

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

April 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Hebert welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES

The ICG was asked to review the minutes of the February 3rd ICG meeting. Mr. Alex Rawls (BRTB) made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Virginia Burke (MDOT) seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF MAXIMIZE 2045 AND THE 2022-2025 TIP

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Hebert shared two documents prepared by BMC staff with suggested exempt/nonexempt conformity status for projects that have been proposed for inclusion in the 2022-2025 TIP. These documents were emailed to ICG members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Hebert introduced Mr. Keith Kucharek, the TIP coordinator for BMC. He presented information on projects that are newly proposed for the 2022-2025 TIP.

Mr. Kucharek first discussed the four proposed exempt projects. Questions only arose regarding one of the projects, the Baltimore City East-West Bus Corridor project. Further information and, if possible, a presentation by the project manager was requested to clarify how lanes and traffic would be affected by the project in order to confirm its exemption from transportation conformity requirements.

Mr. Kucharek then presented the two proposed nonexempt projects. Of the two projects, MDOT SHA project manager Ms. Virginia Collier expanded on the I-695: Reconstruction of Interchange at I-70 project in a detailed presentation. This project was announced as part of the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan and the interchange was built over 50 years ago. The older stacked design includes 1 lane ramps with no shoulders. This constrains both maintenance and emergency response, as well as overcapacity issues. The project does not include work

on nearby U.S. 40, Security Blvd, the Park-&-Ride, or Cooks Lane. ICG members agreed this project was nonexempt. Further information and, if possible, a presentation by the project manager was requested for the second recommended nonexempt project, I-895/Baltimore Harbor Tunnel Toll Plaza and Interchange Improvements, to clarify the proposed scope of work in order to confirm its non-exemption from transportation conformity requirements.

There was also clarification that the Areawide Congestion Management project no longer includes the Dray Truck program so that should be removed from the description.

[Presentations: TIP sheets for newly proposed TIP projects, 2022-2025 TIP (BMC) and I-695: Reconstruction of Interchange at I-70 (MDOT SHA)]

4. MEMBER UPDATES

BRTB

Mr. Rawls reported that the Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) approval will be up for BRTB vote at its upcoming April 16 meeting.

EPA Region 3

Mr. Greg Becoat reminded the group that the new EPA Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3, is now the latest official version of MOVES.

MDE, MDOT, FHWA – Maryland Division, and FTA Region 3 did not have any updates.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hebert provided updates on the following topics:

- **Final MDOT Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC) Nominations - I-95/LPG**
The final AFC nomination was submitted to FHWA by MDOT on February 24. This nominates I-95 for designation as a Corridor-Ready Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG-Propane) AFC. Mr. Kwame Arhin (FHWA) requested a copy of the MDOT submission.
- **Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P) Efforts**
The TCI-P has its Draft Model Rule out for public comment. This involves reducing transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through cap and investment programs in participating jurisdictions. This does not include Maryland at this time, however all interested persons and organizations are invited to share input.
- **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) Ruling Update**
EPA is finalizing revisions to CSAPR to help areas affected by pollution emitted by power plants in other states to meet the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It is estimated that there will be a 19% reduction in NOx emissions in 2021 from 2019 levels in eastern states including Maryland.

- **Nearing Ozone Attainment**

It was reported during last month's meeting of the MDE Committee, Air Quality Control Advisory Council, that Maryland could potentially be within attainment of the ozone NAAQS within the next year or so.

Ms. Hebert then added a reminder that the next ICG meeting is scheduled for May 12 at 9:30 A.M. The members were asked if they had any other business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Alex Brun – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Virginia Burke – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Alex Rawls – Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

Staff and Guests

Kwame Arhin – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Maryland Division
Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Greg Becoat – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3
Tyson Byrne – MDOT
Sean Champion – MDOT SHA
Ying-Tzu Chung – Michael Baker
Virginia Collier – MDOT SHA
Lindsay Donnellon – FHWA – Maryland Division
Nicole Hebert – BMC
Dan Janousek – MDOT
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Ryan Long – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 3
Brian Ryder – BMC
Lisa Sirota – MDOT SHA
Sara Tomlinson – BMC