

# Improving Intersections for Trucks

While a large percentage of MPO work addresses long-range planning, there are opportunities to investigate various transportation issues and consider short-term responses. With just that in mind, a consultant was hired to evaluate four intersections to identify possible safety and operational improvements that would benefit truck activity in the Baltimore region:

- Clinton & Boston Streets (near the port terminals in Baltimore City);
- US 1 at Guilford Road & US 1 at Corridor Road (in Howard County); and
- MD 407 & Marston Road (in Carroll County).

The consultant considered traffic counts, turning movements, signal

timing, sight distances, accident history, and signs/markings. Their evaluations resulted in recommendations to improve the flow of trucks, and other vehicle traffic, at the locations. These reports were forwarded to the respective jurisdictions for their consideration.



*Truck encroachment into eastbound MD 407.*

## New Truck/Commercial Vehicle Model

Where do trucks travel in the Baltimore region? How do we project where they will be traveling throughout the region in the future? It is a question decision makers ponder in making future transportation plans. Truck travel has greatly increased in recent years, due in part to the growth of e-commerce and increased mobility. Truck traffic can account for over 15% of total traffic and consume over 25% of available roadway capacity on major freight routes, such as I-95, and near major intermodal terminals such as the Port

of Baltimore and BWI Airport.

To help project what routes trucks will use in the future, staff developed a new truck model, which captures three different types of vehicles (as pictured, right). Truck trips are generated based on type of employment – retail, industrial and office – as well as by the number of households. This new truck model will enable the regional travel demand model to better predict freight travel, traffic congestion, and air quality emissions in future planning studies and applications.

## Truck Class Definitions

**Heavy Truck:**  
3+ Axles, more than 6 tires



**Medium Truck:**  
2 Axles, "Box/Panel"



**Commercial Vehicle:**  
Cars & Light Trucks  
used for business



## Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event
Sept. 3	Tues.	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee
Sept. 10	Tues.	4:00 p.m.	Citizens Advisory Committee
Sept. 11	Wed.	8:30 a.m.	Interagency Consultation Group
Sept. 17	Tues.	9:30 a.m.	Transportation Analysis Advisory Group
Sept. 17	Tues.	5:30 p.m.	Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
Sept. 25	Wed.	9:30 a.m.	Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Group
Sept. 26	Thurs.	9:00 a.m.	Freight Movement Task Force
Oct. 1	Tues.	9:30 a.m.	Technical Committee
Oct. 3	Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	M&O Partnership at SOC
Oct. 9	Wed.	2:00 p.m.	Interagency Consultation Group
Oct. 16	Wed.	10:00 a.m.	Cooperative Forecasting Group
Oct. 16	Wed.	4:00 p.m.	Citizens Advisory Group
Oct. 22	Tues.	9:00 a.m.	Baltimore Regional Transportation Board

*This schedule is subject to change. Please call Joan Gorsuch at 410-732-0500 ext. 1043 to confirm.*