

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

September 11, 2023

9:30 A.M.

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Eileen Singleton opened the meeting; attendees introduced themselves.

2. COMMENTS ON NOTES FROM JUNE 12, 2023, MEETING

There were no comments on the minutes.

3. DISCUSSION ABOUT UPCOMING RCPGP EVACUATION TABLETOP

Ms. Singleton provided a short overview of the FY 2022 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) evacuation project. The project work started in mid-2023 and will be completed in 2025. There are two parts to the project – local/regional work and multi-state work. We will focus on the local/regional part. The local/regional work includes four Urban Area Homeland Security Work Group (UAWG) committees: T&PW, Public Information and Outreach, Evacuation Work Group, and Whole Community. Local law enforcement will also be included in the local/regional work. The focus of the project will be on updating the Evacuation Coordination Supplement that was prepared as part of the FEMA Evacuation Technical Assistance project in 2017.

Mr. Eric Oddo reminded the committee that the tabletop is scheduled for October 18th, with the registration starting at 8:30 AM, TTX starting at 9:00 AM, and the hotwash from 12:00 to 12:30 PM. The National Weather Service provided simulated storm information for the workshop.

The two TTX objectives are: addressing interjurisdictional coordination issues and making sure that planning for vulnerable populations is adequately addressed. Recovery will be addressed only if there is time. Sheltering will be included from the perspective of needing to know generally where people are evacuating to however specific shelter locations will not be covered in this TTX.

Mr. Oddo also reminded people to bring specific local plans, policies, procedures, or data to the TTX.

Attendees to this TTX will be government staff and representatives from organizations that are written into local evacuation plans, which includes Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and Maryland VOAD. Mr. Blake Fisher added that there will be a workshop in early 2024 that will include other Whole Community representatives. This project also includes an equity survey that will be developed later in the project.

Ms. Singleton shared the status of RSVPs for the TTX to ensure all of the stakeholder groups are in attendance. Ms. Singleton will send the status tables to the group after the meeting.

[Handout: Transportation & Public Works Committee, Notes for Agenda Items]

4. REGIONAL PROTECT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Ms. Singleton provided an overview of the regional application to the FHWA Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. The regional application was submitted by the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County on August 17th. The project falls under the Planning Grant funding category and does not need any matching funds.

The application built on the previous regional climate resilience work. The proposed project, called Baltimore Regional Roadmap to Resilience (R3), has three high-level tasks:

- Preliminary Task: Develop and Implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Phase 1: Develop the Baltimore Region Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP)
- Phase 2: Revenue Mapping

If there is a Resilience Improvement Plan in place, future applications for funding to the PROTECT Program can be eligible for reduced match needed:

- Reduced by 7% if a Resilience Improvement Plan is in place and the proposed project is prioritized in the RIP.
- Reduced by 3% if the Resilience Improvement Plan has been incorporated into the metropolitan transportation plan or long-range statewide transportation plan.

[Handout: Transportation & Public Works Committee, Notes for Agenda Items]

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Disaster Debris Planning Task Force: The group is still waiting to find out how local jurisdictions can be reimbursed if they use state contracts.

[Handout: Transportation & Public Works Committee, Notes for Agenda Items]

6. GROUP DISCUSSION

Hurricane/Winter Operations

- Agencies are not doing anything different to prepare for the winter season, which has been forecasted to have more snow than recent previous seasons.
- In general, agencies should prepare for more extreme weather events and more extreme impacts. Review assumptions, which may be underestimating the strength and impacts of potential weather events.
- Consider how technology and technology expansion could support enhanced operations especially during extreme weather events.

Other Information:

- Transportation Research Board annual meeting is coming up in January. For those that attend, consider what might be of interest to share with the T&PW Committee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Potential topics of interest:

- Need for better origin/destination data for non-road users
- Preparing for connected and automated vehicles (CAV), using the recently completed [recommendations](#) and [user guide](#).
 - What will the demands of CAV be on the transportation network? What additional communications infrastructure will be needed to support CAV needs?
- Cybersecurity assessment of existing traffic management systems, signal systems.
 - Coordination between IT and transportation departments. Interest in joint discussion of local and state IT and transportation staff to cover common issues of concern.
 - Potential to use US DHS CISA to conduct cyber resilience review.
 - Discussion with regional Traffic Signal Subcommittee on signal security.
- Evacuation modeling tool maintained by Old Dominion University: <https://fleet.vmasc.odu.edu/>
- Federal Highway Administration is working on developing a national digital infrastructure architecture; a draft should be available by the end of 2023 that some in the T&PW Committee may be interested in reviewing. At some point in the future, this could be a requirement to conform to.

2023 Meetings – December 11 (to be determined if hybrid or remote)

ATTENDEES

Members

Azzam Ahmad, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
Alex Baquie, Anne Arundel Co. Dept. of Public Works
Bethany Brown, Maryland Dept. of Human Services
John Contestabile, Skyline
Marcia Deppen, Maryland Dept. of Emergency Management
Ramona Harry, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development
Bill Johnson, MDOT State Highway Administration
David Larsen, Maryland Dept. of Transportation
Timothy Peck, MDOT State Highway Administration
Anthony Russell, Baltimore County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation
Mike Sheffer, MDOT State Highway Administration
Kris Singleton, Howard Co. Dept. of Public Works
Hayford Tuffour, Harford Co. Dept. of Public Works
Timothy Wolfe, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
Graham Young, Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Infrastructure Development

Staff and Guests

Blake Fisher, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)
Chang Won Kang, University of Maryland CHHS
Todd Lang, BMC
Eric Oddo, University of Maryland CHHS
Dennia Palmer, BMC
Eileen Singleton, BMC