



Transportation Operations Task Force (TOTF)

Highlights from the October 17th, 2019 Transportation Operations Task Force Meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chris King, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), thanked everyone for attending. Each person in attendance introduced themselves and a number of agencies provided brief reports on recent or upcoming events.

2. Two Minute Agency Reports

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): Safety Service Patrol hours to be expanded in the region, including a weekend truck. I-76 Variable Speed Limits (VSL) should be operational by the end of 2019. Preliminary bridge construction for I-76 flex-lanes project will begin soon. I-476 flex-lanes project moving to preliminary design. Design-build contract for the new Traffic Management Center will be signed in the coming months.

Pennsylvania State Police (PSP): Automated Work Zone enforcement to begin with four units in November and increase to 17 by June of 2020. To be enforced: when workers are present; signage properly placed; driver traveling eleven miles per hour over the speed limit. All cases reviewed by specialized PSP unit. First violation will be a warning, and all subsequent penalties civil. Except for Roosevelt Boulevard, all other locations will be on state roadways. Units will be designed to be moved easily and as needed.

Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT): Currently updating the Dynamic Message Sign specs throughout the state, with the intent to utilize them along VSL corridors. The DOT is also researching License Plate Reader technology for data collection and safety initiatives.

DVRPC: The Montgomery County Incident Management Task Force held an expansion kick-off meeting on October 10th; as opposed to focusing solely on the I-76 / I-476 region, the task force will now encompass the entire county. ITSNJ Annual Conference to be held on October 28th in Plainsboro. The Congestion Management Process Final Report to be completed in the next few months.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): The administration is looking to strengthen Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) at the state level. SHRP2 and online training availability has increased the number of TIM trained responders throughout Pennsylvania. Connected and Autonomous Vehicle initiatives and policies continue to move forward.



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Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): To soon implement automated work zone enforcement along the Northeast Extension from MP 31 to MP 37. An RFP is being finalized to further the Lane Reservation System in coordination with PennDOT and Ohio DOT. An RFP has gone out for a Truck Parking Management System, intended to alert drivers to parking space availability.

3. Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program

Mike Davidson, Senior Traffic Operations Project Manager, provided an overview of the PTC's UAS program and a number of specific projects on which drones have been utilized. Established in 2015, the UAS program now includes two drones (DJI Inspire 1 V2.0 and DJI Matrice 210) and eight certified pilots. To date, drones have been used to: verify line of sight for radio communication; assist and document construction projects; determine CCTV placement; document landslide conditions; update aerial imagery; crash reconstruction; stockpile surveys; and in the assist of training demonstrations. In some cases, drone use allows for more accurate measurements and more precise data collection.

Mr. Davidson emphasized the importance of having the proper insurance policy in place when operating a drone, including when a third party utilizes a drone on behalf of the PTC.

4. New Jersey Department of Transportation – UAS Program

Glenn Stott, UAS Program Manager, offered a review of NJDOT's UAS Program, which is operated via the Bureau of Aeronautics. The program currently has ten pilots spread across six divisions, receives the bulk of its funding through FHWA, and operates six drones. Current initiatives include, but are not limited to: structural inspections; emergency response assessments; traffic congestion management; aerial 3D corridor mapping; landfill volume calculations; watershed surveys; dredging support; and wildlife surveys. For congestion management, with the proper set-up, the live-stream from the drone can be sent directly to the TMC. The 3D models can be created from photographs captured by the drone, as opposed to the more expensive LIDAR.

NJDOT pilot training requirements go beyond what is required by the FAA, including practical and mission specific training. Risk management is also taken into account when operating drones near roadways and critical infrastructure. Due to the densely populated and multi-jurisdictional make-up of many project locations throughout the state, interagency coordination is essential for effective drone usage. As an example, when used for sensitive wildlife surveys,



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drone operators must work closely with Fish and Wildlife to minimize disruption to the native habitat.

5. Gloucester County Emergency Response, Office of Emergency Management

Jim DeMore, Office of Emergency Management, presented on Gloucester County's UAS Aviation Division, which currently operates three drones, the newest of which is a Matrice 200. To date, the county has used drones for the following: search and rescue; damage assessment; situational awareness; missing persons; Hazmat assessment; fatal incidents. Depending on the time and place of an incident, a call to dispatch will have a drone and pilot on scene within 5 – 60 minutes. Preflight activation, even in the event of an emergency, includes: review of airspace and aircraft inspection; lat/longs reviewed; preflight checklist completed; weather forecast documented; and local ATC or manager contacted.

To maximize real-time situational awareness, orthomosaic maps can be created in under an hour, allowing responders to have the most up-to-date information when making decisions. The County also offers floor-plan renderings to all schools within Gloucester County. In the event of an active threat, or any other emergency situation, these detailed floor-plans can be used in conjunction with on-scene cameras to identify the best ingress and egress locations.

6. New Business

National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week is November 10-16. To promote awareness, DVRPC will be conducting a social media campaign and holding a photo contest. Any emergency responder, who posts a picture that signifies why drivers must move over and tags DVRPC, will be eligible for the contest.

7. 2020 Meeting Dates

- January 16, 2020
- April 16, 2020
- July 16, 2020
- October 16, 2020