



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Baltimore Region

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

**Wednesday, May 19, 2010**  
**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**  
**8:30 A.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Members**

Kwame Arhin, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Maryland Division  
Regina Aris, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Martin Kotsch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3  
Theo Ngongang, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Sara Tomlinson, BMC  
Jim Wilkinson, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

#### **Public**

Gregory Becoat, EPA Region 3  
Birat Pandey, BMC  
Krista Sherwood, FHWA  
Russ Ulrich, BMC

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> ICG MEETING MINUTES:**

Ms. Tomlinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 ICG meeting. Mr. Brian Hug (MDE) moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Theo Ngongang (MDOT) seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

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

#### **Baltimore Regional Transportation Board**

Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) reported on the April 27, 2010 meeting of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- Six of the seven elected official members attended the meeting, along with the Maryland Secretaries of Transportation and Planning. Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Department of the Environment were represented by their respective empowered members. Approximately forty five people were at the meeting.
- The BRTB approved the following resolutions:

- Resolution #10-19 to approve applications for funding through the FTA Section 5310 grant program.
- Resolution #10-20 to approve grant applications for federal assistance from Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs.
- Resolution #10-21 to approve the FY 2011 UPWP.
- Resolution #10-22 to approve a policy establishing a process for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.
- Mr. Ralign Wells, MTA Administrator provided a report on the mission of the MTA, and opportunities where MTA and BRTB are working together.
- The Nominating Committee was appointed to select the upcoming officers of the BRTB.
- Mr. Frank Johnson of the BRTB presented an update on *Imagine 2060*.

### **Technical Committee**

Ms. Aris also reported on the May 4, 2010 meeting of the Technical Committee. Highlights of the meeting follow:

- The TC recommended approval of Resolution #10-23 for an amendment to the FY 2008 CMAQ award.
- A Nominating Committee was formed to selected TC officers for the next fiscal year.
- Ms. Nicole Katsikides, MDOT, provided an update on the Statewide Freight Plan which is currently in the implementation phase.
- Presentations were provided by BMC staff on the following topics: *Imagine 2060*, the 2007 Household Travel Survey Update, and the status of the 2010 Census.

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING UPDATE:**

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

Ms. Tomlinson distributed copies of two tables showing emissions results for the draft conformity determination of the FY 2011-2014 TIP and *Transportation Outlook 2035*. The horizon years tested for conformity include 2015, 2025, and 2035. The results show that the implementation of TIP and Plan projects meets the conformity requirements. Emissions are below daily budgets for NOx and VOC (ozone precursors), CO, and yearly budgets for direct PM2.5 and NOx (PM2.5 precursors). These two tables also show emission reductions from projects that have been implemented or are planned for the region; they include ridesharing, bus replacements and bicycle/pedestrian improvements, and the CHART program.

The budgets used to determine conformity were the 8-hour ozone RFP SIP budgets, the CO maintenance budget, the PM2.5 SIP budgets (awaiting EPA approval), and the PM2.5 interim emissions test. The interim emissions test was performed by comparing emissions of PM2.5 precursors with 2002 baseline levels.

Ms. Tomlinson said that Mr. Mohamed Khan of MDE indicated that MDE's modeling results are consistent with BMC's modeling results. She asked for concurrence from ICG on the conformity emissions results. Mr. Hug motioned to approve the conformity

document and modeling results. Mr. Ngongang seconded the motion. Ms. Tomlinson said that Mr. Emery Hines (BRTB Representative) had indicated his endorsement of the draft conformity results prior to the meeting, which he was not able to attend.

A 30-day public review closes on June 22, 2010. The BRTB will be asked to approve the TIP and conformity determination on July 27.

**[Handout – TABLE II-9 DRAFT Emissions Results – Ozone and CO Standard (tons/day); TABLE II-10 DRAFT Emissions Results – PM2.5 Standard (tons/year)]**

b. *Imagine 2060* Update

Ms. Aris provided an update on the BRTB vision planning process, named *Imagine 2060*. A series of meetings were held in May to determine what the public and other stakeholders value in a transportation system, out into the future in 2060. The results of this first set of meetings will feed into a second set of meetings. This second set will consist of nine open house-style events, throughout June. The intention is for indicators to be compared against what the public communicated are their values. Staff will discuss what the tradeoffs are between different transportation and landuse options. There are 5 indicators from 4 different topic areas. The BRTB is close to announcing the dates for the open house meetings.

Ms. Aris discussed the connection between *Imagine 2060* and the upcoming long range transportation planning process for the region. The plan horizon year will remain at 2035. Staff is beginning to look at developing a draft set of goals and objectives for the BRTB and its subcommittees to consider. Staff will send a set of these draft goals and objectives to the ICG members before the next meeting, for input. The call for projects for the upcoming plan is scheduled for fall 2010. There is a role for the ICG as this planning process moves forward.

**[Handout – *Imagine 2060* Learning Center Home Page, BMC web site]**

**AIR QUALITY PLANNING UPDATE:**

a. MOVES Update

Ms. Tomlinson mentioned that the ICG Technical Workgroup is planning a meeting on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the transition to the MOVES 2010 model. She then introduced Mr. Birat Pandey who is a new employee at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, and will be working with the MOVES model as well as travel demand modeling. He has a wide range of experience in transportation modeling.

Mr. Pandey said that staff has completed researching data needs and is in the process of data source identification. He is preparing to automate the process to move data from the travel demand model to the MOVES model. Staff will test run the MOVES model over the next couple of weeks.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Clean Commute Month:**

Mr. Russ Ulrich (BMC) briefed the ICG on activities occurring during Clean Commute Month. He talked about how money from MDE's Clean Cars for Clean Air program was being used for radio commercials on WPOC. The spots, which will run during traffic reports the week before Memorial Day, will remind drivers to keep their vehicles properly maintained. He also reminded members that Bike to Work Day 2010 is this Friday, with 900 riders already signed up to take part at six major rallies. He mentioned that the following night is the annual meeting of the Clean Air Partners at the Maryland Science Center. It marks the first time the partnership has held the event in Baltimore. A highlight of the annual meeting will be recognition of the winners of the organization's recent poster contest. The contest was open to middle school students from throughout the combined Baltimore/Washington region. Mr. Ulrich announced that the MDOT-funded TeleworkBaltimore.com program placed an add in Smart CEO to run for the month of May.

**b. AMPO Air Quality Workgroup Highlights:**

Ms. Tomlinson provided the ICG with highlights from a meeting she attended in April of the AMPO Air Quality Workgroup. Staff members from fifteen MPOs around the U.S. were in attendance. Meeting participants discussed a variety of current issues in air quality and transportation planning, such as: the proposed revision of the ozone NAAQS, conformity implementation practices, freight emissions, PM2.5 emissions, greenhouse gas and climate change planning, federal guidance, and MOVES implementation. EPA is proposing to set two separate standards for the primary and secondary ozone NAAQS. The secondary standard would be set based upon cumulative seasonal exposure which harms vegetation. She mentioned that a planner from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in California presented a model they developed, called BASSTEGG, to provide a GIS-based sketch planning approach for predicting household VMT and greenhouse gas emissions in their region, by sub-regions.

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 9:25 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7, 2010.