

INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION GROUP

May 15, 2024
9:35 – 10:15AM

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. by Ms. Anna Marshall (BMC).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Marshall welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2024 MINUTES

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2024 ICG meeting. Ms. Catherine Salarano (MDE) made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Sophia Cortazzo (MDOT). The members then voted to approve the minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

3. CONFORMITY DETERMINATION OF THE 2025-2028 TIP

Ms. Marshall presented the Regional Emissions Analysis Results PowerPoint. The first slide provided the 2023 motor vehicle emission budgets for both NO_x and VOC emissions, which was what the conformity analysis was using to compare results with. The next slide detailed the projected emissions for NO_x and VOCs in tons per day for each horizon year. The 2025 horizon year was tested twice, one with and one without the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Interestingly, the model without the key bridge showed emission levels slightly lower than the model with the key bridge. Ms. Marshall noted that there is a significant decrease in both pollutants from 2025 to 2035. Discussion with MDE led to the conclusion this is probably from emission rates decreasing from legislation like the Phase 2 Heavy Duty GHG rule, the SAFER rule, and the Tier 2 Light Duty Vehicle standards that are phased in from 2017 to 2025. The next two slides showed the emission results in comparison to the 2023 emission budgets, and that in each horizon year the levels are measuring below the budget. This is good news for demonstrating transportation conformity.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the regional emission results. Ms. Salarano (MDE) made a motion, and Ms. Cortazzo (MDOT) seconded it. The members then

unanimously voted to approve the emission results of the 2025-2028 TIP to be released to the public.

[PowerPoint: Regional Emission Analysis Results]

4. 2024-2027 TIP AMENDMENTS

There were 5 TIP amendments that ICG reviewed. 2 were for May and 3 were for June. The May amendments were discussed first. The Penn-Camden Connector was awarded funding through the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements (CRISI) grant. The amendment adds \$11 million in engineering funding to the project. This project will provide a connection between the Northeast Corridor and the CSX-owned MARC Camden line. This project was deemed exempt from conformity.

The next May project was an MDTA project for the FSK Bridge that was expedited for approval. This TIP amendment adds planning funds to the project to reconstruct the FSK Bridge after it collapsed. It was deemed exempt because these funds were planning funds. However, it is not anticipated that the bridge reconstruction will add more capacity in the future.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the exempt conformity status of the 2 May 2024-2027 TIP Amendments. Ms. Cortazzo (MDOT) made a motion, and Ms. Salarano (MDE) seconded it. The members then unanimously voted to approve the motion.

ICG had the option to vote on the exemption status for 3 June TIP amendments at a later point, but decided to vote during the May meeting because they were all straightforward in their reasoning. Ms. Regina Aris (BMC) said that MDOT is going to be sharing more of these types of amendments in the future, because FTA wants to show the funds in the year of obligation, now, similar to what FHWA does. Mr. Keith Kucharek provided an overview of the projects. All three are MTA – transit projects. The Bus and Paratransit Overhaul and Replacement provides routine replacement of busses past their useful service life. The Metro and Light Rail Rolling Stock Overhauls and Replacement project is similar, and provides funds to improve safety and vehicle performance, enhance passenger comfort and address obsolete parts on 53 light rail vehicles. The final project is the Small Urban Transit Systems – Capital Assistance. This provides capital assistance to small urban transit systems throughout the region to purchase vehicles, equipment and facilities. There were no scope changes to the projects. All 3 of these projects were deemed exempt from conformity.

Ms. Marshall asked for a motion and a second to approve the exempt conformity status of the 3 June 2024-2027 TIP Amendments. Mr. Brian Ulrich (BRTB) made a motion, and Ms. Salarano (MDE) seconded it. The members then unanimously voted to approve the motion.

ICG reviewed one more June TIP amendment from MTA via email. Ridesharing in the Baltimore Region. This project is similar to the other MTA ones, where they shifted funds to the year of obligation. It is exempt from air quality conformity. MDE made a motion to approve and BRTB seconded it. All members voted to approve the exemption status.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

ICG members were given the opportunity to provide updates.

- **BRTB** – Mr. Ulrich shared that BRTB recently received the project applications for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). There are 22 applications for the region, and staff will coordinate with MDOT for project selection. Additionally, staff is working on the upcoming UPWP project for the CRP and PROTECT programs. Finally, Federal Certification and the public comment period concluded, and staff is working on the draft responses to the comments.
- **MDE** – MDE mentioned that there is a coordination call with three agencies to discuss the MOVES 4 model transition for next year.
- **MDOT** – Ms. Sophia Cortazzo shared that MDOT is doing outreach to areas for CRP funds. She also mentioned that in response to the FSK bridge collapse, MDOT is working on a TDM response as to what can be done to assist with the changing traffic patterns and congestion. Finally, there are webinars coming up in June about the NEVI program.
- **FHWA** – Ms. Jasmine Champion shared that they conducted the BRTB federal certification review in early May. Follow up questions will be sent in the next few weeks. Also, the transportation access PILOT program is accepting letters of interest, and the deadline to apply is June 7th.
- **FTA** – No updates at this time.
- **EPA Region 3** – No updates at this time.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

It was confirmed that the next ICG meeting will be an in person/hybrid meeting on Tuesday, July 2nd at 9:30 A.M, to be held jointly with the technical committee.

ATTENDANCE

Members

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
Charles Baber – BMC

Mohamed Khan – MDE
Marcia Ways – MDE