



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

## **INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP (ICG)**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
8:30 A.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members**

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Charles Baber, BMC  
Robert Berger, BMC  
Jamie Bridges, BMC  
Emery Hines, Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Jody McCullough, BMC  
Theo Ngongang, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Tim Shepherd, MDE  
Howard Simons, MDOT  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Russ Ulrich, BMC  
Jim Wilkinson, MDE  
Stephanie Yanovitz, BMC

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M.

### **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> ICG MEETING MINUTES:**

Ms. Aris asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup> ICG meeting. Mr. Brian Hug (MDE) moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Howard Simons (MDOT) seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### **REPORT ON RECENT MEETINGS:**

#### **Technical Committee**

Ms. Aris reported on the March 3, 2009 meeting of the Technical Committee. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- Mr. Ron Spalding, MDOT, provided an overview of the purpose of the Maryland Transportation Plan that was recently approved.

- BMC staff provided presentations on:
  - Status of the FY 2010 UPWP.
  - Preview of congestion monitoring using GPS for BRAC-related routes.
  - Final network for Anne Arundel/Howard Counties, BRAC.
  - Final forecasting maps.
  - Highlights of 2005-2007 American Community Survey.

The CMAQ Resolution was not heard by the Technical Committee, due to timing of the CMAQ Subcommittee meeting.

### **Baltimore Regional Transportation Board**

Ms. Aris reported on the March 24, 2009 meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- The BRTB approved the following resolution:
  - Resolution #09-13 for approval of applications for funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.
- BMC staff provided presentations on:
  - Status of the development of the Round 7-B regional socio-economic forecast.
  - Status of the Climate Action Plan Transportation & Land Use working groups.
- Mr. Frank Johnson, Carroll County empowered representative for the BRTB, presented information on the development of the FY 2010 UPWP.

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING UPDATE:**

#### **a. Conformity Determination of FY 2010 -2013 TIP and *Transportation Outlook 2035***

Ms. Sara Tomlinson distributed copies of a table of FY 2010-2013 TIP projects and their draft conformity exemption status. This table had been e-mailed to voting members, prior to the meeting. Staff created this table based upon the submitted TIP projects and their interpretation of the conformity exemption status, based upon the EPA Conformity Rule. ICG members were asked to review the list and indicate any changes they felt should be made.

The first project discussed was the Edmondson Avenue Bridge. There was discussion regarding that whether the widening would add lane capacity greater than what is currently provided on the adjoining roadway, and whether or not this should be exempt from conformity or not. The general discussion was leaning toward it being nonexempt; however, Mr. Hug requested that a similar bridge project in Annapolis that went through this same issue be evaluated. The need for consistent treatment of similar projects was emphasized.

Ms. Aris mentioned that the closing date for submission of TIP projects was Tuesday, March 24. She also said that Baltimore City is reevaluating alternatives for the Boston Street project. On April 22, the City will be holding a public hearing for the Environmental Assessment. The TIP project will no longer be for a study, so staff will

make sure the project information is updated. BMC will announce a thirty-day review for an amendment of the 2008-2012 TIP, for this project.

The Transit Operation & Maintenance Facility (Howard County Maintenance Facility) was discussed. Ms. Aris mentioned a TIP amendment that is will be proposed regarding this project. It was decided that with the proposed changes, the project would remain exempt from conformity.

Members agreed to the proposed conformity status of the listed TIP projects, with the understanding that treatment of the Edmondson Avenue Bridge project would be consistent with similar projects in the past.

***[Handout – DRAFT Conformity Exemption Status for FY 2010-2013 TIP Projects]***

### **TRANSPORTATION MODELING UPDATE:**

#### **a. 2008 Household Travel Survey**

Mr. Robert Berger (BMC) provided the ICG with a background on the 2008 Household Travel Survey. He described what the household travel survey is and how it is relevant to air quality conformity. The survey consisted of collecting travel diaries from participants as well as demographic data and telephone interviews. Staff is currently “cleaning the data.”

This data could be evaluated for a variety of factors that may affect travel behavior such as income. It could also be evaluated in a way that could help to understand commuting patterns, when people leave for work, mode share, trip linking, trip tours, and ideas for VMT reduction.

Mr. Charles Baber (BMC) said that BMC is very data-rich right now. In the short term, we want to better understand travel in the Baltimore region. In the longer term, the travel model will be validated with this new data.

Mr. Berger stated that once data is cleaner, analysis will begin. Staff would like to produce briefings on certain issues as they relate to this region. Any briefings of interest could be brought back to ICG.

Ms. Aris offered a BMC staff presentation on the transit survey at a future ICG meeting. Mr. Simons thought that information on length of the trips would be useful for transportation planning purposes. Mr. Jim Wilkinson (MDE) asked whether commercial delivery trips from online purchases were accounted for. They were not because the survey addressed household travel, not commercial travel.

Mr. Emery Hines (BRTB) discussed a local trip generation prototype study in Baltimore County that will be expanded this year.

***[Handout – 2008 Household Travel Survey: Baltimore Region – An Introduction to the Survey, the Data, and Potential Uses of the Data (Presentation to the ICG)]***

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**A. CMAQ Update:**

Ms. Tomlinson briefly mentioned the four projects that the BRTB approved for CMAQ funding at their March 24 meeting. They include two Baltimore City projects: operational funding for a transportation management association and transit support funding, as well as two diesel hybrid electric buses in Howard County and signal timing software in Anne Arundel County. The total amount of FY 2009 CMAQ funding, through the BRTB competitive selection process, is \$1 million.

**B. Clean Diesel Funding:**

Mr. Tim Shepherd (MDE) briefed the ICG on clean diesel funding being made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. There is a total of \$300 million being made available for DERA, or clean diesel funding, around the country. Money that is being provided directly to the state has to be spent by June 2010. EPA Region 3, which includes Maryland, will have \$16 million towards a competitive grant process. Eligible applicants include regional, State, local or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and certain nonprofits. The minimum application request is \$1 million. Applications are due on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**C. Maryland Climate Action Plan TLU Groups:**

Mr. Simons mentioned that MDOT was given responsibility for 7 of the 8 Transportation and Land Use strategies in the Maryland Climate Action Plan. Working groups have been assigned for each of the strategies, to discuss implementation feasibility, barriers, costs, and benefits. Recommendations from the TLU groups will be made to the Coordinating Committee. Ultimately, MDOT will provide information to MDE on implementation of the strategies.

Mr. Hug said that the governor's office wants an implementation plan for each of the 42 measures in the Climate Action Plan by November 2009. If the General Assembly passes the Global Warming bill, MDE will have to put a plan together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The bill would codify reductions into the State law.

BMC staff discussed the meetings of the TLU working groups they have been attending. Working groups attended by staff include land use, transit, intercity travel, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, pricing and resource measures, and major project evaluation. Staff described the discussions occurring in each of their group meetings to date. Mr. Aris mentioned that staff will be presenting this type of information to the BRTB and the Technical Committee through their involvement with the working groups.

**D. Revised 8-hour Ozone Standard:**

Mr. Hug mentioned that the 2008 Federal ozone standard is being litigated. It may eventually be reduced from 75 parts per million (ppm) to 70 or 65 ppm. MDE sent a letter to EPA asking that either 1) EPA implement national rules to help get nonattainment regions to reach the new standard, or 2) create nonattainment areas that are drastically larger in scale.

Ms. Aris asked if any of the members had any other business to discuss; hearing none, she asked for the meeting to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 10:30 A.M. With input from ICG voting members, staff will determine a suitable date to have the next meeting in May, likely within the last two weeks of the month.