
Transportations Operations Task Force Meeting

Meeting Time: [Monday, May 24, 2010 at 9:30 AM](#)

Meeting Location: [DVRPC Main Conference Room](#)

Meeting Highlights:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Bill Ragozine, Cross County Connections TMA (CCCTMA) was introduced as the new Chair of Transportations Operations Task Force for the upcoming year. He welcomed members and thanked them for attending. Lou Belmonte, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) accepted the role of vice-chair. Former chair Lou Cortelazzi, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC), was thanked for all of his hard work and effort for the previous year.

2. **Two Minute Agency Reports**

Each person in attendance introduced themselves and added any relevant ITS updates from their agency. Some of the highlights include:

- ▶ **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission:** The application for tolling of I-80 was denied by the FHWA and at this point, no new action has taken place. The design of their new Traffic Operation Center (TOC) will be completed in the next three months, with construction expected to begin in January 2011. The PA State Police Troop T will be collocated in the TOC and two PennDOT representatives will be collocated in the center and will act as a liaison between PennDOT and the PTC.

- ▶ **Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA):** The DRPA Board has approved a \$ 139 million deck refurbishment for the Walt Whitman Bridge. The re-decking project includes the removal of the suspended span, installation of a new lightweight concrete filled jointless grid deck, structural improvements, new parapets and a new steel shell movable barrier. Preliminary work will begin in August and the project should be completed by the end of the summer of 2014.

- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): NJDOT has begun the I-295 pavement repair and rubblization project located in Burlington County from milepost 44.9 to milepost 56.8. The project includes reconstruction of I-295 northbound and southbound. The work includes rubblizing and overlaying of the existing concrete pavement and reconstructing the asphalt shoulders. For the next month, there may be intermittent lane closures due to shoulder work. On June 18th, the northbound lanes will be closed for a 59 day period with northbound traffic being shifted to the southbound side of the roadway. Two lanes in each direction will be kept open. Once the northbound lanes have been reconstructed, the traffic patterns will be reversed with construction taking place on the southbound lanes. It is anticipated that the construction project will be completed by the end of 2010.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): ITS deployment projects are occurring along the length of I-95. Ramp metering has been implemented along I-476 with all ramp meters in Delaware County being turned on.

PennDOT has also asked DVRPC to conduct a Road Safety and Operations Audit along I-95 in Delaware County. The purpose of the audit is to examine the safety and operational issues in the corridor and develop improvement recommendations.

3. Philadelphia Traffic Operations Center Concept of Operations

Stan Platt, DVRPC, gave a presentation on Philadelphia Traffic Operations Center (TOC) Concept of Operations. Currently, Philadelphia owns and operates 2,924 traffic signals which is the third largest municipal signal system in the country. However, only 235 signals are on central software with most signals generally operating as fixed time signals, where timings do not vary to reflect changing traffic conditions. In a comparison of the ten largest cities in the country, only Philadelphia does not have a TOC.

As part of the reconstruction of I-95 in Philadelphia, PennDOT is constructing signal improvements and traffic surveillance systems on parallel arterials to handle a surge in traffic. To operate these signals, PennDOT is purchasing new traffic signal system software (KITS) for the City. By spring 2011, an interim TOC will be co-located with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), constructed as part of the redesign of OEM's operations center. As this effort moves forward, the City of Philadelphia asked DVRPC to conduct a Concept of Operations to highlight TOC goals, features, physical attributes, costs, and to identify issues requiring resolution. The steering committee identified the following goals for the TOC:

- ▶ Provide capability to actively manage traffic signal
- ▶ Provide situational information about the City's arterial system
- ▶ Enhance incident management capability
- ▶ Promote corridor management
- ▶ Improve interagency coordination

It is anticipated that the new center will operate 16 hours a day, 5 days week with after hour support from PennDOT. Some of the operational features of the new center

include, remote traffic signal control, greater use of time of day signal timing plans, traffic signal timing plan database, the ability to monitor arterials with CCTV cameras and incident detection and verification capabilities.

4. Traveler Information Website Updates

Jim Hadden, NJDOT, gave an update on NJDOT's 511 Program (www.511nj.org) and the redesign of the website. The new design will include more user friendly applications that allow users to customize the web page with information that is most relevant to the user. The website will include the use of widgets which will display traffic cameras, construction zone information and travel speeds. These widgets are downloadable and able to be used on other websites. NJDOT has also entered into an agreement with TrafficLand to have all their CCTV camera feeds provide streaming video on their website.

Bill Ragozine, CCCTMA, described a new feature on their website (www.driveless.com) that provides enhanced traveler information about the new traffic patterns at the Marlton Circle. The Marlton Circle Elimination Project recently changed traffic patterns on NJ70 and NJ 73; as a consequence there was an increase in accidents. On the CCTMA website, each new turning movement route through the intersection is mapped and contains video, photos and set of written directions describing each movement in detail to minimize driver confusion

5. Regional Fiber Communication Inventory; Rick Murphy, DVRPC

Rick Murphy, DVRPC gave a presentation on a regional effort to inventory agency fiber communication assets. Currently, many agencies are installing fiber throughout the region; however, there is little inter-agency coordination. The purpose of this effort is to locate and map the agency fiber. Combining the data into a single database will promote a more coordinated effort and facilitate communication among the agencies allowing them to share traffic information and CCTV images. Maps of fiber location data for the PennDOT, NJDOT, SEPTA, PA Turnpike and the City of Philadelphia were presented. The next steps are to acquire any missing data, identify possible locations for connections, determine procedures for inter-agency connection, and develop procedures to continually maintain the data as new fiber is installed throughout the region.

6. New Business

▶ RIMIS Update

Chris King, DVRPC provided an update on the Regional Information Multimodal Information Systems (RIMIS) project. A contract was signed with TRANSCOM in January and recently completed activities include purchasing and installing hardware and software, and developing the RIMIS database. Staff is conducting acceptance testing and initial agency specific configuration. It is anticipated that the RIMIS software will be operational July 2010. Next steps include building a data interface with PennDOT's Road Conditions Reporting System (RCRS).

▶ **Next Meeting Tentative Agenda Items**

- NJDOT Emergency Service Patrol Study
- I-95 Delaware County Road Safety and Operations Audit
- Philadelphia Sports Complex Traffic Study

▶ **Next Meeting Dates**

- **September 20, 2010** - The next meeting will begin at new start time of **10 AM** and Lunch will be provided immediately following the meeting.
 - **December 6, 2010**
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MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1) | Richard Brahler | Bucks County Planning Commission |
| 2) | Mathew Anderson | Chester County Planning Commission |
| 3) | William Ragozine | Cross County Connections TMA |
| 4) | Karl Ziemer | Delaware River Port Authority |
| 5) | Jim Miller | Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey |
| 6) | Ek Phomsavath | Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey |
| 7) | Carmine Fiscina | Federal Highway Administration – Philadelphia Office |
| 8) | Wes Ratko | Montgomery County Planning Commission |
| 9) | Jim Hadden | NJDOT |
| 10) | Lou Belmonte | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 11) | Pete Sisifo | PennDOT District - 6.0 – Philadelphia Maintenance |
| 12) | Lou Cortelazzi | Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission |
| 13) | Don Steele | Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission |
| 14) | Rich Montanez | Philadelphia Streets Department |
| 15) | Steve Jesiolowski | SEPTA |
| 16) | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 17) | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |
| 18) | Rick Murphy | DVRPC |
| 19) | Zoe Neaderland | DVRPC |
| 20) | Stan Platt | DVRPC |
| 21) | John Ward | DVRPC |
| 22) | Matt West | DVRPC |

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