

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

February 7, 2024
9:30 – 10:35 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2024 ICG meeting. Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE) made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Brian Ulrich (BRTB). The members then voted to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF THE 2025-2028 TIP

Ms. Marshall presented the Draft Methodology and Assumptions Letter as well as the Conformity Analysis Schedule for the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and discussed the revisions made from the draft letter in January. Ms. Marcia Ways (MDE) suggested one revision under the 'Mobile Emissions Development' section. ICG decided to review the change before voting on the letter for approval. Ms. Marshall noted that the revised letter would be sent out via email, and a vote collected via email after ICG's review. On February 8, 2024, ICG voted to approve the methodology letter as revised, via email exchange. Mr. Ulrich made a motion and Ms. Salarano seconded it. The methodology letter was unanimously approved, and sent to Federal Partners on February 12, 2024.

4. 2024-2027 TIP AMENDMENT

Mr. Keith Kucharek (BMC) presented a proposed 2024-2027 TIP amendment. The amendment relates to a project in Harford County and utilizes FTA Community Project Funds (CPF). These funds will be used for demolition plans, pedestrian underpass, and new bus bays for buses for

the Aberdeen TOD Station Square project. Construction of a new ADA compliant pedestrian bridge with terraced plazas and sidewalks is also proposed. BMC staff recommended the amendment be exempt from air quality conformity requirements in accordance with Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rule, due to construction of new bus storage/maintenance facilities. Ms. Sophia Cortazzo (MDOT) noted that the reasoning in Table 2 “Construction of new bus or rail storage/maintenance facilities” said projects have to be categorically excluded. After researching, this means that the projects under this exemption reasoning are categorically excluded from federal NEPA requirements. ICG members concurred, and the amendment will be voted on for approval at the BRTB meeting on February 27th.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendment Aberdeen]

5. PRESENTATION: GHG PERFORMANCE MEASURE)

Ms. Anna Batista (High Street Consulting) presented information about the new greenhouse gas (GHG) performance measure, as part of the Transportation performance management (TPM) program. The FHWA TPM program requires State DOTs and MPOs to set targets for various performance measures. The new requirement for GHG emissions is to have declining tailpipe CO₂ emissions on the National Highway System (NHS) compared to the reference year. MPOs will be required to set declining 4 year targets from reference year 2022.

Ms. Marshall asked if MPOs are allowed to use the State targets. Ms. Batista explained that while that’s possible, MPOs will also have to coordinate with other regions to set a target for the urbanized area (UZA). Mr. Charles Baber (BMC) asked some follow up questions:

- The methodology shows fuel x emissions x ratio of NHS. Mr. Baber was wondering if MPOs are limited to that methodology, or if the MOVES model can be used. Ms. Batista responded that States will use that methodology but MPOs can use the MOVES model if preferred.
- The MPO calculation is restricted to emissions on the NHS, similar to States.
- Is the metric only calculating running emissions? The metric is based on gasoline usage.

[PowerPoint: Maryland’s GHG Target Setting]

6. PRESENTATION: MARYLAND’S CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN

Mr. Mark Stewart (MDE) presented information about Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023. Maryland’s goal is to reduce statewide GHG emissions 60% by 2031 (from 2006 levels), and set the State on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. There are 42 policies that, if fully implemented, will achieve Maryland’s goals. Efficient electrification and reducing coal power plants has helped reduce two-thirds of statewide emissions. The grid will be able to handle efficient electrification of buildings and vehicles. There are federal tax credits that Marylanders can take advantage of to save money and

upgrade to energy efficient appliances. Mr. Zach Kaufman (BMC) asked about the assumed percentage of VMT reduction and what the goal was? Mr. Stewart said that the goal was a 20% reduction of VMT by 2045.

[PowerPoint: MDE Climate Plan]

7. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** - Mr. Ulrich reported that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY 2025 public comment period opens today, 2/7, and remains open until March 11th. The Federal Certification Review onsite meetings for the BRTB are scheduled for May 1st and 2nd.
- **MDE** – MDE didn't have any updates to share, besides that there is a new NAQQS standard for PM 2.5 that EPA released on 2/7.
- **MDOT** – MDOT didn't have any updates to share.
- **FHWA** – Ms. Jasmine Champion didn't have any updates to share.
- **FTA** – Mr. Daniel Koenig attended his first BRTB ICG meeting to become familiar with the ICG process for the federal certification review period.
- **EPA Region 3** – Mr. Greg Becoat didn't have any updates to share.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be a virtual meeting on March 6th at 9:30 A.M. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Sophia Cortazzo – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Brian Ulrich – Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

Staff and Guests

Zach Kaufman – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Anna Marshall – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Charles Baber – BMC
Marcia Ways – MDE
Mark Stewart – MDE

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Mohamed Khan – MDE

Jim Frazier – Michael Baker

Anna Batista – High Street Consulting

Daniel Koenig – FTA

Greg Becoat – EPA

Jasmine Champion – FHWA