ITEM 10 - Information
March 19, 2008

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

Staff
Recommendation: Receive briefing on recent actions taken to implement the MATOC Program.

Issues: None

Background: The Board received a short summary of MATOC Program activities at the February 20 meeting, and requested that this item be included on the March 19 agenda for continued discussion.

The MATOC Program 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), with a primary goal of strengthening incident-related communications and operations coordination among transportation agencies.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Item 10

MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board

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

DATE: March 13, 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 received a briefing on MATOC at the February 20 meeting, and requested a follow-up briefing for the March 19 meeting.

As Reported at the February Meeting

- All agreements and annual funding authorizations have been received by COG/TPB, enabling funded program work to begin.

- COG finalized and signed a contract with Telvent Farradyne, Inc. as of February 19, 2008. The contractor and its team of subcontractors will support the MATOC member agencies in implementing the program.

- Gary Euler, a Telvent Farradyne Vice President with extensive experience in transportation operations and technology, has been designated as the Program Implementation Manager for the effort.

- The Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) is the core automated system designed to support MATOC activities. It supports MATOC efforts 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. Technical and data

enhancements continue to be made to RITIS. Data provided through RITIS is now in daily use by the region's major transportation operations centers.

- The MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee has continued to work in close coordination with the Regional Emergency Support Function 1 – Transportation Committee (RESF-1). 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.

New Since the February Meeting

- COG/TPB issued a task order to the contractor on March 5, and their work has begun. At the direction of the MATOC Steering Committee, this first task is to develop and finalize a two-year work program for development and implementation of MATOC activities. The task is to be completed in April.

- The contractor has held a series of one-on-one interviews with MATOC Ad Hoc Steering Committee participants. Results of these interviews will help advise the structure and sequencing of program implementation steps.

- The first official meeting of the MATOC Steering Committee, at which bylaws are to be adopted and a Chair elected, was originally scheduled to take place on March 11. Unfortunately, schedule conflicts beyond the control of Steering Committee members necessitated rescheduling of that meeting. The new date has not yet been set, though members are working to set a new date and hold the meeting as soon as possible. An ad hoc committee meeting did take place on March 11, with participants providing valuable feedback to the Program Implementation Manager on his ongoing work.

Outlook: With the contractor on board and the first work task issued, their work has begun on MATOC Program implementation. 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 to the TPB on the ongoing and planned activities for MATOC is recommended once the program is fully underway.