Project Status Report – May 2014

Progress on the South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP) is summarized in this, the fifth, Project Status Report. While work on the Plan started at the end of July, 2012 this report focuses on what the study team has been doing in the last few months from January, 2014 through May, 2014.

PUBLIC AND PARTNER PARTICIPATION
The South Carolina Multimodal Transportation Plan Project Website- www.scdot.org/multimodal.

In January, SCDOT hosted a second of a series of Stakeholder Webinars as part of the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan development. The webinars were designed to provide updates on the progress of the Multimodal Transportation Plan, as well as Public Transportation, Rail, Interstate, Strategic Corridor Network, and Freight plans and most importantly receive input and buy-in from stakeholders.

The webinars were interactive sessions that provided stakeholder's opportunities to provide comments on the draft 2040 Baseline Revenue Projections, draft Multimodal Needs, and draft Alternative Investment Scenario results, as well as tasks associated with the Public Transportation, Rail, Interstate, Strategic Corridor, and Freight plans. The information in each of the three webinars focused on the individual modal plans to enable modal-specific question and answer periods following the presentation. All webinars were open to the public, and participants were not limited to one session. There is a link to the webinars on the MTP website home page and can be viewed directly at: http://www.scdot.org/Multimodal/stakeholder_webinars.aspx

2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan
The draft 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan (MTP) is complete and is currently being reviewed by SCDOT and FHWA. The Plan includes the following chapters: Plan Development, Modal Inventory, Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics, Safety and Security, Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures, Modal Needs, Revenues, Alternative Investment Scenarios, and Recommendations. The 2040 MTP public comment period will be in August when SCDOT conduct public meetings throughout the State.

Multimodal Transportation Needs
Information has been compiled on the costs to maintain and implement required improvements to the state’s multimodal transportation system through the Plan’s horizon year of 2040, for highways/bridges, aviation, rail, ports, and public transportation, as well as bicycle and pedestrian modes.

Revenue Forecasts
As part of the MTP, baseline highway and transit revenue forecasts were developed to compare expected revenues with modal needs and identify the likely funding gap over the transportation planning horizon. A reasonable revenue forecast is also important for developing realistic, practical
investment strategies for South Carolina’s future. Over the 29 year planning horizon, $27.63 billion is expected to be available for multimodal transportation improvements in South Carolina.

**INTERSTATE PLAN**

The draft Interstate Plan is nearly complete and is currently being reviewed by SCDOT and FHWA. The Plan will be finalized after the statewide travel demand model results are completed. The Interstate Plan includes the following chapters: Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures, Intermodal Connectivity, Existing Conditions, Future Conditions, Interchange Rankings, and Recommendations. Once all comments have been received, the draft Strategic Corridor Network Plan will be completed and presented at the August public meetings.

**STRATEGIC CORRIDOR NETWORK PLAN**

Existing conditions along the Strategic Corridor Network was evaluated using vehicle probe data. The corridor congestion levels were measured by calculating the vehicle hours lost per mile along the entire network. The results provide a ranked list of the most congested corridor segments on the Strategic Corridor Network. The congested corridors results were presented to MPO and COG staff on May 19 and comments will be provided to SCDOT by May 30. Future conditions (2040) along the Strategic Corridor Network were evaluated using the statewide travel demand model results. Once all comments have been received, the draft Strategic Corridor Network Plan will be completed and presented at the August public meetings.

**PUBLIC TRANSIT AND COORDINATION PLAN**

The draft Statewide Transit and Coordination Plan is complete and is currently being reviewed by SCDOT and FHWA. The Statewide Transit and Coordination Plan include the following chapters: Existing Services, Regional Trends, Human Service Coordination Goals, Barriers, and Needs, Vision and Outreach, Performance Measures, Regional Transit Needs, Potential Funding Sources, and Financial Plan. The Statewide Transit and Coordination Plan will be presented at the August public meetings.

**FREIGHT PLAN**

In compliance with Section 118 of MAP-21, the South Carolina Statewide Freight Plan presents an inventory of the state’s freight infrastructure assets, including roadways, railroads, water ports, and airports. This includes both an inventory of assets as well as an overview of freight trends and future demands on the system. The Statewide Freight Plan also presents a “Strategic Freight Network” and related performance measures to guide future transportation planning as it relates to supporting current and future goods movement in the state. The draft Statewide Freight Plan is currently under review by SCDOT and FHWA and it will be presented at the August public meetings.

**RAIL PLAN**

The study team continued work on the preparation of a State Rail Plan consistent with the requirements of the 2008 Passenger and Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PR RIA), as well as guidelines for state rail plans issued by FRA. Preliminary guidelines were issued in August 2012, which
were finalized in September 2013. The draft State Rail Plan is currently under review by the SCDOT and FHWA and it will be presented at the August public meetings.

**STATEWIDE TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

The study team is in the process of developing a statewide travel demand model. This model incorporates Census 2010 land use data and TRANSEARCH commodity flow data to develop a generation model for both personal autos and commercial trucks for estimating forecast traffic demand on the state highway system for a forecast year of 2040. This model is being developed within the modeling environment of TransCAD modeling software and will be available for use in various transportation planning applications within SCDOT. This statewide model is being designed to work cooperatively with the economic analysis team of the SC MTP. This team is using travel demand model outputs as inputs to estimate the economic benefit of transportation improvements to the state highway system. Using the REMI economic model, the study team will prepare estimated benefits for a series of transportation system improvements in coming months and this work will support changes to the Act 114 project prioritization process.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

Some of the upcoming events related to the 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan include:

- July - SCDOT Commission Meeting. Present draft MTP to initiate public comment period.
- August – Seven public meetings are planned for August. Additional information on dates, times, and locations will be made available via the website and other media outlets as soon as details are finalized. Draft versions of the MTP and the five modal plans will be available for public comment. SCDOT will also use the public meetings in August to collect comments on the draft Strategic Highway Safety Plan.