Inc. Mr. Ham is well-known among transportation practitioners in the region from extensive previous work for our member agencies. Mr. Ham has over 28 years of professional experience, addressing transportation technology, operations, transit, emergency preparedness, and a range of other issues. Once under contract, Mr. Ham will be the regional point person for RTCP implementation.