

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

January 8, 2025

9:30 – 10:20 AM

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 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. Anna informed the guests that the prior minutes from July 1st were approved via email, because the previous meeting was in July 2024.

2. 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 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Marshall also gave a brief description of the letter's purpose, highlighting major updates as compared to last year's letter. The Baltimore region was designated as a serious nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone standard on August 1, 2024. She noted that the 2023 Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs) were deemed adequate for use in conformity determinations, as published in the Federal Register on August 18, 2023. These budgets were developed to address the 2015 ozone standard, and were approved as part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) developed for the Baltimore Moderate Nonattainment Area for the 8-hour Ozone standard. The 2023 MVEBs will continue to be used, because the State is still working to develop the new serious nonattainment SIP.

ICG also discussed the testing horizon years. Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE) mentioned that since 2026 is the new attainment year, that should be included as a testing horizon year. The other ones are still to be determined after MDE discusses internally.

Discussion continued about the methodology letter, including the criteria and approach section. Under the Mobile Emission Development section, Ms. Marshall asked which version of the MOVES model will be used. Mr. Greg Becoat (EPA) noted that MOVES 5 was recently released, but MOVES 3 is allowed to be used for conformity purposes until September 12, 2025. Ms. Marcia Ways (MDE) confirmed that as long as we are in the grace period, it is best to move forward with MOVES 3 for now.

Finally, Ms. Marshall walked through the 2026-2029 TIP Production Schedule and the proposed conformity analysis, noting that the draft resolution for the TIP and conformity determination will be presented to ICG in July 2025.

3. 2025-2028 TIP AMENDMENTS

Ms. Ndemazea Fonkem presented information about two TIP amendments to the 2025-2028 TIP. The first is an MDOT SHA amendment, adding the new areawide carbon reduction program (CRP), which is the allocated amount of funding for projects in the Baltimore region. The second amendment is from the MDOT MTA, the Reisterstown Plaza Metro Station – Multimodal Access project. This was to shift funds to the year of obligation. The MDOT MTA was awarded a RAISE grant to complete a preliminary design and environmental study for this plaza for TOD improvements. Both amendments were recommended to be exempt from air quality conformity.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion to approve the exemption status for the two TIP amendments. Mr. Brian Ulrich (BRTB) made a motion and Ms. Sophia Cortazzo (MDOT) seconded it. The members then unanimously voted to approve the exemption.

4. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** - Mr. Ulrich did not have any updates at this time.
- **MDE** – Ms. Ways commented that BMC, MDOT, MDE and Michael Baker Inc., the consultant, have been meeting monthly to discuss air quality modeling efforts, and other related topics like the statewide inventory. Every three years, MDE is required to do this, and submit to the EPA. 2023 is the latest inventory year. Coordination is needed to make sure everything runs on schedule and there is consistency with versions of the MOVES model, mobile emission budgets, and other measures for conformity. MDE made an amendment to the clean trucks regulation, there is now additional lead time for manufacturers to generate credits.
- **MDOT** – Ms. Cortazzo gave an update about a change in staff at MDOT, and there will be a new Carbon Reduction Program coordinator soon.
- **FHWA MD Division** did not have any updates.
- **FTA Region 3** did not have any updates.
- **EPA Region 3** did not have any updates, except that EPA did not yet receive last year's conformity determination report from FHWA.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be a virtual meeting on February 5th at 9:30 A.M. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 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)
Jasmine Champion – FHWA MD Division
Greg Becoat – EPA Region 3
Dan Sommerville – FTA Region 3

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Anna Marshall – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Charles Baber – BMC
Md. Mokhlesur Rahman – BMC
Ndemazea Fonkem – BMC
Zach Kaufman – BMC
Marcia Ways – MDE