

VIRTUAL INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

February 8, 2023
9:30 – 10:27 AM

MINUTES

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2023 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2023 ICG meeting. Ms. Virginia Burke (MDOT) made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE). The members then voted to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF RESILIENCE 2050 AND THE 2024-2027 TIP

Ms. Marshall presented the Draft Methodology and Assumptions Letter as well as the Conformity Analysis Schedule of the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and upcoming Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) *Resilience 2050*. Ms. Marshall discussed how changes were made to the draft letter to reflect the outcome of the January ICG meeting. The letter was updated to reflect the new 2023 mobile emission budgets (MVEBs) in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) instead of the 2012 Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) budgets.

Ms. Salarano mentioned that MDE is still working on submitting their final SIP to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and it should be going out later this month. Mr. Gregory Becoat (EPA) said that the new budgets won't be deemed adequate on time to be used for this conformity determination process. EPA has to hold a 30 day public comment period through the Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) before the notice is published in the federal register. Mr. Becoat will be finding the budgets adequate during this process, but emphasized that realistically, the process will take a minimum of 60 days from when the EPA receives the SIP. Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) asked what budgets should be used for

the methodology letter, and Mr. Becoat and Ms. Salarano confirmed that the 2012 RFP budgets should still be used.

Ms. Burke asked a question about the SIP timeline. Ms. Salarano confirmed that the public comment period for the draft SIP finished on January 31st, and they are waiting for the transcript from the public hearing before finalizing the SIP, and sending it to the EPA.

Ms. Marshall guided members through the rest of the draft letter, pointing out that the testing horizon years were updated to reflect the discussion from the January meeting. Ms. Salarano asked for Mr. Becoat to clarify whether the attainment year of 2023 appropriate to use, at which Mr. Becoat responded yes, because it mirrors the SIP.

Ms. Aris asked if members would like to receive an updated methodology letter before it is sent out to Federal Partners. Ms. Burke responded that yes, it would be great to review it before BMC sends it out. Ms. Aris discussed the process in which ICG could approve the draft methodology letter based on what was discussed and pending any updates from the members. The members agreed to this, and Ms. Marshall agreed to send out a revised methodology letter via email for ICG to review prior to submitting to Federal Partners.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion to support the approval of the letter pending any changes sent by email, and a second. Ms. Salarano (MDE) made a motion and Mr. Alex Rawls (BRTB) seconded it. Ms. Marshall said she would revise the letter and send it out to ICG via email for their review prior to sending to the Federal Partners.

4. 2023-2026 TIP AMENDMENT

Ms. Marshall shared information about a TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP for a Bridge Repair and Deck Replacement project in Howard County. The amendment updates the project scope to include 10 additional “poor” rated bridges. The 2023-2026 TIP must include these projects so that the federal funds can be requested for engineering and construction of the projects. The project is exempt, because these are non-capacity improvements. In accordance with Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rule, the amendment is exempt because it falls under “widening narrow pavements or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes)”. There was no further action from ICG.

5. PRESENTATION: INTRO TO AIR QUALITY DASHBOARD

Mr. Charles Baber (BMC) presented the Air Quality Dashboard project and shared the draft user guide document, including information about where the data comes from, how to download and save the data, and other tools that the dashboard offers. The Air Quality Dashboard is available on a public profile by Cambridge Systematics on Tableau. The best way to go through the data is to use the filters, where users can display data for different pollutants, ozone or PM 2.5 from EPA or from PurpleAir, which is a public citizen science data source. There is a map where you can filter data with the vulnerability population index.

The presentation was opened up to questions. Ms. Aris asked ICG if they had any ideas or suggestions about additional data to include. Any data can be added to the dashboard as it is released. Ms. Burke questioned the use of PurpleAir data, which does not operate at the level of standard as EPA monitors, and may not be as accurate. Mr. Baber said that MDE helped come up with formulas and factors to calculations about how to adjust the PurpleAir data. BMC can add a discretionary note to the dashboard about how PurpleAir is not a government source and the user should be cautious when using PurpleAir data. Ms. Salarano said that she has seen a rise in PurpleAir sensors especially when partnering with local communities, and agrees that there should be a disclaimer.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** - Mr. Alex Rawls reported that there was a presentation about the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) at the Technical Committee, and the BRTB will make recommendations about projects that may qualify for CRP funds. Also, the 30 day public comment period for the FY 2024 UPWP began on February 8th.
- **MDE** – Ms. Salarano reported that MDE is working on getting the Baltimore SIP finalized and sent to the EPA.
- **MDOT** – Ms. Burke reported that MDOT is preparing the annual CMAQ report which is submitted to FHWA. MDOT reports all of the projects with CMAQ funding from the prior federal fiscal year into the Public Access System (PAS), which is then available for anyone to download data. This year is year 1 of a 4 year performance period. Additionally, MDOT participates in the MWCOG committees, and they just launched a regional Electric Vehicle (EV) workgroup. MDOT will facilitate this new workgroup. Ms. Burke recommended that BMC and MWCOG collaborate about EV work. Ms. Aris mentioned that BMC is beginning the EV RFP for EV Infrastructure Siting, which will help local jurisdictions determine barriers to permitting and installing EV charging infrastructure. Mr. Dan Janousek (MDOT) mentioned that MDOT can assist BMC to identify steering committee members and help with other resources.
- **FHWA** was not able to attend the meeting.
- **FTA** was not able to attend the meeting.
- **EPA Region 3** – Mr. Becoat reported that EPA reconsidered the PM 2.5 standard, proposing to revise the primary annual standard from 12 micrograms/cubic meters to be within a range from 9-10 micrograms/cubic meter. EPA also proposed revisions to the air quality index and the monitoring requirements. This is out for public comment now.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Marshall talked about a new notice in the federal register from the EPA about finalizing a program to help reduce air pollution, including ozone and particulate matter from heavy duty engines and vehicles across the US, and thought that this could be of interest to ICG to track.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Salarano (MDE) made a motion to end the meeting, and Ms. Burke (MDOT) seconded the motion. It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be a virtual meeting on April 5th at 9:30 A.M. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

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

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Anna Marshall – BMC
Charles Baber – BMC
Sophia Cortazzo – MDOT
Dan Janousek – MDOT
Zachary Kaufman – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Marcia Ways – MDE
Mohamed Khan – MDE
Gregory Becoat – EPA Region III