

## INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

April 5, 2023  
9:30 – 10:37 AM

### 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. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2023 ICG meeting. Ms. Virginia Burke (MDOT) made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE). The members then voted to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

#### 3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF RESILIENCE 2050 AND THE 2024-2027 TIP

Ms. Marshall shared the project sheets for the 2024-2027 TIP and Resilience 2050 for both exempt and non-exempt projects. Mr. Keith Kucharek (BMC) presented recommended conformity status for the new projects. He presented the 16 non-exempt projects first, where there was one new recommended non-exempt project added, in Harford County. One of the projects, West Patapsco Avenue from Patapsco River Bridge to Potee Street in Baltimore City was recommended to be moved to the exempt project list because it was a road diet going from 6 lanes to 4 lanes, and similar projects have been listed as exempt in the past. In prior years the project was a mile in length, but now it is less than 1,000 feet. Ms. Marshall confirmed that this project would be categorized as road rehabilitation in the exempt list of the conformity rule. Ms. Burke supported the recommendation to move the project to the exempt list, and the rest of ICG agreed.

Next, Mr. Kucharek discussed the exempt project recommendations for the 2024-2027 TIP. To begin, there were 3 projects in Anne Arundel County including culvert paving, a bridge deck replacement and another bridge project to repair the culvert. Most projects classified as exempt are bridge repairs and maintenance projects, with no additional capacity added. There were 12 new projects added to the 2024-2027 TIP. Ms. Salarano asked about the Chestnut Hill

Road Bridge #41 project in Harford County, because it is increasing from 1 to 2 lanes. It is currently a single lane bridge, and the new bridge would be 2 lanes, but the approach roads would not be widened. Mr. Zach Kaufman (BMC) mentioned that projects like this have historically been non-exempt, particularly Chestnut Hill Road Bridge #40. ICG determined that the Chestnut Hill Road Bridge #41 project in Harford County be moved to the non-exempt list. Although it is a bridge project, the replacement bridge will add a new lane, which is an increase in capacity. The last exempt project Mr. Kucharek mentioned was the MDOT Maryland Port Administration project Masonville Cove Connector trail project is being amended into the 2023-2026 TIP.

Discussion moved on to the projects in Resilience 2050. There were several new projects in Resilience 2050 that were not in Maximize 2045. The non-exempt recommendations were discussed first. Some are proposed transit projects and others are capacity increases. A large project is the US 40 highway deconstruction. Ms. Burke commented on Druid Park Lake Drive in Baltimore City, saying that the Code of Federal Regulations doesn't specifically say "road diet" but in terms of safety improvements and complete streets, this could be exempt. ICG determined that the Druid Park Lake Drive Complete Streets project in Baltimore City be moved to the exempt list for air quality conformity because of the safety improvements proposed, as well as a road diet. ICG agreed with the other recommendations for both non-exempt and exempt conformity status for all of the projects. For example, the zero emission bus transition for MDOT is bus replacement, so is classified as exempt.

Ms. Marshall asked if there were any other questions, and agreed to send out an email summarizing the changes requested to ICG. Hearing no other questions or comments, Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the conformity status of the TIP and Plan. Mr. Alex Rawls (BRTB) made a motion and Ms. Burke seconded it. ICG then voted unanimously to approve the conformity status of the exempt and non-exempt projects in the 2024-2027 TIP and Resilience 2050.

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

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** - Mr. Rawls reported that the FY 2024 UPWP and associated DBE goal is going to the BRTB later this month for approval. Also BMC staff continue to coordinate with partners on the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) and the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to provide benefits to air quality and emission reduction in the region. Finally, the Public Comment period for the 2024-2027 TIP, LRTP and Air Quality Conformity is scheduled for May 17 to June 16. There will be 7 in-person meetings, one in each jurisdiction, with one virtual noon meeting anticipated. BMC staff is working on a plan for outreach and promotion.
- **MDE** – Ms. Salarano reported that MDE submitted the Baltimore Ozone SIP to EPA and EPA has posted the draft SIP out for a 30-day public comment period, which is the next step in the process for approving the mobile emissions budget. MDE might comment on the new

guidance about contingency measures from the EPA. Ms. Marcia Ways (MDE) mentioned that last fall, Baltimore City was awarded funding for EV school buses under the EPA clean school bus funding program. They are moving forward with 24-25 buses!

- **MDOT** – Ms. Burke reported that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) has set up a regional EV deployment group, and MDOT is chairing the group for this year. They are meeting again in May. She thinks there are synergies with BMC/BRTB to be able to be involved. MWCOCG set up an EV clearinghouse and they also are working on an EV checklist for local governments to help with implementation.
- **FHWA** was not able to attend the meeting.
- **FTA** was not able to attend the meeting.
- **EPA** Region 3 was not able to attend the meeting.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Marshall mentioned that the draft air quality conformity determination document and appendices are under development, and will be able to be shared with MDE next week for review, minus the emission numbers. No other members on the call had additional items to discuss.

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be a virtual meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 A.M. Ms. Marshall closed the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 A.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### ***Members***

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)  
Anna Marshall – BMC  
Charles Baber – BMC  
Sophia Cortazzo – MDOT  
Dan Janousek – MDOT  
Zachary Kaufman – BMC  
Keith Kucharek – BMC  
Marcia Ways – MDE  
Mohamed Khan – MDE  
Allison Breitenother – MDOT  
Sandy Hertz – MDOT