



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

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

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
8:30 A.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members**

Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Emery Hines, Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)  
Martin Kotsch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Jim Wilkinson, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

#### **Public**

Gregory Becoat, EPA Region 3  
Kevin Racine, Citizen  
Tim Shepherd, MDE  
Russ Ulrich, BMC

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Ms. Sara Tomlinson (BMC) called the meeting to order at 8:35 A.M.

### **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2009 ICG MEETING MINUTES:**

Ms. Tomlinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 ICG meeting. Mr. Howard Simons (MDOT) moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Tim Shepherd (MDE) seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

### **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> ICG MEETING MINUTES:**

Ms. Tomlinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup> ICG meeting. Mr. Simons moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

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

#### **Technical Committee**

Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) reported on the April 6, 2010 meeting of the Technical Committee. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- The TC reviewed and discussed the following resolutions: Resolution #10-19 to approve FTA Section 5310 Grant Applications (funding for private non-profit

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MEMBERS: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment (Non-Voting), Maryland Department of Planning (Non-Voting)

organizations for capital equipment that provide transportation services to the elderly and individuals with disabilities); and Resolution #10-20 to approve requests for federal grant assistance from the Human Services Transportation Coordination Program (Job Access & Reverse Commute as well as New Freedom programs).

- The TC recommended approval of Resolution #10-21 endorsing the FY 2011 UPWP and Budget and approving its submission to the FTA and FHWA.
- The TC recommended approval of Resolution #10-22 to adopt for the BMC and BRTB members, a policy for disadvantaged business enterprise activities.
- Mr. David LaBella of MdTA presented an update of the I-95 project to add two express toll lanes in each direction between I-895 and north of MD 43. The ETL access ramps at MD 43 and I-695 have been deferred indefinitely. The remaining ETLs are anticipated to open in 2014.
- BMC staff discussed the transportation topic paper for the vision plan and a consultant project that surveyed ETL modeling techniques.

### **Baltimore Regional Transportation Board**

Ms. Aris reported on the March 23, 2010 meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- Resolution #10-15 to amend Transportation Outlook 2035 and the 2010-2013 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program was approved.
- Resolution #10-18 to support the Preferred Alternative and Conceptual Mitigation for MD 175 from MD 295 to MD 170 was approved.
- Resolution #10-17 to amend the 2010-2013 Baltimore Region Transportation Improvement Program to include funding from the Jobs Bill of 2010 – Stimulus II was withdrawn since Congress has not passed the anticipated funding.
- The BRTB received presentations on the following informational items: urban heat island effects (University of Maryland); climate change mitigation efforts (Maryland State Highway Administration); update on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (BMC); and an update on *Imagine 2060*.

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING UPDATE:**

#### **a. Conformity Determination of FY 2011-2014 TIP and 2007 Plan**

Ms. Tomlinson distributed copies of a draft list of projects from the FY 2011-2014 TIP along with their proposed conformity exemption status. This list was previously sent to voting members, and they are now being asked to provide comments and finalize the list. She also distributed copies of a diagram showing an overview of the conformity process. After project submissions are received by the BMC, the ICG is tasked with determining whether the projects are “exempt” or “non-exempt” from the requirement to determine conformity. The Conformity Rule provides a list of project types that are “exempt.”

Ms. Tomlinson went through the list of projects with the group. Mr. Simons commented that the Chesnut Hill Bridge #40 project is likely a safety improvement and wondered why it is “non-exempt.” In response, Mr. Martin Kotsch (EPA) said that any time you add

a new lane(s) to a bridge it is “non-exempt.” There was then a discussion about the I-695: Bridge at MD 139 project. The group decided to keep the project “non-exempt”; however, in the future, a bridge lengthening (rather than widening) will not necessitate a “non-exempt” status, without any other factors causing this.

In response to a question, Mr. Kotsch said that a capacity project that is requesting project engineering funds for beyond the 30 percent design stage would be non-exempt. The ICG then determined that the US 29, Columbia Pike project is “non-exempt.”

Draft results from the conformity determination will be provided to the ICG voting members prior to the next meeting.

**[Handout: DRAFT Conformity Exemption Status for 2011-2014 TIP Projects; Overview of Conformity Process]**

b. Imagine 2060 Update

Ms. Aris provided an update on the BRTB vision planning process, named *Imagine 2060*. The BRTB held a kickoff on the process earlier this year with 75 key stakeholders attending. Consultant teams are on board to provide assistance with modeling scenarios and public outreach, and to develop an economic projection for 2060 for the region.

Ms. Tomlinson distributed a draft version of a postcard that will be mailed to 10,500 people by the BRTB, advertising six workshops throughout the region. Workshop participants will be asked to share their vision on the future of transportation in the region. At these workshops, the BRTB hopes to receive input from the public and other stakeholders on what they value for the transportation system in 2060. Additionally, there is an online survey. A second set of workshops will address different scenarios for transportation and land use in the region. There is an intention to link input gathered in the *Imagine 2060* effort to development of the 2011 long range transportation plan. The last year of the upcoming plan will be 2035.

Ms. Tomlinson distributed copies of a draft version of the “Environment” topic paper that will be used as part of the initial outreach in the *Imagine 2060* effort. Since this paper is being developed by the ICG and the Regional Sustainability Committee together, the ICG is being asked if they have any final input or comments on the paper. Referring to the section on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, Mr. Simons said that this technology is cutting edge and agrees with the topic being in the paper. Mr. Shepherd mentioned that the Maryland Energy Administration is starting roundtables on electric vehicles.

**[Handout: DRAFT Postcard for Imagine 2060 Workshops in April and early May 2010; DRAFT Environment Topic Paper for Imagine 2060 Outreach]**

**AIR QUALITY PLANNING UPDATE:**

a. BRTB CMAQ Process Update

Ms. Tomlinson provided the ICG with information on the updated BRTB process for selecting projects to receive CMAQ funding. She distributed copies of updated BRTB

CMAQ guidelines. At their February 23 meeting, the BRTB approved a resolution to make several changes to the competitive selection process. These changes are based upon comments from CMAQ review participants, award recipients and staff, as well as feedback from the BRTB members and the Technical Committee.

Updates to the process include clarification of eligibility requirements, streamlining of the application and review processes, and a recommendation that applications under \$50,000 explore combining applications with others. There was also a requirement added that projects not making reasonable progress within 6 months of federal approval have their funding be referred back to the BRTB to determine disposition.

Mr. Simons suggested the addition of the words “notification to the recipient of” before “federal approval” in the first sentence of page 6 of the guidelines.

***[Handout – Competitive Selection Process for the Use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funding in the Baltimore Region, Updated February 2010]***

#### b. Status of Idle Reduction Efforts in the Region

Mr. Shepherd discussed an idle reduction outreach effort being planned by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in partnership with the District of Columbia Department of Environment. This effort is being conducted by a consultant with funding from Stimulus legislation. The program is designed to increase awareness of truck and tour bus drivers of the benefits of not idling their vehicles. The focus of the effort in D.C. is on tour buses, while the focus in the State of Maryland will be on trucks. The marketing firm for this project conducted a stakeholder meeting in order to develop an outreach plan. The outreach plan will need to be completed by September 2010.

In response to a request from Mr. Emery Hines (BRTB), Mr. Shepherd will ask the review committee where tour buses typically park in Baltimore County.

Mr. Simons said that the Office of Construction and Maintenance at MDOT is exploring the addition of emission reduction and idle reduction requirements to contracts.

#### c. MOVES Update

Mr. Shepherd provided an update on the status of transitioning to the MOVES model at MDE. Mohamed Khan has been working with his staff on the MOVES model, and has been in discussions with EPA. He has been working on modeling certain emissions for 2007 to contribute to an effort of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association. Currently, the results show the following increases in emissions of VOC, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, and VMT respectively: 15 percent, 4 percent, 13 percent, and 6 percent. This modeling did not reflect changes in the state's inspection and maintenance program that occurred after 2007.

Mr. Khan is refining inputs to the MOVES model. Mr. Shepherd proposed reconvening the ICG work group. MDE is at a point where sensitivity testing can begin once they receive VMT-related input.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Highlights from the Baltimore Regional Sustainability Symposium:**

Mr. Mike Kelly (BMC) briefed the ICG on highlights of the Baltimore Regional Sustainability Symposium, held on March 29 at the Randallstown Community Center. The Regional Sustainability Committee is exploring ways to work together regionally on projects that support sustainability.

Mr. Simons mentioned that the guaranteed ride home program in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area will be expanded to cover the Baltimore region, St. Mary's County, and Cecil County. MTA and local rideshare coordinators will market the program. An estimated 2,400 trips will be reduced in the Baltimore region. The tentative launch date is July 1, 2010.

Mr. Hines said that Baltimore County is working with Rabbit Transit in Pennsylvania on conducting a survey regarding a shift in times to better accommodate riders.

There was a discussion about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and an interest in learning where the revenue is expected to be spent.

Ms. Tomlinson 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. The next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, may need to be pushed back in the month to accommodate the schedule of the conformity determination.