

## Transportations Operations Task Force Meeting

**Meeting Time:** Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 10:00 AM

**Meeting Location:** DVRPC Main Conference Room

**Meeting Highlights:**

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chris King, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

### 2. Two Minute Agency Reports

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

- ▶ Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): PennTIME, the statewide initiative for a coordinated traffic incident management (TIM) approach, is continuing to progress. In addition, PennSTAR, a region wide test track for emergency responders and connected vehicles, is nearing the design phase. An e-learning version of SHRP2 will launch in August, with beta testing taking place this summer; this will provide continuing education credits across a number of professions.
- ▶ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC): On May 16<sup>th</sup>, DVRPC hosted a region wide TIM conference at Citizens Bank Ball Park, welcoming nearly 200 first responders and transportation official to the event. ITS Pennsylvania's Annual Conference will take place in Pittsburgh, September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): The Pulaski Skyway to the Holland Tunnel will reopen shortly. A bridge project on I-495 is about to begin, and will affect traffic trying to reach the Lincoln Tunnel. The Scudder Falls Bridge project has required detours NJDOT did not anticipate, but they are managing them as needed. The Direct Connect project is currently in Phases 2 and 3.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), District 6-0: A Safety Service Patrol Vehicle on US 1 in Bucks County will begin on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The integrated corridor management (ICM) will soon be advertised for a consultant. New CCTVs are to be added along US 422 near Pottstown.
- ▶ WSP: ITS New Jersey's Annual Conference will take place on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Plainsboro. ITSNJ recently held a Traffic Signals Committee Technical Forum meeting at NJDOT in Trenton.

### **3. PennDOT/Jacobs: I-76 Integrated Corridor Management Project**

Jay Roth, Jacobs, provided an overview of the multifaceted project, which will be implemented over many years and in multiple stages. Because of the physical limitations and financial realities, the ICM project looks to work within the existing footprint to provide congestion relief for a roadway well over capacity.

The first stage will consist of Variable Speed Limits (VSL) and Queue Warning (QW) along the entire 13 mile stretch, from US 1 to the PA Turnpike. Construction will begin this month, with both day and nighttime work. The physical work will be complete Spring, 2019 and the system will be operational June, 2019. The nine DMS and 72 VSL signs will be enforceable, though the specifics are still being worked out with the Pennsylvania State Police. The speeds will primarily be determined by a control algorithm, though it can be manually overridden.

The second phase will include the creation of Flex Lane Use from the Turnpike to the Blue Route and Belmont to US 1. The project details are still being determined, including if the flex lane will be on the right-hand or left-hand side, exact locations of pull-offs and access points, and widths of shoulders along the corridor. Models have indicated that not only will travel times be reduced, but the overall number of crashes will be reduced slightly.

Being a true corridor project, PennDOT is working with municipalities to take over the ownership, maintenance and operation of the traffic signals along parallel corridors. PennDOT will then have the ability to remotely operate the signals from the TMC in the event of an incident on I-76.

### **4. Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: Truck Wayfinding in the City of Chester**

Al Beatty, DVRPC, presented on a project aimed to balance community and business needs through the City of Chester, specifically truck routes. With the Chester waterfront being the location of heavy industry and I-95 running along the western boundary of the city, many large trucks both load and delivery in the city or pass through to access adjacent industrial locations. These trucks typically traverse the city on an ad hoc basis, using local roadways that are not designed for these large vehicles. This not only creates an ongoing congestion issue through the city, it leads to unsafe conditions for pedestrians and local residents.

Through extended field studies of existing roadway infrastructure and a detailed review of waterfront destinations, project members made

recommendations on sign placement and desired routes for trucks to use. These suggestions took into careful consideration turning radii, bridge clearance, surrounding land uses, and current truck counts. A major recommendation included the redesignation of PA 291 to US 13/PA 291 and make that the primary truck route through the city. Current US 13 would be redesignated as US 13 Business.

This report for this multi-agency effort will be published this summer and PennDOT will conduct a field review with city engineers to determine the exact placement of signage.

## **5. WSP / NJTPA: New Jersey ITS Architecture Advanced Project (The Connected Corridor)**

Kathleen Swindler, WSP, presented NJTPA's Connected Corridor Project, an initiative to improve the state's Capability Maturity rating and advance stakeholder goals through implementation of ITS and TSMO projects.

The project's linchpin is the IAC, a core group of stakeholders whose primary goals are to provide leadership in regional transportation efforts and to 'move the needle' on TSMO through their expertise and collaboration.

Additionally, the Connected Corridor is focused on updating and maintaining New Jersey's ITS Architecture. This architecture will be used to: improve inter-agency coordination; reduce duplication of effort; increase information sharing; increase the opportunity for federal funding; and make ITS architecture maintenance easy. The use and maintenance of the architecture will be the responsibility of 'The Librarian', which in this case is Transcom.

## **6. New Business**

**Meeting revitalization:** Mr. King raised the issue of reformatting or rebranding the meeting to improve attendance and increase the benefits for those already participating. The meeting's initial purpose was the creation of a comfortable forum in which regional transportation officials could speak to one another on a consistent basis. In a way, a victim of its own success, these leaders now communicate regularly, so the meeting needs to provide updated benefits. Some suggestions and topics include:

- Used for the roll-out of large, regionally significant projects.
- Forum for CAV discussions; how will tech and regulations translate across state lines, including bridge and tunnel crossings.
- Data sharing between states, but also with local municipalities.

- Engage the chairs of each Incident Management Task Force. One meeting could be focused on what the challenges and successes of the individual task forces.
- Pennsylvania Architecture must be updated; should mesh with neighboring states.
- Agendas should be sent out in advance and contact list updated.
- Involved and engaged co-chair.
- Look at best practices from around the state and country; directly engage stakeholders from the region.

### **2018 TOTF Meeting Dates**

- ▶ **Monday, September 17, 2018**
- ▶ **Monday, December 10, 2018**

### **MEETING ATTENDEES:**

1)	Leonard Michael	Delaware County
2)	Larry Bak	Delaware County
3)	Edgar Lopez	FHWA
4)	Kathleen Swindler	WSP USA
5)	Manny Anastasisdis	PennDOT
6)	George Fleagle	FHWA
7)	Malcolm Weiser	IDS Express
8)	James Diamond	Philadelphia Police Department
9)	Dhvurik Patel	New Jersey DOT
10)	Jagdish Rana	New Jersey DOT
11)	Mike Pilsbury	New Jersey DOT
12)	Todd Leiss	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
13)	Matthew Popek	Montgomery County Planning Commission
14)	Christian Regosch	Bucks County Planning Commission
15)	Elizabeth Schoonmaker	DVRPC
16)	Rick Murphy	DVRPC
17)	Karen Whitaker	DVRPC
18)	Al Beatty	DVRPC
19)	Jesse Buerk	DVRPC
20)	Paul Carafides	DVRPC
21)	Chris King	DVRPC
22)	Justin Neff	DVRPC

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