



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Freight Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: June 15, 2015

Re: Proposed Approach for Technical Feedback

Beginning in FY2016, CMAP staff proposes to explore five main research questions relating to (1) the region's position in national and global supply chains, (2) the extent and use of the freight system, (3) the extent and locations of freight land uses, (4) locations of freight bottlenecks and other deficiencies and (5) freight operational issues. Together, this research will compose the Existing Conditions Analysis for the development of a regional freight plan. Work on many of these projects is already underway, and some of this work is being carried out as part of CMAP's research into the regional economy or ongoing Local Technical Assistance projects.

CMAP staff anticipates that much of the work for the Existing Conditions Analysis can be completed in-house using the agency's existing data resources and professional expertise. However, staff recognizes the need to supplement this work with technical feedback from freight industry stakeholders and transportation implementing agencies. The Freight Committee will continue to serve as the primary "point of contact" for the entire freight plan, with its members providing feedback on all components of the Existing Conditions Analysis.

Staff believes that other CMAP committees may be appropriate venues for technical discussions on certain freight-related topics. To supplement the Freight Committee's review, staff proposes the following:

- That the [Regional Transportation Operations Coalition](#) (RTOC) serve as the primary venue for technical feedback for freight bottlenecks and deficiencies research. RTOC meets about quarterly at CMAP to discuss operations-oriented improvements such as coordination of traffic signals. Its membership includes representatives from transportation operating agencies, and is familiar with transportation data resources and detailed technical analysis.

Agenda Item No. 7.0

- That the [Land Use Committee](#) provide feedback on the freight land use analysis, including a more detailed review of land-use trends and identification of potential subregions for follow-up analysis.
- That the [Economic Development Committee](#) provide feedback on research related to freight and the regional economy, including discussion of macroeconomic trends, supply chains, and issues facing the region's freight industry cluster.

As the research projects unfold, there will be additional opportunities for one-on-one outreach. Potential examples include local transportation implementing agencies (e.g., for the “bottlenecks and deficiencies” project), real estate developers (e.g., for the land use project), and business stakeholder groups (e.g., for the freight operational issues project). The Freight Committee's expertise will be helpful in identifying potential opportunities for outreach throughout the research process.