

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

April 3, 2024
9:34 – 10:15AM

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 A.M. by Ms. Anna Marshall (BMC).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2024 ICG meeting. Ms. Sophia Cortazzo (MDOT) 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 shared a PowerPoint with the new projects in the 2025-2028 TIP, so that ICG members could determine the conformity status. There are 11 new exempt projects, 3 projects that are new and amended into the 2024-2027 TIP, and 1 project that appeared in older TIPs. Of the new ones, 2 are in Anne Arundel County, 7 are in Baltimore City, 1 is in Carroll County, 1 in Harford County, 1 in Annapolis, and 3 are MTA – Transit. Types of exempt projects are bridge repairs, road rehabilitation, pedestrian safety, and transit station improvements. There is 1 new non-exempt project in Harford County, called Perryman Access – Mitchell Lane. This project is not exempt because it is for the construction of a new road and bridge to connect US 40 from Mitchell Lane to the north side of Perryman Peninsula. Any highway expansion or capacity increase needs to be included in the model network.

Some clarification was requested about the difference between the 2022 and 2023 pedestrian and roadway safety improvements. It appears that they have different funding sources. Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) said we can ask Baltimore City for clarification what the difference is. Ms. Aris asked if sidewalks will be included in the Woodbine Road bridge project. Mr. Keith

Kucharek (BMC) said that it usually depends on level of design. Mr. Ulrich said he tries to make sure there is room to add sidewalks later, depending on height and other factors. Sidewalks are important for planning for all modes of transportation and equity. Mr. Greg Becoat (EPA) noted that if a project changes design that it would have to be reviewed by ICG to make sure it is still exempt.

The four others on the exempt list are three amendments and one that appeared in older TIP previously, and now is back in. Hawkins Point Bridge over CSX railroad, in Baltimore City, came into the TIP in 1999 and has been on hold. The project has always been considered exempt.

Ms. Aris noted that the scope did not change for all ongoing projects. If there was a scope change, ICG would be notified. There were no other questions on the projects in the 2025-2028 TIP.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the conformity status of the new projects in the 2025-2028 TIP. Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE) made a motion, and Mr. Ulrich seconded it. The members then unanimously voted to approve the conformity status of the 2025-2028 TIP.

[PowerPoint: 2025-2028 TIP New Projects]

4. 2024-2027 TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Kucharek presented five proposed 2024-2027 TIP amendments. One project is from Baltimore City and 4 are MDOT MTA projects. The RAISE Transit Priority project in Baltimore City wasn't in the TIP last year, but it is included in this one. The MTA projects include Kirk Bus Facility Replacement, which has actually already been completed. The amendment is to shift funds to the year of obligation. MARC Facilities adds funding for construction for transit storage at Martin Airport and BWI garage. Baltimore Penn Station Multimodal Investments will improve multimodal access in and around the train station. Finally, there is a new project called low or no emission bus purchasing in Anne Arundel County.

All 5 TIP amendments are recommended to be exempt.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the exempt conformity status of the 5 2024-2027 TIP Amendments. Ms. Cortazzo made a motion, and Mr. Ulrich seconded it. The members then unanimously voted to approve the motion.

[PowerPoint: TIP Amendments for April 2024]

5. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** – The March BRTB meeting was cancelled due to the Key Bridge collapse. Ms. Aris noted that federal certification is on May 1 and 2 and the associated public comment period

launched on Thursday, April 4th. The TIP amendments approved by ICG in the March meeting will move to be heard at the April BRTB meeting, where there will be 7 amendments total.

- **MDE** – MDE didn't have any updates to share.
- **MDOT** – MDOT didn't have any updates to share.
- **FHWA** – Ms. Jasmine Champion shared that she is working on answers to BRTB related to certification and STIP amendments. She is also reviewing UPWPs. Ms. Aris asked if she could share the UPWP checklist. Jasmine said that MDOT should send it, and otherwise she will send it.
- **FTA** – No updates at this time.
- **EPA Region 3** – Mr. Greg Becoat didn't have any updates, except about the key bridge salvaged materials. They think that salvage cleanup may fall under emergency relief funds, but headquarters will have a concrete response for MDE soon. Ms. Marshall added information about a federal register notice that as of March 29th, EPA has new GHG emission standards – Phase 3 for heavy duty vehicles, model years 2027 through 2032.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Marshall gave an update about the GHG performance measure. AMPO sent an email on April 2nd and because of two recent rulings, FHWA lacks the authority to regulate GHG emissions through this measure. Therefore MPOs and States are no longer required to submit targets and reports, until further notice. MDOT already submitted theirs.

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be a virtual meeting on May 8th at 9:30 A.M. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 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
Regina Aris – BMC