

REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY

Status Report

May 1, 2020

Phase 2 Update

- Scenario Planning Update
 - The Team is developing a compendium of all the tech memos, with additional documentation of detailed methods, that will serve as a “user’s manual” for the scenario modeling set. When the modeling results are available, they will also be incorporated. Current efforts focus on the overall structure of the document and the land use modeling, as the travel demand and economic modeling efforts are still underway.
 - The team continues to use preliminary travel model results to set up performance graphics and test the TREDIS model, with associated quality control to identify and resolve any issues that arise.
- Travel Demand Model
 - In due course of speaking with VDOT on this past Thursday (4/23) to remedy the ZOV trip distribution issue which caused a gross overestimation of VMT, we discovered another model issue. This issue has to do with conventional Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) vehicles (rail sharing/hailing), and it causes an underestimation of VMT. We are in the process of correcting both issues.
 - 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 will keep us posted on developments.
 - Will proceed to re-run alternatives w/ and w/o technology when issues above have been resolved.
 - We will pick back up on completing the model evaluation and data sources memos once we have new data to allow initial analysis of the adequacy of current greater growth levels.
 - Continuing to formulate modifications to the travel model to reduce penalties on cross harbor travel present in the “stock” model.
- 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-May is now our anticipated completion date for Phase 2.

- Deliverables— The Consultant team is in the process of developing several memos:
 - The tech memo on Drivers, Spatial Assumptions, and Travel Parameters and associated comment tracker was finalized April 23. It has been uploaded to the website.
 - The memos summarizing travel behavior data review and travel demand model evaluation will be pushed back to mid-May
 - The tech memo on Scenario Evaluation will be pushed back to mid-May

Phase 3 Update

- Task 1 – Engagement – Team completed coordination with Kendall Miller at HRTPO about engagement details. Team working on launch of a project Facebook page. Potential sites for future pop-up meetings and the public meetings scheduled to be held in 2021 are still being investigated. A draft fact sheet and an FAQ sheet for the study is still under development. 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 – The tech memo on Summary of Mandated Preliminary Alternatives and associated comment tracker was finalized April 24. It has been uploaded to the website. Cost estimates on the 5 segments carried over from the HRCS SEIS have started to be updated using current unit prices.
- Task 3 – Alternative Assessment – No progress this week.
- Task 4 – Scenario Planning – Continued FREEVAL and VISSIM analyses for existing conditions.
- Deliverables
 - Draft cost estimates tentatively scheduled for May 15.
 - Draft summary of existing conditions analysis tentatively scheduled for June 5.