

REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY

Status Report

May 15, 2020

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Phase 2 Update

- Scenario Planning Update
 - The scenario planning team continues to work on final detailed documentation of the land use modeling and overall scenario planning process in the form of a comprehensive user's guide. The main activities and determination of schedule reside with the travel demand modeling effort. The next milestone for the Working Group will be to view the results of the baseline and Greater Growth scenario results to determine if there is adequate differentiation based on the level of growth included. That can be done when the model adjustments are complete, and a simplified set of performance measures focused on key results can be prepared. If no further adjustments to the growth levels are needed, those same model runs will then produce the full set of performance measures and those will be reviewed with the Working Group. From there, the Phase 2 scenario planning will move towards closure with any refinements requested by the Working Group and final documentation. We will also set the timetable for the virtual outreach included in Phase 3 to present the scenario results once the decision on the Greater Growth level is made.

- Travel Demand Model
 - Continue to troubleshoot travel demand model.
 - Zero-occupant vehicle and Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) trip distribution issues identified as of the last progress report have been resolved and actions have been communicated to HRTPO and VDOT staffs.
 - On 5/8 discovered travel model issues affecting mode choice estimation when MaaS modes are present. Issues have been resolved and will be communicating with HRTPO and VDOT staffs as to issues and implemented remedies.
 - On 5/8 discovered the external travel component of the future year model not converging to forecast targets. MBI is currently assessing this issue.
 - On 4/29 Dale Stith indicated that VDOT is also correcting a model issue that has to do with the reporting of traffic congestion. Dale has kept us posted on developments, but the issue has not yet been resolved to our knowledge.

- Re-running alternatives w/ and w/o technology to aid in troubleshooting.
 - Continuing to formulate and implement modifications to the travel model to reduce penalties on cross harbor travel present in the “stock” model.
 - We will pick back up on completing the model evaluation and data sources memos once we have completed model troubleshooting and adjustments.
- Website – The website is up to date with uploading of meeting minutes, agendas, and reports/memos.
 - Schedule – The schedule has been amended based on delays associated with the travel demand modeling effort. **Late-June** is now our anticipated completion date for Phase 2.
 - Deliverables– The Consultant team is in the process of developing several memos:
 - The memos summarizing travel behavior data review and travel demand model evaluation will be pushed back to **late-May**
 - The Scenario Evaluation will be pushed back to **early-June**.

Phase 3 Update

- Task 1 – Engagement – Team has coordinated with Kendall Miller and HRTPO staff regarding parameters and content of a project Facebook page. It will be launched before the end of the month. A draft fact sheet and an FAQ sheet for the study are still under development but are close to being completed. The Virtual Public Meeting to explain the Scenario Planning aspect of the study has been delayed until Phase 2 has been completed and we have the results ready to present.
- Task 2 – Alternative Development – Cost estimates on the 5 segments carried over from the HRCS SEIS have been updated using current unit prices. A tech memo summarizing that effort should be distributed in draft form the week of **May 18**.
- Task 3 – Alternative Assessment – No progress to report.
- Task 4 – Scenario Planning – Continued FREEVAL and VISSIM analyses for existing conditions.
- Deliverables
 - Fact sheet and FAQ documents scheduled to be distributed the **week of May 18**
 - Draft cost estimates scheduled to be distributed **May 20**.
 - Draft summary of existing conditions analysis tentatively scheduled for **June 5**.