

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP

Wednesday, August 26, 2015
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
10:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M.

MINUTES / SUMMARY

The Chair, Ms. Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Dan Rooney made a motion for the approval of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG) minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jessica Varsa. The minutes were approved.

2. UPDATE ON TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL UPGRADE –CHARLES BABER

Mr. Charles Baber guided the CFG through a PowerPoint presentation outlining the key facets of the BMC transition from a trip based model to an activity based model (aggregate to disaggregate). Initiated in 2013 and targeted for completion in 2016, the activity based model will simulate the sequence of trips/tours/activities spatially, at the parcel/household level and temporally, in half hour increments (48 time periods). Additionally, the activity based model explicitly models non-motorized travel. As an added advantage over the current model, the spatial component of the activity based model will enable staff to identify households with walk access to transit. He provided a detailed explanation of how aggregate (current) and disaggregate (new) models differ. To account for changes in the age and size of members of the household, BMC staff uses “Pop-Gen” and county level Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) data sources to synthesize future populations. He closed his presentation with a detailed description of how the activity based model (2012 model validation year) will be populated.

3. SURVEY OF FORECASTING METHODS –SHAWN KIMBERLY

Mr. Shawn Kimberly briefed CFG members on the status of its survey or forecasting methods. He introduced Ms. Regina Aris, Assistant Director and Manager of Policy Development at the BMC. Ms. Aris is also chair of the Technical Committee of the Association of Metropolitan Planning

Organizations. Using "Survey Monkey" she distributed the survey of forecasting methods to 45 MPO's. Mr. Kimberly identified the nine (9) respondents to date and provided a general overview of their remarks. Ms. Kaii-Ziegler asked the members of the survey of forecasting methods subcommittee (Mr. Richard Campbell, Mr. Rooney and Ms. Kui Zhao) to review and analyze the survey responses and report back to the CFG at the next meeting.

A discussion of preparations for Round 9 followed. Ms. Varsa and Mr. Travis Pate shared recent experiences Baltimore City had using the Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) regional economic forecasting software. They suggested that the CFG consider REMI as a data source for the next round. Mr. Jeff Bronow noted the advantages of sticking with the ES202, wage and salary, second quarter report. A lengthy discussion of past experiences and new options followed. Continuing the current "bottom-up" forecast was questioned. The entire issue was tabled until the next meeting for a more in depth discussion.

4. HOWARD COUNTY SEARCH PLANS APPLICATION – JEFF BRONOW

Mr. Bronow first introduced the new Director of Planning for Howard County, Mr. Valdis Lazdins. He then demonstrated the Howard County on-line Search Plans Application. The county planning department developed the application with the direct assistance of the county department of technology and communication. The application allows the research division and interested public to track developments plans through each step of the application and review process. Records include applications from 2001 to present. All pertinent information is entered into a database which is directly linked to the web based site. Going online, he demonstrated the various aspects of site searches, identifying in-puts and out-puts for geo referenced site development plans, subdivision plans and waiver petitions. Information for all corresponding pre-submission community meetings and hearings is also available on the web site.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kimberly reminded CFG members that the BMC used the endorsed Round 8A cooperative forecast as the base data set for the 2015 Long Range Plan. Ms. Aris provided a general status report and current schedule of major events for the Long Range Plan. Mr. Scott Graf agreed to present the Carroll County Ag Preservation Plan at the October meeting. Ms. Varsa asked to present the Baltimore City Econ View web site at a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING – October 28, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Members

Jeff Bronow – Howard County Department of Planning
Richard Campbell - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Mark Goldstein – Maryland Department of Planning
Scott Graf – Carroll County Department of Planning
Valdis Lazdins – Howard County Department of Planning
Travis Pate - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Dan Rooney – Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara – Maryland Department of Planning
Jessica Varsa - Baltimore City Department of Planning
Margaret Kaii-Ziegler - Anne Arundel County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Charles Baber – BMC
Victor Bonaparte - BMC
Shawn Kimberly - BMC