

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

June 17, 2013

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lou Belmonte, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), 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 will be bidding for three additional Emergency Service Patrol routes operating in the AM and PM peak periods along the US 30 Bypass, US 422, and PA 309.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): The PTC is continuing to work on a statewide CCTV project to install cameras at each of their interchanges. Another project that is moving forward involves developing a video sharing policy between PTC and PennDOT.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): NJDOT is currently preparing for a contraflow plan drill to be conducted via radio with the NJ State Police. The Advanced ITS Contract related to the I-295 Direct Connect Project is on track as planned. Travel times were deployed along shore routes as of Memorial Day.
- ▶ Villanova University: Seri Park, Assistant Professor at Villanova, gave an update on their research efforts with DVRPC's Office of Transportation Operations Management and Office of Transportation Safety & Congestion Management. A paper she is writing for TRB's 7th International Symposium of Visualization in Transportation was accepted and focuses on identification of congestion factors for the I-95 Corridor in Delaware County.

3. Active Traffic Management Overview

Torsten Lienau from CH2M HILL provided an overview of the Active Traffic Management (ATM) strategies that are being recommended along I-95 with a goal to improve traffic operations. Various proposed ATM strategies were discussed including Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs, Dynamic Lane Assignment (DLA), Hard Shoulder Running (HSR), and Interchange Junction Control. This project now includes I-76 to Route 1, and the Vine Street Expressway.

One video was presented to illustrate the effectiveness of ATM strategies in Washington State, and can be view via the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd0doR0Ga-I> . Another video was shown to virtually depict driving along I-95 with proposed ATM infrastructure implemented.

ATM prioritized locations, preliminary costs, as well as other considerations and issues were presented. Benefits include increases in average throughput, overall capacity, and average speed; and decreases in primary and secondary incidents, fuel consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and driver acceptance. It was noted that a survey of travelers in Washington with respect to ATM strategies implemented, 93% understand it, 84% feel comfortable with it, and 60% want more of it.

Discussion included enforcement of VSL and safety implications. It is believed that Washington State generally noted a reduction in severity of collisions between 20 and 30%. All agreed that ATM strategies offered multiple safety measures, including a reduction in secondary crashes which is often difficult to quantify. It was agreed that enforcement of VSL should be an important aspect of the project, and unclear whether automated enforcement would be possible to implement.

4. PennDOT/SEPTA “Real Time Parking Availability” Coordination

This agenda item included a discussion on how PennDOT and SEPTA can share fiber and potentially provide real time train data and parking space availability at the Cornwells Heights Station to motorists along I-95 during rush hours via ITS devices.

It was determined that future discussions related to providing real time SEPTA train data should include AMTRAK, since they own railway around the station. A future meeting between SEPTA, AMTRAK, PennDOT, and DVRPC will likely be planned for September.

Discussion also included plans to connect PennDOT, SEPTA, and the City of Philadelphia together for the forthcoming Philadelphia Traffic Operations Center.

5. Status Updates

- ▶ Delaware Valley Traffic Operations Center Operator’s Meeting: DVRPC is organizing various traffic operations center staff from PennDOT, Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), NJDOT, and multiple bridge authorities from the Delaware Memorial Bridge to New York City. A meeting was conducted at DelDOT’s Traffic Management Center on May 14th. Bridge closure protocols were the focus of the meeting, as well as a tour of the facilities and demonstration of their core management software. The next meeting will be a joint effort with the I-95 Corridor Coalition’s Delaware Valley Highway Operations Group (DVHOGs).

- ▶ RIMIS: DVRPC continues to install RIMIS at local police and fire houses. Recently, RIMIS was installed in the joint operations center for the US Open Golf Championship in order to view PennDOT's CCTV cameras and monitor shuttles carrying spectators to and from remote parking locations. Also, RIMIS was used to proactively monitor a motorcycle run in South Jersey to view NJDOT and Burlington County CCTV cameras, which allowed the police escort team to keep track of where all participants were at all times.
- ▶ IDRuM: A survey was conducted by DVRPC to assess current use and future functionality needs. Respondents indicated a desire to use the application on a mobile device. Initial research and discussion on the next steps for possible migration of IDRuM to a mobile ready application is underway.
- ▶ Incident Management: Incident Management Task Forces (IMTF's) continue to meet quarterly. The Chester County and the Burlington County IMTF's are currently working on developing policy and procedures guidelines for safe operation of incident responders on the highway. Recently, DVRPC coordinated with the FHWA to bring the National TIM Train-the-Trainer Course to the region on May 21st and 22nd at the City of Philadelphia's Fire Department Training Academy. Two nationally recognized trainers guided over 60 regional incident responders with interactive seminars, case study analyses, tabletop scenarios, and a field practicum.

4. New Business

- ▶ NJDOT requested PTC's Dynamic Message Sign Standards to be shared.
- ▶ There is an USDOT's ITS Procurement Workshop on August 12th as part of ITSPA's Annual Meeting. This year's 10th Anniversary Meeting will be in Harrisburg on August 12th and 13th, and will have technical sessions focusing on All Electronic Tolling and Managed Lanes, and Connected Vehicles. Go to www.itspennsylvania.com for more information.
- ▶ The 2013 ITS New Jersey Technical Meeting will be held on June 26th from 8:30 to 4:30 at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, and will focus on ITS and the Auto Industry. Go to www.itsnj.org for more information.
- ▶ Next Meeting Dates:
 - Monday, September 16th, 2013 at DVRPC
 - Monday, December 9th, 2013 at DVRPC

MEETING ATTENDEES:

1. Torsten Lienau CH2M HILL
2. Kyle Guie GVFTMA
3. Megan Peppard Jacobs
4. Wes Ratko Montgomery County Planning Commission
5. Will Day NJDOT
6. Sal Cowan NJDOT
7. Neha Galgali NJDOT
8. Simon Nwachukwu NJDOT
9. Susan Winter NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness
10. Lou Cortelazzi PA Turnpike Commission
11. Amber Reimnitz PA Turnpike Commission
12. Manny Anastasiadis PennDOT District - 6.0
13. Lou Belmonte PennDOT District - 6.0
14. Elaine Elbich PennDOT District - 6.0
15. Paul Shultes PennDOT/AECOM
16. Doreen Dean Philadelphia Police Department
17. Rich Montanez Philadelphia Streets Department
18. Kristin Del Rossi Philadelphia Streets Department
19. Bill O'Brien SEPTA
20. John M. Power SEPTA
21. William Valentin SEPTA
22. Brandon Shaw TMA Bucks
23. Seri Park Villanova University
24. Laurie Matkowski DVRPC
25. Matt West DVRPC
26. John Ward DVRPC
27. Jesse Buerke DVRPC
28. Zoe Neaderland DVRPC

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