

## INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

March 6, 2024  
9:30 – 9:59 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 FEBRUARY 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the February 7, 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. 2024-2027 TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Keith Kucharek (BMC) presented two proposed 2024-2027 TIP amendments. The amendments relate to projects from MDOT SHA. The first adds a new project to the TIP, NEVI (National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) Implementation project, which adds \$17.853 million in funds for engineering and construction to add EV chargers along Maryland's designated alternative fuel corridors. Contributions from third parties will be utilized to match federal funds.

The second project modifies the scope of the TSMO System 1 project to eliminate proposed work on the US 29 and US 40 corridors, leaving the only remaining segment on I-70 from MD 32 to I-695. STBG and NHPP funding for engineering have been added for FY 2024-2027, at \$9.226 million. The project will add intelligent transportation system and geometric improvements to address safety and operations along the corridor.

Ms. Sophia Cortazzo (MDOT) asked whether the NEVI project funding will break out to more specific projects from the overall funding. Mr. Kucharek said that at this time, the overall State allocation is what is in the TIP, but down the road it will be broken out by the jurisdictions,

starting with the next TIP, which may have a new NEVI project submitted. Ms. Jasmine Champion (FHWA) asked if the NEVI project will help identify where the charging sites will be. Mr. Kucharek answered that yes, this project will help identify the charging locations along alternative fuel corridors. For instance, chargers could be added to rest stops.

Ms. Marshall shared the exemption status sheet for the two projects, which outlined the staff recommendation where both projects are exempt from conformity determination in accordance with Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rule. Ms. Salarano (MDE) made a motion and Ms. Cortazzo (MDOT) seconded the motion. All ICG members agreed with the recommendation. The resolution will be presented at the BRTB meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

***[PowerPoint: TIP Amendments MDOT SHA]***

#### **4. MEMBER UPDATES**

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** - Mr. Ulrich reported that at the last BRTB meeting, MDOT presented the State Report on Transportation. One goal is to promote environmental stewardship and minimize the environmental impacts of transportation. MDOT SHA is replacing light-duty fleet vehicles with EV models, and there will be support for local and private EV charging infrastructure. MDOT also aims to achieve a 10% reduction in VMT per capita by 2030 and 20% by 2050. Both of these provide air quality benefits. Also, the Carbon Reduction Program is becoming a competitive grant program and 65% of a State's CRP apportionment will be sub-allocated to urbanized areas with population greater than 50,000.
- **MDE** – Ms. Salarano shared that MDE is starting the development of a formal designation request for the State to address the new PM NAAQS. The State uses data from 2021-2023, and they've been working with the MDE Air Monitoring Program. Currently, all air monitors are registering below 9 micrograms per cubic meter. MDE has until February 2025 to submit their designation request, so it is still in the early stages of development.
- **MDOT** – MDOT didn't have any updates to share.
- **FHWA** – Ms. Jasmine Champion shared that the Carbon Reduction Strategies have been approved for the State of Maryland. They also received their transportation resiliency plan, which isn't federally required but provides the State incentives for having it. A NOFO went out on the Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP) Grant. This Program will provide funds to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with a population over 200,000 or States to develop and implement a publicly accessible, transparent prioritization process for the ranking and selection of projects for inclusion in short-range and long-range transportation plans. The deadline to apply is May 1<sup>st</sup>, and she shared a link to the informational webinar which took place on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **FTA** – No updates at this time.

- **EPA Region 3** – Mr. Greg Becoat reported about the MOVES 4 model. EPA is in the process of updating the software to reflect the new budgets for ozone and there might be a published notice in the Federal Register in the next few weeks. Ms. Salarano asked how the budgets are updated in the new software. Mr. Becoat said that it is a process, because it doesn't allow the user to filter to only update the on-road emission budgets, there are also other emissions types. There is a bureaucratic process to update these. States are responsible for providing the data and justification of the budgets.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Marshall reminded ICG about the GHG performance measure. MPOs will have the option to adopt the State's target or calculate their own. MPOs have 180 days after the State to adopt their targets, which is July 30, 2024. It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be an in person meeting on April 3rd at 9:30 A.M. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

Greg Becoat – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III  
Jasmine Champion – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) MD Division  
Sophia Cortazzo – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Brian Ulrich – Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

### ***Staff and Guests***

Anna Marshall – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)  
Keith Kucharek – BMC