

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 5, 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.

- ▶ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC): I-95 CH2MHill overview effort, I-95/I-476 interchange study, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) have raised the concept of hard shoulder running. There are a number of issues associated with this innovative concept. To address them, DVRPC will work with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to either schedule a tour of I-66 in Virginia, and/or hold a regional hard shoulder workshop in the region.

- ▶ FHWA: Congress has passed a continuing resolution which extends existing funding levels through March 31, 2012.

- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): The ITS contract for US 202 Parkway in Montgomery and Bucks County was awarded and is in the early stages of design/build. The design process includes ITS devices and travel time information on select arterials in the corridor.

As part of PennDOT's I-95 Corridor Program, CH2MHill has been tasked to study the entire 50 mile stretch of I-95. As part of this effort, a Transportation Operations Innovative Strategies Group is looking at developing various techniques such as Active Traffic Management, variable speed limits, and hard shoulder running, and incorporating them into current projects already under design.

- ▶ NJDOT: The advanced ITS contract for the I-295 Direct Connect project will be issued this spring and will include additional closed television circuit cameras, dynamic message signs, travel time readers along the corridor (I-295, I-76, I-676, NJ 42), and adaptive traffic signals on US 130 and NJ 168.

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3. FHWA Section 1201 Real-Time System Management Information Program

Jay Sengoz, PennDOT, gave a presentation on PennDOT's Real-Time System Management Information Program. A final rule was published on November 8, 2010, (23 CFR Part 511) that establishes a real-time system management information program pursuant to Section 1201 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act. The program should include the capability to monitor in real-time the traffic and travel conditions across the U.S. The program is to be established on all Interstate routes within four years by November 8, 2014 and on other Routes of Regional Significance, as identified by state and local agencies within 6 years by November 8, 2016.

PennDOT is currently reaching out to stakeholders in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to identify the Routes of Regional Significance. Information to be collected and disseminated along identified roadways includes construction activity, roadway / lane blocking incidents or events, adverse roadway weather conditions and travel times. An initial list of routes was developed. At the meeting, PennDOT solicited input from local stakeholders prior to conducting a gap analysis of data needed.

4. ITS Implementation Report Card

Matt West, DVRPC, gave a report on an effort DVRPC is undertaking to develop an ITS Implementation Report Card. The goal is to assess the coverage of all the ITS devices that the region has implemented over the years and establish a benchmark to compare with the Transportation Operations Master Plan vision. Once this benchmark has been established, the process can be performed on an annual basis. This effort is not intended to be a performance measure exercise, but rather a guide to judge the coverage of the region's ITS Program. Ongoing efforts include updating the ITS equipment database, performing variable message signs, incident detection, and traffic sensor analyses.

5. Ideas for Future TOTF Meetings

Stan Platt, DVRPC, indicated that DVRPC is seeking ideas for future topics for next year's TOTF Meetings. One suggestion was to dedicate each meeting to a single topic such as traveler information, transit, construction coordination, or Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII). Another idea is to host the meeting at an alternate site in conjunction with a tour of a facility such as a traffic operation center, maintenance yard or freight facility. Another possibility is to include more outside presentations from consultants, college community, FHWA subject experts, or project engineers.

6. **RIMIS**

Chris King, DVPC, provided an update on the Regional Integrated Multimodal Information Systems (RIMIS) project. Roll out of the system continues with it now being installed and operated at many new agencies including Camden and Gloucester County, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties 9-1-1. Several more fire departments are using the system such as Cherry Hill and Lower Merion Fire Department's which have installed the program in their command vehicles.

Laurie Matkowski, DVRPC, discussed an effort to formally establish a RIMIS Participation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This Memorandum is not intended to and does not create any contractual rights or obligations between the signatories. It just provides basic guidelines and responsibilities for those agencies utilizing RIMIS. More discussions on this topic will be forthcoming at future TOTF meetings.

7. **Status Updates**

- ▶ DVRPC Transportation Operations/ITS Work Program: Next year's DVRPC work program includes establishing incident management task forces in Bucks and Mercer counties, working with PennDOT to implement a traffic signal study, continuation of the flood area detour routing project, and technical assistance projects such as I-295 Direct Connect Project traffic monitoring program, and innovative towing incentive program (NJ). The financial element of the Transportation Operations Master Plan will be updated as part of DVRPC's 2040 long range plan update.
- ▶ FHWA Incident Management Workshop Recap: On November 2, 2011, the FHWA Office of Operations conducted an Advanced Traffic Incident Management (TIM) workshop in Philadelphia. The goal of the workshop was to further develop and enhance the overall TIM Program in each metro area and capture "smart practices," innovative strategies and effective policies or practices that can be used to strengthen TIM Programs at all levels nationally. Target participants included mid-level managers from all responder disciplines. FHWA will produce a summary of the results of the meeting and these will be presented at a future TOTF meeting.

8. New Business

2012 Meeting Dates

- ▶ Monday, March 12, 2012
- ▶ Monday, June 11, 2012
- ▶ Monday, September 24, 2012
- ▶ Monday, December 3, 2012

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Richard Brahler	Bucks County Planning Commission
William Ragozine	CCCTMA
Carmine Fiscina	FHWA – Philadelphia Office
Ek Phomarasth	FHWA – New Jersey Office
Mark Smith	NJDOT
Mike Abline	New Jersey State Police
Manny Anastasiadis	PennDOT District - 6.0
Lou Belmonte	PennDOT District - 6.0
Jay Sengoz	PennDOT District - 6.0
Don Steele	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Rich Montanez	Philadelphia Streets Department
Kristin DelRossi	Philadelphia Streets Department
Chris King	DVRPC
Laurie Matkowski	DVRPC
Stan Platt	DVRPC
Matt West	DVRPC
Erin McCann	DVRPC
John Ward	DVRPC
Mike Boyer	DVRPC
Brett Fusco	DVRPC

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