

## **TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE** **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**February 28, 2011**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Bill Ragozine, Cross County Connection TMA (CCCTMA) welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

### **2. Two Minute Agency Reports**

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

- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): The I-95 ITS projects are progressing forward. PennDOT has just issued a new contract for the Philadelphia Emergency Service Patrol vehicles, which is the same services and contractor as before; however, there are new trucks.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): The I-476 Northeast Extension widening project is about to begin construction in March. The improvements are focused on the southernmost stretch of the Northeastern Extension, I-476, in Montgomery County, just north of the Mid-County Interchange from Mileposts 320-326. Work on this reconstruction and six-lane widening project is expected to last nearly three years until its anticipated completion in late 2013.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): NJDOT has restructured and renamed their Emergency Service Patrol program to Safety Service Patrol (SSP). The SSP has cut back on the total coverage area, but will now offer assist to motorists every day of the week throughout the program's coverage area. Expanded weekend service is being achieved in part by pulling back SSP coverage from relatively low-traffic, and low-accident areas. Safety Service Patrol trucks and crews will now operate along 225 center-lane miles of New Jersey's core commuter and high traffic-volume roadways.

Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA): The DRPA has completed much of the preliminary work for the Walt Whitman re-decking project. During the first week of March, it is anticipated that there will be periods of full bridge closures in overnight hours to remove signs from gantries. For more information on the project, please visit [www.DeckTheWalt.com](http://www.DeckTheWalt.com).

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### **3. Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction**

David Liebgold, Chief of Transportation for the NJ Meadowlands Commission, began by describing the differences between responsive signal control (numerous pre-designed timing plans) and adaptive control system (optimized timing plans via software for real-time conditions). The latter has been chosen for a new multi-agency/municipality traffic signal system (<http://masstr.com/>); however the exact system manufacturer/vendor has yet to be selected. This will be accomplished via a RFQ/RFP, which was greatly shaped by a comprehensive literature review of many of the available systems (including but not limited to: ACS-Lite, InSync, OPAC, SCAT, and SCOUTS). One interesting aspect of the desired system will be a wireless “mesh topology” communication system, which provides a very redundant and robust inter-signal means of communication, negating the need for burying cables. This system allows communication between signals of up to 2 miles apart, though the occasional use of 100' tall ITS poles will be necessary. The objective of the project is to efficiently reduce congestion, delays, fuel consumption, and emissions using a cost-effective technology as an alternative to roadway widening and other expensive infrastructure options.

### **4. CMP & Archived Operations Data**

Zoe Neaderland, DVRPC, gave a brief presentation on DVRPCs Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the use of operations data. The CMP is used to define congested corridors and recommend a range of strategies to minimize congestion and enhance the mobility of people and goods. While traffic operations centers and departments of transportation use operations data (traffic volume, traffic speed, and travel times) for the day-to-day management of roadway conditions, archived operations data can be used for various planning purposes as well. Several offices within DVRPC as well as organizations from around the region are interested in the possibility of collecting and analyzing archived traffic operations data for the purposes of transportation planning, congestion management, and performance measurement tracking.

DVRPC is beginning to examine the use of data from PennDOT's Dynac system and INRIX for such purposes. Recently, DVRPC collected and analyzed traffic speed data from INRIX, Inc. DVRPC's access to this data is provided through the I-95 Corridor Coalition's Vehicle Probe Project. The traffic speed data available from INRIX covers almost all freeways and a number of major arterials across the region, making it equally applicable to both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. INRIX data is based on TMC segments which do not line up with GIS center line mapping. Data for weekdays in 2009 from 5-6 PM was collected in 15-minute intervals. The data was brought together with posted speed data to determine segments where average operation speed was less than 70% of posted speed.

Maps were presented displaying this data. DVRPC's next steps would be to expand use of INRIX data and measures, and further automate analysis procedures.

## 5. FHWA Planning for Operations Workshop

### Re-Cap of Workshop

Stan Platt, DVRPC, gave a recap on the FHWA Planning for Operations Workshop held on January 14, 2011. The workshop examined how the region may improve the effectiveness of the region's transportation management and operations activities. Workshop participants took part in a regional self-evaluation method that focused on programs, processes, and organizational and collaboration issues. Although individual agencies are at varying levels, regional areas needing improvement were identified for performance management, organization/staffing and resource allocation to systems operation and management. The most critical operational priority identified by the workshop was municipal operations of traffic signals in Pennsylvania.

### PA Traffic Signal Workshop

Matt West, DVRPC, gave a presentation about an upcoming PA Traffic Signal Workshop that is being put together to explore alternative mechanisms to operate and maintain traffic signals. In southeastern Pennsylvania, there are over 6,000 traffic signals. Although, at one time there may have been advantages for municipal signal operations management, with current technology and the stress on regional operations, this no longer holds true. It often presents limitations in the varying levels of signal management, maintenance, and inter-municipal coordination, poorly timed traffic signals, and limited ability to respond to unplanned events.

With the objective of maintaining the existing ownership structure, the workshop aims to initiate dialogue with regional stakeholders to explore the pros and cons of the current process. Examples from other regions in the U.S. on how to operate and maintain traffic signals will be explored to determine whether or not there is a consensus among stakeholders to pursue the development of similar programs for this region. The date and logistics of the workshop have yet to be determined.

## 6. Action Item

### **ITS Regional Architecture**

Chris King, DVRPC, presented the Regional *ITS Architecture for the Delaware Valley Version 2.0* for adoption. The TOTF is comprised of technical staff representatives from over 35 regional stakeholders, and it has been duly designated as the appropriate entity to oversee updates to the architecture with DVRPC maintaining the architecture.

**MOTION** by Stan Platt, seconded by Matthew Anderson to formally adopt the updated version of *Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Architecture for the Delaware Valley, Version 2.0*

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

## 7. Status Updates

### **Regional Traffic Incident Management Conference**

Laurie Matkowski, DVRPC, stated that Transportation Operations Management Unit is hosting a Regional Traffic Incident Management Conference to be held on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

This regional conference will be geared to our incident management task force participants/emergency responders such as police, fire, emergency medical services, DOT, towing, and any other key personnel responsible for other aspects of responding to or managing incidents or emergencies on freeways and surface streets. The purpose of the conference is to promote the need for cooperation and a unified incident command structure so that responders can perform their jobs efficiently, and more importantly, safely. Responder safety and safe, quick clearance incident management tactics at incidents will be emphasis areas of the conference and be presented by national experts on incident management.

### **RIMIS**

Stan Platt, DVRPC, provided an update on the Regional Information Multimodal Information Systems (RIMIS) project. RIMIS officially became operational on July 1st and currently receives all New Jersey incident data. RIMIS has been installed at the PennDOT 6-0 TMC and at the Burlington County Traffic Operation Center where it is currently being used. Construction of a data interface to PennDOT's

Road Condition Reporting System (RCRS) will begin once a formal data sharing agreement between PennDOT and DVRPC has been completed. DVRPC anticipates to sign the agreement in March, PennDOT to follow suit in April with the data interface constructed by June. Once this PennDOT connection is made, RIMIS will be rolled out to other agencies in Pennsylvania.

**8. New Business**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- ▶ Monday, May 23, 2011
- ▶ Monday, September 26, 2011
- ▶ Monday, December 5, 2011

Meetings start at 10 A.M - Lunch will be provided immediately following the meetings.

## **MEETING ATTENDEES:**

Richard Brahler	Bucks County Planning Commission
Mathew Anderson	Chester County Planning Commission
William Ragozine	Cross County Connections TMA
Karl Ziemer	Delaware River Port Authority
Carmine Fiscina	Federal Highway Administration – Philadelphia Office
Ryan Jeroski	GVFTMA
Wes Ratko	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Vinne Cortese	New Jersey Department of Transportation
David Liebgold	NJ Meadowlands Commission
Solomon Caviness	North Jersey Transportation Planning Agency
Manny Anastasiadis	PennDOT District - 6.0
Lou Belmonte	PennDOT District - 6.0
Ed Burns	PennDOT District - 6
Lou Cortelazzi	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Dorenn Dean	Philadelphia Police Department
Rich Montanez	Philadelphia Streets Department
Patricia Ott	Rutgers CAIT
Jenn Oskowitz	Temple University Grad Student
Da Fei	Temple University Grad Student
Walter Kraft	TRB Committee - RTSMO
Chris King	DVRPC
Laurie Matkowski	DVRPC
Rick Murphy	DVRPC
Zoe Neaderland	DVRPC
Stan Platt	DVRPC
Matt West	DVRPC
John Ward	DVRPC

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