

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 19, 2015

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:

- ▶ PennDOT: As part of the Girard I-95 Construction project, Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) along the corridor will be replaced by the end of the year. PennDOT is also just beginning a new project to study the potential use of Advanced Traffic Management (ATM) strategies along I-76.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): The PTC is conducting a Transportation Systems Management Operations Capability Maturity Model Workshop sponsored by the FHWA towards the end of October. They also signed an agreement with WAZE to receive traffic alerts into their statewide TOC.
- ▶ Philadelphia Streets Department: The Philadelphia Traffic Operation Center was recently completed and is now active. It will receive live video feeds from traffic and surveillance cameras operated by the Streets and Police Departments, SEPTA, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. Traffic engineers will be able to remotely change traffic signals in real time.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): The Traffic Signal System Optimization Plan was recently completed. Each of the 2,500+ NJDOT traffic signals have been evaluated at a planning level and recommendations were presented for optimal traffic signal control tiers.
- ▶ New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA): The NJTA is moving to the former Hess Building in Woodbridge, NJ. It allows the Turnpike Authority to have all of its administrative offices under one roof for the first time since the NJTA and the Garden State Parkway were consolidated. A back-up Traffic Operation Center will also be located in this building.

3. PAPAL VISIT 2015 – Forum Discussion

An informal discussion took place to recap the events leading up to and during the recent Papal Visit. Due to all the efforts of the agencies and many planning meetings in the months prior to the event, everything went as expected or better. All closures took place without any real issues and were able to be opened on the following Monday quicker than anticipated. The amount of pre-staged equipment helped in the recovery of the network.

Most agencies reported that their overall traffic actually decreased as compared to same time last year. Motorists may have decided to eliminate trips and stay home or possibly left town for the weekend.

The agencies used RITIS Meeting during the weekend to hold regular status meetings. It is a collaborative web-based meeting tool for member agency to use in planning for and coordinating activities and events. It was the first time it was used in the region and had positive reviews.

Overall, everyone worked great together and the relationships established during the planning of this event will provide benefits for years to come.

4. Using Archived Operations Data

Jesse Buerk, DVRPC, presented information about using archived speed and travel time data for planning. The operational data is from the I-95 Corridor Coalition's Vehicle Probe Project (VPP). The I-95 Corridor Coalition collects real-time speed and travel time data along I-95 and other roadways across several states.

Jesse presented a series of graphics that showed for I-95, within the construction zone, how the average speeds have generally decreased during the a.m. and p.m. peak periods. The reduction in speed relates to an increase in travel times along I-95.

Jesse also used the VPP data to analyze the impacts of the Amtrak Derailment in Philadelphia along I-95 in May 2015. Due to accident investigation, tracks were closed, affecting Amtrak as well as SEPTA's Trenton Line that were shut down. As a result of SEPTA's Trenton Line being shut down, peak transit trips had to be shifted each day. The data also showed that there was a significant a.m. peak travel time increase on I-95 for that Wednesday and Thursday, as a likely result that many Trenton Line riders ended up driving.

5. **New Business**

▶ Winter Operations

A brief discussion on upcoming winter operations was discussed. As expected, most are hoping for a lighter winter than in years past. PennDOT, NJDOT, NJTA and the City of Philadelphia have all increased their salt storage capacity for the upcoming year.

▶ Next Meeting Date: Monday, December 7th, 2015 at DVRPC.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1. | Patick Reilly | Burlington Co. Bridge Commission Police |
| 2. | Matthew Zochowski | Camden County Planning |
| 3. | William Ragozine | CCCTMA |
| 4. | Bill Deguffery | Chester County Planning Commission |
| 5. | Corporal William Kephart | DRPA Police Department |
| 6. | Dennis Caltigerone | NJDOT |
| 7. | Sal Cowan | NJDOT |
| 8. | Mike Moran | NJDOT |
| 9. | Chip Eibel | New Jersey Turnpike |
| 10. | Tony Sivo | PA State Police |
| 11. | Mike Pack | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 12. | Lou Belmonte | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 13. | Manny Anastasiadis | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 14. | Ted Mueller | Philadelphia Fire Department |
| 15. | Rich Montanez | Philadelphia Streets Dept. |
| 16. | Kristin DelRossi | Philadelphia Streets Dept. |
| 17. | Steve Noll | TMA Bucks |
| 18. | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |
| 19. | Matt West | DVRPC |
| 20. | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 21. | Paul Carafides | DVRPC |
| 22. | Jesse Buerk | DVRPC |

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