

## Moran Pushes Funding for Incident Coordination Center

U.S. Congressman Jim Moran announced at the March 16 meeting of the Transportation Planning Board that he included \$2 million in the recently approved House transportation bill to lay the foundation for a regional transportation incident coordination program and center.

The TPB in February approved a work plan for the coordination program and center, currently called CapCom. This center will be responsible for regionwide transportation coordination and communications on a day-to-day basis, including during major incidents. CapCom is anticipated to be part of a proposed new, larger organization, provisionally named the Mid-Atlantic Communications Interoperability Partnership (MACIP), which will deal with both transportation and public safety interagency coordination.

Moran's legislation, included in Congress's surface transportation reauthorization bill, would be among the first funding commitments for the regional program. The House passed the reauthorization bill on March 10. The Senate is currently scheduled to act on the reauthorization in mid-April.

"We need to coordinate construction schedules. We need to coordinate the way we

address traffic incidents. And we certainly need to communicate better so that we can immediately figure out the most efficient way to deal with transportation crises as they arise," Congressman Moran told the TPB.

See **Incident Center** on page 2



**Congressman Jim Moran of Virginia told the TPB he had included \$2 million for the CapCom program and center in the House transportation reauthorization bill.**

## Key Vote on 2005 Plan Scheduled for April 20

The Transportation Planning Board will vote April 20 on whether the projects submitted this year for the region's long-range transportation plan will move forward in the approval process.

Five major projects, including a proposal to build high-occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes on 15 miles of Virginia's Beltway, are under consideration for this year's amendments to the Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

At the April 20 meeting, the TPB will vote on whether the submitted projects will be included in the air quality conformity analysis that is part of the CLRP/TIP amendment process. This approval of the project submissions is an essential step in keeping the amendment process on schedule because the air quality analysis requires intensive staff effort. If projects are later changed, the CLRP/TIP could be delayed for several months.

The air quality conformity analysis produces forecasts of vehicle emission levels that are anticipated under the CLRP, which extends to the

**CLRP/TIP  
2005**

See **2005 CLRP** on page 3

## Quick Facts: The 2005 Constrained Long-Range Plan

- **The Beltway HOT Lanes project is the biggest new proposal** for this year's CLRP and FY2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Virginia Department of Transportation has submitted a proposal to build 15 miles of high occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes between the Springfield Interchange and Georgetown Pike. Carpools and buses would use the lanes for free, while others would pay tolls.
- **The proposed Manassas Battlefield Bypass has been withdrawn** for inclusion this year in the CLRP/TIP because the project's funding plan was not complete. Federal law says that the CLRP and TIP may only include projects for which funding is "reasonably anticipated to be available."
- **The public comment period has been extended to April 15** for the projects that were submitted for inclusion in this year's CLRP and TIP. The comment period was extended because additional information about the projects was made available at the March 16 TPB meeting. An additional public comment period on the draft CLRP/TIP and accompanying conformity assessment will be held later this year before the TPB votes on final approval of those documents.
- **The TPB will vote on April 20** on whether to include the projects submitted for this year's CLRP/TIP in the air quality conformity analysis, which is an essential step in developing and approving the CLRP and TIP.
- **The final CLRP/TIP vote is scheduled for September.** Prior to the final vote on the CLRP and TIP, the TPB must approve an air quality conformity determination, showing the CLRP and TIP conform to regional air quality improvement goals.

### Incident Center *continued from page 1*

Since September 11, 2001, TPB leaders have worked on improving transportation coordination during regional incidents. Earlier this year, the TPB approved plans for developing the regional program. The region's transportation agencies have partnered with the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology to carry out the effort.

In addition to a Congressional earmark, the TPB is exploring other potential funding sources including homeland security grants, agreements among the region's transportation agencies, or direct funding from TPB member jurisdictions.

David Snyder, chair of the TPB's Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy Task Force, and Philip Tarnoff of the University of Maryland, briefed the TPB in March on potential governance structures for CapCom and MACIP, and on the status of efforts to obtain Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Homeland Security funding. UASI funding was targeted because of its almost immediate availability. However, with a large number of needs (beyond just those in transportation) competing for UASI funds, it appeared that as

of March 16, UASI funding for CapCom would be delayed.

TPB members expressed disappointment and said they would continue to make a case for UASI funding as well as explore other permanent funding options. ■

## April Agenda

The TPB's April agenda will include:

- Approval of goals for a regional system of variably priced lanes.
- Review of comments received and approval of project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity assessment for the 2005 CLRP and the FY2006-2011 TIP. The board will also approve the scope of work for this year's air quality conformity assessment.
- Approval of letter to the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee commenting on its approval of draft Round 7.0 Cooperative Land Use Forecasts for use in the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and FY2006-2011 TIP.
- Approval of a process to request TPB local jurisdictions to consider annual funding commitments for the regional pedestrian/bicycle safety education campaign. ■

## 2005 CLRP

continued from page 1

year 2030. As part of the final approval of the CLRP and TIP, the TPB must approve an air quality conformity determination showing that forecasted emissions will not exceed ceilings ("mobile emissions budgets") established in the region's air quality improvement plan.

The CLRP amendments and the TIP, along with the conformity determination, are scheduled for final approval in October.

At the TPB meeting on March 16, the Eastern Federal Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration withdrew its request to include the Manassas Battlefield Bypass in this year's CLRP/TIP because the project's funding plan was incomplete. According to federal law, the CLRP and TIP may only include projects for which funding is reasonably anticipated to be available.

The Manassas Battlefield Bypass sponsors indicated the project would be submitted for next year's CLRP update after anticipated funding arrangements for the project have been confirmed.

At its March meeting the TPB extended the public comment period on the project submissions to April 15. The comment period was extended because new information on the projects became available in March, including the withdrawal of the Manassas Battlefield Bypass, and additional cost and revenue details on Virginia's Beltway HOT lane proposal.

For more information and to submit comments, see [www.mwcog.org/transportation](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation). ■

## Proposed Significant Changes For This Year's CLRP

**1. Widen the Capital Beltway (I-495) by adding high-occupancy/toll (HOT) lanes between the Springfield Interchange and a point just south of VA 193 (Georgetown Pike).** Length: 15 miles. Completion: 2010. Cost: \$899 million (The TPB released a proposed financial plan from VDOT on March 16, 2005.)

**2. Upgrade VA 7900.** The CLRP already includes a project to build HOV lanes on VA 7900 from Rolling Road to a point just east of I-95. The change for the 2005 CLRP would upgrade the road to a limited access freeway. Length: 3 miles. Completion: 2010 (HOV); 2020 (upgrade). Cost: \$16 million (entire project)

**3. Construct a new busway between Crystal City Metro Station and Potomac Yard in Arlington.**

Length: Approximately half mile (phase one); 0.75 mile (phase two). Completion: 2006 (phase 1); 2008 (phase 2); 2012 (upgrade). Cost: \$6.3 million.

**4. Add auxiliary lanes to the interchange construction project at the Capital Beltway (I-95/I-495) and Arena Drive in Prince George's County.**

The CLRP already includes the conversion of the existing part-time interchange to a full-time facility. The proposed change for the 2005 CLRP would add auxiliary lanes north and south of the interchange. Length: Less than 2 miles. Completion: 2010. Cost: \$29.7 million (entire project)

**5. Widen MD 27 between Brink Road and Skylark Road** from 4 to 6 lanes to support proposed development in Clarksburg, Montgomery County. Length: Less than 2 miles. Completion: 2006. Cost: Funded by the private developer

For more information on the project submissions, see [mwcog.org/transportation](http://mwcog.org/transportation). You may also submit comments directly on the website.



## Other March Items

Other items on the TPB's March agenda included:

- Approval of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments to modify funding for 15 projects in Maryland.
- Approval of the 2006 Unified Planning Work Program, the TPB's main work program.
- Briefing on the draft work scope for the air quality conformity analysis for the 2005 CLRP and FY 2006-11 TIP. The comment period on the work scope was extended to April 15, consistent with the extended comment period for the CLRP/TIP project submissions. ■

This newsletter is produced by John Swanson  
MWCOC, 777 North Capitol St, NE, Suite 300,  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239  
202-962-3295; [jswanson@mwcog.org](mailto:jswanson@mwcog.org)  
"TPB News" at [www.mwcog.org/transportation](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation)

# Calendar of Events

Dates and times subject to change. All meetings are at COG unless otherwise indicated. If you are in need of special assistance to participate in meetings, please call (202) 962-3315 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD). Bicycle racks are located in the parking garage at 777 N. Capitol St., NE (Enter from 1st Street).

## April 2005

- 1 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 1 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 5 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 6 Telecommuting Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 12 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 14 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 15 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 19 Employer Outreach Ad-Hoc Group (10 am)
- 19 Commuter Connections High-Tech Ad-Hoc Group (noon)
- 19 Bike/Ped Plan Working Group (1 pm)
- 20 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 26 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am)

## May 2005

- 3 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 6 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 6 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 12 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 13 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 17 Commuter Connections Subcommittee (noon)
- 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (1 pm)
- 18 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 20 Travel Forecasting Subcommittee (9:30 am)
- 20 TPB Access for All Advisory Committee (noon)
- 24 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am) *tentative*
- 24 "Sixteenth Annual Public Transit Forum" (11 am-1:30 pm)
- 26 Aviation Technical Subcommittee (10:30 am)

## June 2005

- 3 TPB Technical Committee (9 am)
- 3 TPB Steering Committee (noon)
- 7 Regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Marketing Group (10 am)
- 9 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 10 Joint Technical Working Group for the Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study (noon)
- 14 Management, Operations and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Policy and Technical Task Forces Joint Meeting (1:30 pm)
- 15 Transportation Planning Board (noon)**
- 21 Travel Management Subcommittee (9 am) *tentative*
- 21 Commuter Operations Subcommittee (10 am)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

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