

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

January 5, 2022
9:30 – 10:16 AM

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Ms. Nicole Hebert (BMC).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Hebert welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

2. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF MAXIMIZE2045 AND THE 2023-2026 TIP

Ms. Hebert presented the Draft Methodology and Assumptions Letter as well as the Conformity Analysis Schedule of the FY 2023-2026 TIP and current LRTP *Maximize2045*, giving a brief description of the letter's purpose and highlighting major updates as compared to last year's letter. The major difference discussed was the horizon year recommendations: 2025, 2035, and 2045. These three years fulfill requirements outlined in 40 CFR 93.106 and do not include the attainment year of 2021 as this date is in the past. Ms. Marcia Ways (MDE) noted that she would discuss this recommendation with colleagues at MDE.

Ms. Hebert noted that for now the letter suggests using MOVES2014a for this year's conformity analysis, however recommended MOVES3 be utilized if ppsuite updates are available in time. Ms. Ways, Ms. Regina Aris (BMC), and Ms. Virginia Burke (MDOT) were in agreement with this recommendation, but noted a deadline of February 1 to solidify which version of MOVES is to be used. Ms. Ways and Ms. Hebert noted they will follow up in a standing modeling meeting later in January, and would notify ICG members of the outcome of this discussion.

Ms. Hebert then outlined each of the proposed conformity analysis schedule milestone dates. Mr. Kwame Arhin (FHWA) requested that lines indicating when the methodology and assumptions letter as well as the final document will be sent to federal agencies. Ms. Hebert expressed that these lines will be added. Ms. Ways requested that two weeks be allowed for MDE and BMC to complete modeling. Ms. Hebert confirmed that this will be built into the schedule, and that Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE) will be provided a copy of the draft conformity document in advance.

3. TIP AMENDMENT

Ms. Hebert presented two proposed TIP amendments which do not add capacity, but are two new projects. The I-95/I-695 Interchange Bridge Deck Replacement project involves multiple locations of bridge deck replacements which would maintain travel lanes. The Central Ave Phase II project involves one 0.44 mi long location in Baltimore City where travel lanes would be reduced from 5 to 3 as part of a road diet to enhance safety for all travelers, including motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. Ms. Hebert requested a motion to confirm that these TIP amendments are exempt from conformity requirements. Ms. Burke motioned and Mr. Alex Rawls (BRTB) seconded.

4. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** shared that the next BRTB meeting will be January 21 and will be held jointly with the BMC Board of Directors.
- **MDE** notified the group that the agency will be providing a SIP presentation at the next meeting and invited attendees to ask SIP related questions at that time. It was also shared that an RFP has been released for the second round of Volkswagen Mitigation funding. This is the second round of funding for light-duty EVSE installations using funds from the Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement. MDE will accept project proposals for the two frameworks until close of business on April 15th, 2022. For more information see: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/MobileSources/Pages/MarylandVolkswagenMitigationPlan.aspx>.
- **MDOT** affirmed that MDOT Secretary Greg Slater is moving to a position out of state and Jim Ports is stepping into the position in January. It was noted Mr. Ports may be in attendance at the January BRTB meeting. It was also noted that MDOT is gearing up to carry out directives of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is awaiting federal guidance on this matter, including those involving electric vehicle infrastructure.
- **FHWA** notified the group that the agency released a joint letter with FTA regarding updated Planning Emphasis Areas. Ms. Hebert confirmed she would share this letter with the ICG members. It was also confirmed by FHWA that the agency is awaiting Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act guidance from headquarters and will share this guidance with ICG members once it is received.
- **FTA** Region 3 did not have any major updates, but confirmed that Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act guidance is anticipated and will be shared.
- **EPA** Region 3 was not able to attend the meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Aris notified the group, that in conjunction with the BRTB Technical Committee, an Addendum to the UPWP is in progress proposing a 2023 budget and identifying focus areas for consultant assistance. Many of the focus areas identified thus far relate to the updated Planning Emphasis Areas, including Safe System Approach, bike trail design, access management plans, integrated bike network, land use connection, best practices for transit ridership, and electric vehicle charging station coverage. More information will be shared with the ICG members and details are available on the BMC Technical Committee webpage at <https://baltometro.org/transportation/committees/technical-committee>.

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be February 2 at 9:30 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Kwame Arhin – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Maryland Division
Ryan Long – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – Region 3
Catherine Salarano – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Virginia Burke – Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Alex Rawls – Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB)

Staff and Guests

Regina Aris – Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Nicole Hebert – BMC
Dan Janousek – MDOT
Zachary Kaufman – BMC
Keith Kucharek – BMC
Brian Ulrich – Anne Arundel County, Technical Committee Vice Chair
Marcia Ways – MDE