

# REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY

## Status Report

June 2, 2020

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### Phase 2 Update

- Scenario Planning Update
  - The scenario planning team has shared relevant model data and files with the TPO for them to become familiar with the land use modeling effort and methodology to date, as documented in the prior technical memoranda. The scenario team continues to work on the full documentation of the scenario planning process and has largely completed the land use modeling portion. Overall, this effort is “standing by” and awaiting the outcome of the assessment of differentiation between the scenarios when the travel demand modeling of the scenarios can be completed. That juncture will determine if the land use modeling is complete or will need to be re-run with a different amount of growth.
  - The scenario planning team has coordinated with the traffic team, RCS Project Coordinator, TPO staff, and the Port of Virginia to understand how greater growth in freight’s impacts on external truck trips should be modeled in the scenarios, with a focus on ensuring the base model’s internal-external truck trip data and functionality is suitable for the scenario planning. This will entail some additional research by EBP on freight flows and examination of the travel demand model to resolve, all of which is moving forward as quickly as possible.
- Travel Demand Model
  - Continue to troubleshoot travel demand model.
    - On 5/8 discovered travel model issues affecting mode choice estimation when MaaS modes are present. Issues have been resolved and have been communicated to 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 calculation of congested times and speeds when the model considers CAVs. We are continuing to correspond with VDOT and HRTPO on this issue.
  - Continuing to formulate and implement modifications to the travel model to reduce penalties on cross harbor travel present in the “stock” model.

- Once cross-harbor adjustments to the travel model are complete, will review findings with the Working Group and await their consensus on moving forward with analysis of the greater growth scenarios.
- 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. **Mid-July** is 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 **mid-June**.
  - The Scenario Evaluation will be pushed back to **mid-June**.

### **Phase 3 Update**

- Task 1 – Engagement – Facebook page launched week of May 22. 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 was distributed in draft form May 27, comments are due by **COB June 3**.
- 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 in **early June**.
  - Draft cost estimates distributed **May 27**.
  - Draft summary of existing conditions analysis tentatively scheduled for **June 12**.

## **Meetings**

- June 11 – Working Group virtual meeting. Details forthcoming, but the primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss the travel demand model adjustments that the Consultant team is recommending for use for the remainder of the study. The team is seeking guidance so that adjustments can be finalized before the team runs the model for the greater growth scenarios to determine if adequate distinction between the scenarios has been achieved.