

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ITS Technical Task Force Meeting Minutes (DRAFT) December 10, 2001

The following are highlights from the meeting of the ITS Technical Task Force held on December 10, 2001 at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's main conference room. A list of attendees is attached.

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Individual Updates

Tom Fuca, New Jersey Department of Transportation, welcomed the Technical Task Force members and thanked them for coming. The minutes from the last meeting on October 5, 2001 were approved. The first item of business was the welcome and individual updates. Each person in attendance introduced themselves and added any relevant ITS updates from their agency. Some of the highlights included:

- ▶ John Ward, DVRPC, recognized several Technical Task Force Members for their outstanding attendance.
- ▶ SmartRoute has recently relocated its Traffic Operations Center to Bala Cynwyd, PA. Their web site is set to reach the 6,000,000 hit mark before the end of the year.
- ▶ The City of Philadelphia is evaluating the prospect of using cameras for police surveillance in Center City. The cameras would be used to monitor traffic during emergency situations.
- ▶ The University of Pittsburgh and Drexel University's Risk Management Program is to begin a consortium that will possibly establish center-to-center communications between Emergency Management groups. Their next meeting will be held on December 14th.
- ▶ The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission reported that EZ-Pass will be available for autos across the state by the end of the week.
- ▶ The SEPTA website now includes a rail system and station map. The map can be clicked to give station information, including parking information, zone limits, and ticketing options.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation, Cross County Connection TMA, and L3

Communications are evaluating a demonstration project on which they have installed five portable sensors, which monitor traffic speeds. There are two sensors located on I-676, one on I-76, and two on NJ 42. The system sends traffic alerts via pager / internet whenever there is a change in traffic conditions.

Agenda Item #2: Delaware Valley ITS Public Education Video

Maureen Hall, Hall Media Productions, presented a video, *The Information Highway Hits the Road*. Hall Media was hired by DVRPC to produce an ITS Public Education Video. The production of the video was funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration through the ITS Service Plan. The video highlights the increasing traffic congestion in the Delaware Valley and how Intelligent Transportation Systems can help alleviate future congestion. These ITS systems will monitor traffic with computers, closed circuit TV cameras, global positioning systems, and other technologies to detect incidents, reroute traffic, smooth the peak flows, and disseminate traffic updates to the public. The video recognizes the benefits of a fully integrated ITS program in the Delaware Valley. The video will be distributed to Technical Task Force members in the next few weeks.

Agenda Item #3: Digital Aerial Photography

Glen McNichol, DVRPC, gave a presentation on the new digital area photography available at DVRPC. The coverage of the new aerials includes DVRPC's nine county area, South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization's four county area, Ocean and Somerset Counties, and the Pottstown area of Berks County. The orthophotos are available at the 1"= 200' scale. The advantages of orthophoto verses an aerial are many. Orthophotos are corrected for image displacements, there is a uniform scale, and they can be used to measure distances. They can also be viewed in ArcView / ArcInfo and MrSID GeoViewer software applications. The new orthophotos can be purchased at DVRPC at discount prices for area municipalities or planning agencies.

Agenda Item #4: DRPA - Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Phase II

Marcy Feldman-Rost, DRPA, talked about the scope of the agency's Regional ITS Project. The first part of the Phase II plan is to contribute to the planning and design of a region wide area network for center to center communications. This includes coordination with regional transportation agencies to determine the location, size, and type of all existing and planned fiber systems. This information will then be compiled on to a map. The second part of Phase II is the deployment of a region-wide system of VMS units in coordination with the state DOT's. The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce will conduct studies to determine the optimal location of VMS units within the general locations identified by DRPA.

DRPA stressed that their project does not include design work, just determining the location of the field equipment. The project is also not part of the Regional ITS Architecture, it is just an inventory, and will be limited to the DRPA corridors. DRPA is looking at filling gaps in VMS and fiber optic coverage.

Agenda Item #5: PRIMIS- Next Steps

Stan Platt, DVRPC, gave an overview of the Scanning Tour to TRANSCOM and the George Washington Bridge. The TRANSCOM operation center coordinates more than thirty agencies over three states. The manual architecture is incident driven, and information is sent out via pagers and faxes. The regional architecture is condition driven, and is mapped via GIS. TRANSCOM also uses EZ-Pass information to generate travel speeds and shares video among operating agencies.

A discussion followed on what, if any, of TRANSCOM's functions the Technical Task Force would like to see implemented in this region. It was suggested that we should look at TRANSCOM's system for shortcuts and evaluate their 'lessons learned'. The sharing of data itself should be more important than video sharing. Current legislation should also be looked at for issues concerning EZ-Pass and Origin / Destination studies. Another issue raised was the funding of operating and maintaining a new system. DVRPC proposed forming a subcommittee to include both New Jersey and Pennsylvania DOT's, DRPA, Federal Highway, the City of Philadelphia, and other interested agencies to further develop the strategy for PRIMIS II.

Agenda Item #6: Other Business

The next meeting date is set for February 25, 2001 at the South Jersey's new Traffic Operations Center in Cherry Hill, NJ.

**ITS Technical Task Force Meeting
December 10, 2001**

Attendance List:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 1) | Fred Pourki | Philadelphia International Airport |
| 2) | Bob Hannigan | Penn DOT |
| 3) | Anthony Marino | South Jersey Transportation Authority |
| 4) | Bob Murphy | SmartTraveler/SmartRoute |
| 5) | Carol Ann Thomas | Burlington Co. Engineers Office |
| 6) | Sasha Harding | Burlington County Bridge Commission |
| 7) | Lt. Hugh Lynch | Philadelphia Highway Patrol |
| 8) | Shawn Jalosinski | City of Philadelphia- Streets Department |
| 9) | Richard Montanez | City of Philadelphia- Streets Department |
| 10) | Keith Sinclair | FHWA- New Jersey |
| 11) | Tom Fuca | New Jersey DOT |
| 12) | Josh Diamond | Greater Valley Forge TMA |
| 13) | Larry Wilson | Mayor's Office of Transportation, Philadelphia |
| 14) | Scott Perley | Mobility Technologies |
| 15) | John Bukowski | SEPTA |
| 16) | Ralph Menzano | SEPTA |
| 17) | Dan Faust | DRPA |
| 18) | Marci Feldman-Rost | DRPA |
| 19) | Bob Pento | Penn DOT |
| 20) | Richard Eng | NJ DOT Traffic Operations South |
| 21) | Daniel Abedon | FHWA |
| 22) | Kim Ferroni | Penn DOT |
| 23) | Dennis Star | Penn DOT |
| 24) | Karl Ziemer | Penn DOT- District 6 |
| 25) | William Ragozine | Cross County Connection TMA |
| 26) | Walt Green | Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission |
| 27) | Lou Cortelazzi | Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission |
| 28) | Brian Naylor | Pennsylvania State Police |
| 29) | Dr. Emin Aktan | Drexel University |
| 30) | Maureen Hall | Hall Media |
| 31) | Don Shanis | DVRPC |
| 32) | John Ward | DVRPC |
| 33) | Stan Platt | DVRPC |
| 34) | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 35) | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 36) | Glen McNichol | DVRPC |
| 37) | Stacy Bartels | DVRPC |
| 38) | Keith Hartington | DVRPC |