

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

February 1, 2018

9:34 to 10:05 A.M.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Ms. Sara Tomlinson (BMC).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Tomlinson welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2017 MINUTES

The minutes of the November 1st meeting were presented. Mr. Tyson Byrne (MDOT) made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Alex Brun (MDE) seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF THE FY 2019-2022 TIP AND AMENDED MAXIMIZE2040

Ms. Tomlinson described a draft letter covering the methodology and assumptions for conducting the upcoming conformity determination of the FY 2019-2022 TIP and Amended Plan.

The regional emissions analysis will determine emissions of the ozone precursors NO_x and VOC. Emissions of these pollutants will be calculated using the MOVES2014a model, and estimates will be developed for the following horizon years: 2020, 2030, and 2040.

In April, the submitted TIP projects will be reviewed by the ICG for exempt/non-exempt status and regional significance. In May, the ICG will review the results of the regional emissions analysis. The schedule is to have the TIP and conformity determination be approved by the BRTB at the July 28, 2018 meeting.

At the November 2017 meeting, a draft table was discussed as a way to document modeling assumptions and input files. Since that time the table has been filled out by MDE and BMC staff.

The ICG agreed the letter should be sent as written to FHWA, FTA, and EPA regional offices.

[Handouts: Draft Methodology and Assumptions Letter for the Conformity Determination of the FY 2019-2022 TIP and Amended Maximize 2040]

4. TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Todd Lang (BMC) presented information on two proposed amendments to the 2018-2021 TIP, for the US 40 Bridges over the Gunpowder, and the I-83 Bridge Over Padonia Rd. Both projects involve bridge replacements, and do not increase the number of lanes or capacity of the roadway. As a result, the ICG determined the two projects are exempt from the requirement to determine conformity. These amendments are expected to go before the BRTB at their March meeting.

[Handouts: Draft Air Quality Assessment for the US 40 Bridges and I-83 Over Padonia Road bridge.]

5. RECOMMEND BRTB APPROVAL OF THE CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2018-2021 TIP AND MAXIMIZE2040 (GOVERNOR'S BALTIMORE TRAFFIC RELIEF PLAN)

Staff introduced the proposed amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP and Plan. The proposed amendments include:

- MdTA: I-95 Express Toll Lane Northern Transition – Extension of a single express toll lane on northbound Section 200 of I-95; addition of a fifth lane to MD 152, installation of a noise wall on Section 200, addition of an auxiliary lane from MD 152 to MD 24, and restriping of MD 24 ramps. (Year of operation – 2022)
- SHA: Active Traffic Management Project on I-695 from I-70 to MD 43 – Use the inside shoulders of I-695 to add one lane in each direction with operation limited to the AM and PM peak periods (Year of operation – 2023)
- SHA: Removal of I-695: MD 122 to I-95 from the Plan and TIP
- SHA: Removal of the Triple Bridges Study

The first two projects were added to the transportation network modeled through the travel demand model and MOVES 2014a. The third project was removed, and the fourth project is an exempt project, and was not included in testing.

The document describing the proposed amendments and conformity determination will state that the ICG determined that I-695 Active Traffic Management Project and the I-95 Express Toll Lanes Northern Transition project are nonexempt from conformity, and included in the modeling.

The resulting emissions estimates from the regional emissions analysis are lower than emissions budgets in the Ozone SIP, developed by MDE. Emissions were developed for 2030, and 2040. The projects do not worsen the region's air quality or delay timely attainment of the NAAQS.

The ICG unanimously approved the conformity results for public release.

[Handouts: Draft BRTB Resolution #18-10 and Draft BRTB Resolution #18-11]

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Greg Becoat (EPA Region 3) introduced two staff members from his office that will be attending future ICG meetings: Sara Calcinore and Leslie Jones. He also mentioned the development of the next MOVES model: MOVES2018.

The members were asked if they had any other business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 A.M. The next ICG meeting is scheduled for April 4th.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Tyson Byrne - Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Clive Graham - Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris - Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Greg Becoat – EPA Region 3 (by phone)
Sara Calcinore – EPA Region 3 (by phone)
Leslie Jones – EPA Region 3 (by phone)
Terry Freeland – BMC
Todd Lang - BMC
Ryan Long – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 3 – (by phone)
Tim Shepherd – MDE
Ujjvala Shukla - MDOT
Sara Tomlinson – BMC
Marcia Ways – MDE (by phone)