DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ITS Technical Task Force
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2001

The following are highlights from the meeting of the ITS Technical Task Force held on July 10, 2001 at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Conference room. A list of attendees is attached.

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Individual Updates

Bob Pento, Technical Task Force Vice Chair, PennDOT, was asked to honorary chair the meeting. The first item of business was the welcome and individual updates. Each person in attendance introduced themselves and added any relevant ITS updates from their agency. Some of the highlights included:

- ▸ SmartTraveller is continuing to expand it's customer base. So far this year, the web site has had over 2.5 million hits.

- ▸ Construction Plans for the new Delaware River Port Authority's Operations Center are currently in the works. DRPA will give a detailed update at a future meeting. Meanwhile, the New Jersey DOT Traffic Operations South unit will be moving from Mt. Laurel to Cherry Hill on July 17th.

- ▸ DVRPC is currently working with Montgomery County to coordinate traffic signals along the I-76 detour routes.

- ▸ Half of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is now using E-ZPass, the rest of the Turnpike will be compatible by the end of the year. E-ZPass will be available for trucks next year. The Turnpike now has 100,000 E-ZPass accounts.

Agenda Item #2: Draft ITS Video RFP

Laurie Matkowski, DVRPC, gave a presentation on the ITS Video RFP. The purpose of the video is to build support for ITS by educating the public, elected officials, and government policy makers about the benefits of a fully integrated ITS program in the Greater Philadelphia area. The video will cater to a broad audience, including those who are less familiar with ITS. It will be approximately 10 minutes in length, and will be available in standard VHS format. A vendor will be selected to produce the video by September, and the video will be completed during this fiscal year.

Agenda Item #3: Benefits of LED's for Signs and Traffic Signals

Joy Doyle, City of Philadelphia, gave a presentation on the benefits of LED traffic signals. The LED, or Light Emitting Diode, traffic lights are currently being tested on Broad Street in South Philadelphia. The LED's have many benefits. The light source is brighter than the old incandescent lamps and use only one-tenth as much energy, while burning 100,000 hours. This results in lower replacement and maintenance costs and fewer emergency call outs. The LED's are also more energy efficient, using 90% less KWH than a standard signal. This can result a in significant reduction in the City's electric bill. The new bulbs use the same housing, voltage, and wiring as the old signals, and can be replaced with a minimum cost and effort.

Testing of the LED signals began through funding from the Republican Convention last year. The city is currently planning to replace all 2750 intersections with LED technology by 2005. This would produce a savings of $1.6 million annually. This technology can also be used in automobiles, variable message signs, and railroad signals as a means of saving energy and reducing costs.

Agenda Item #4: Integrated Surveillance and Data Management Infrastructure Evaluation Plan for USDOT

Edward Fekpe, Battelle, gave a presentation on the Evaluation of Mobilities Technologies. An evaluation was done in Pittsburgh to ensure the program goals and objectives are realized, including efficiency, user satisfaction, and cost savings. The ITS evaluation included mobility, productivity and efficiency, safety, and system performance.

The areas of study were congestion, safety, technical effectiveness, cost, and institutional issues. Each of these areas were broken down into criteria that could be measured. Data was collected on each of the study areas through key-informant interviews, system operational data, observational studies, and public surveys. Baseline data of the existing traffic situation will be compared to post-deployment conditions and changes in congestion will be evaluated. Battelle will begin a similar evaluation of Mobility Technology in the Philadelphia area.

Agenda Item #5: DRPA ITS Initiative

Marcy Feldman Rost, DRPA, led a discussion with the Technical Task Force members discussing the DRPA ITS Initiative. The DRPA Board Members asked the Chamber of Commerce to explore ITS initiatives. The Chamber of Commerce explored the idea of video sharing, where multiple agencies would share video via the internet. Last month, the Board approved funding for ITS Deployment based on the Regional Architecture, and came up with concepts for early deployment. The scope includes working with area stakeholders and meeting with the DOT's to discuss different options. At the end of the discussion,

it was suggested to possibly organize a workshop on the concept of information sharing.

Agenda Item #6: Regional ITS Policy

The Regional ITS Policy was broken into three presentations. The first, given by John Ward, DVRPC, presented an update to the Regional Goals and Objectives. The original document was created for the Regional ITS Architecture. Some of the original goals have been accomplished, while others have become outdated. The new Goals and Objectives will provide an update for the current initiatives. It will also set the guidelines for more detailed performance measures and milestones.

The second presentation was on the ITS Deployment Plan, given by Keith Hartington, DVRPC. DVRPC is currently working on developing an ITS Deployment Plan for the five Pennsylvania Counties. The first step in this process is to prioritize the highway network based on collected data, including AADT, number of lanes, detour routes, and level of congestion. Each of the expressway and arterial sections were then assigned a priority ranking based on the criteria. The priority was expressed as low, medium, and high. This ranking will be interpreted and used to determine which highways in the network will receive priority for ITS Technology. Future plans include developing a Deployment Plan for the New Jersey Counties, and for the transit systems.

The third presentation, given by Stan Platt, DVRPC, discussed a Matrix of Information Sharing. This initiative would collect information from many agencies on what information they are interested in receiving. Each agencies would give a ranking, either A, B, C, or D to the corridor depending on what type of information and when they would like to receive the information. This information would provide insight as to where ITS is needed, how many agencies are interested in ITS data, and which corridors ITS data is most important. The matrix forms will be distributed to highway departments, toll and transit agencies, State and Philadelphia Police, 911 services, and other relevant agencies.

Agenda Item #7: Other Business

> ► Scanning Tours- DVRPC is hosting a visit to Transcom for a tour of their facility in late September. It will be an all day venture, with transportation and lunch provided. There is no cost for the tour.

> ► New Officers- Nominations for the Chair of the Technical Task Force went to Tom Fuca, NJ DOT, and Marcy Feldman Rost for Vice Chair.

> ► Updated Resource Map- The DVRPC ITS Equipment Resource Map has been updated to include cameras on the DRPA bridges.

> ► Next Meeting Date- October 5, 2001

ITS Technical Task Force Meeting
July 10, 2001

Attendance List:

1) Dan Faust   DRPA
2) Steve Fleischut   Penn State University Applied Research Lab
3) Karen Jehanian   Mobility Technologies
4) Mark Cassel   TMACC
5) Walt Green   Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
6) Kim Ferroni   PennDOT
7) Dennis Starr   PennDOT
8) Edward Fekpe   Battelle
9) Derrick Sawyer   Philadelphia Fire Dept.
10) Bob Pento   PennDOT
11) Dennis Tiley   PennDOT- District 6
12) Susan Simkus   Montgomery County Planning Commission
13) William Roper   DRJTBC
14) Frank DiJoseph   PennDOT- District 6
15) Lt. Hugh Lynch   Philadelphia Highway Patrol
16) Marcy Feldman Rost   DRPA
17) Shawn Jalosinski   Philadelphia Streets Dept.
18) Bob Murphy   SmarTraveler
19) John Bukowski   SEPTA
20) Robert Hannigan   PennDOT
21) Ron Hopkins   SEPTA
22) Carmine Fiscina   US DOT- FHWA- Philadelphia
23) Sgt. John Fleming   Philadelphia P. D.- Traffic
24) Joe Doyle   City of Philadelphia
25) Don Shanis   DVRPC
26) John Ward   DVRPC
27) Stan Platt   DVRPC
28) Chris King   DVRPC
29) Laurie Matkowski   DVRPC
30) Keith Hartington   DVRPC