DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ITS Technical Task Force
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2002

The following are highlights from the meeting of the ITS Technical Task Force held on Friday, October 18, 2002 at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Conference Room. A list of attendees is attached.

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Individual Updates

Karl Ziemer, Delaware River Port Authority, welcomed the Technical Task Force members and thanked them for coming. The minutes from the last meeting held on September 9, 2002 at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Conference Room were approved. The first item of business was the individual updates. Each person in attendance introduced themselves and added any relevant ITS updates from their agency. Some of the highlights included:

- ▸ Penn DOT reported that the EPA and FHWA have recently approved the Statewide Transportation Plan.

- ▸ DRPA will co-locate their new Traffic Control Center with the new PATCO center in Lindenwold, New Jersey.

- ▸ FHWA reported that the ramps in King of Prussia involving I-76 and US 202 will be competed in a year. The ITS component of the project is currently two-thirds complete, and will be nearly finished by January.

- ▸ The Delaware River Joint Bridge Commission's targeting November 30th as the date to have EZPass up and running.

- ▸ Montgomery County is currently working on a traffic signal coordination plan for the I-76 detour routes. The 911 Center volunteered to operate the signals during incidents on I-76 when a diversion has been established.

- ▸ DVRPC reported a successful meeting with the I-295 / I-76 / NJ 42 Incident Management Task Force. The group is working on getting ramp designation signs installed throughout the study area.

Agenda Item #2: Philadelphia Traffic Data Management System

Shawn Jalosinski, City of Philadelphia Streets Department, gave a presentation on the Philadelphia Traffic Data Management System (PTDMS). The PTDMS is a GIS interfaced system that holds traffic volume and crash data. The City had collected 750,000 records of crash data over an eleven year period, resulting in a lengthy process of data collection. All of the old paper files have recently been geocoded into a GIS mapping system as a result of PTDMS. The crash database can be queried by year, accident type, and location. The City can spend money more effectively by using the results to best select locations that are in need of improvements. The traffic volume database allows the City to evaluate the traffic system, monitor traffic volumes, and assess the City's 20,000 traffic signals.

Agenda Item #3: I-95 Amber Alert Discussion

Karl Ziemer, DRPA, led a discussion concerning Amber Alert and the use of Variable Message Signs (VMS). The AMBER (America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response) Plan is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of the child. Currently, many states have different implementation plans for AMBER Alert. A goal of the Technical Task Force is to investigate the possibility of establishing a regional policy regarding AMBER Alert. The level of priority for each missing child, what criteria denotes the use of VMS for notifying the public, state-to-state coordination and communication, and the amount of available resources emergency management agencies have are all concerns of the AMBER Alert program. The Task Force is asking its members to collect their agency's information and policy pertaining to AMBER Alert for the next meeting to further the discussion.

Agenda Item #4: SEPTA's Automated Vehicle Location Program (AVL)

John Bukowski, SEPTA, gave a presentation concerning SEPTA's AVL program. SEPTA is the fifth largest transportation system in the U.S., with over 160 million trips each year. SETPA is currently in the process of installing a new communication system that will feature six remote sites linked by T-1 network and a 500 MHz simulcast, covering over 2,000 square miles. The new AVL system will be installed on 150 pilot busses. The radio system, combined with GIS mapping displays, can notify the SEPTA Control Center of the bus's location. As part of the AVL system, the program will also include passenger counters and Next Bus Arrival kiosks at four key locations. Some of the expected benefits of the new AVL system include improvements in routing and scheduling, the ability to monitor an entire fleet of busses, and improved efficiency which translates into a savings of millions of dollars.

Agenda Item #5: Outreach for Additional Technical Task Force Participants

John Ward, DVRPC, led a discussion concerning the issue of recruiting new members to the Technical Task Force and continuing to move forward with current initiatives. Suggested new stakeholders included Port facilities and Emergency Management Services. Goods movements agencies, such as Federal Express, UPS, and Holts were also proposed. Former Technical Task Force members who have now taken other positions may also be contacted. With all of the construction and ITS initiatives taking place in the King of Prussia area, Upper Merion and Tredyffrin Townships might fulfill an important role in shaping the objectives of the Task Force.

Agenda Item #6: Other Business

- ▸ There have been no reported problems with the Nextel Phone program. DVRPC is working on creating a directory for each participant for faster communications.

- ▸ There are funds available for future scanning tours. Possible sites include CHART control center in Maryland.

- ▸ The next meeting date has been set for **Tuesday, December 3** @ 9:30, in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Conference Room.

ITS Technical Task Force Meeting
October 18, 2002

Attendance List:

1)	Fred Pourki	Philadelphia International Airport
2)	Karl Ziemer	Delaware River Port Authority
3)	Shawn Jalosinski	City of Philadelphia- Streets Department
4)	Richard Montanez	City of Philadelphia- Streets Department
5)	Charles Trainor	City of Philadelphia- Streets Department
6)	Mark J. Smith	New Jersey DOT Traffic Operations- South
7)	Dave McCann	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
8)	Hugh Lynch	Philadelphia Highway Patrol
9)	John Fleming	Philadelphia Police Dpt.
10)	Brian E. Naylor	Pennsylvania State Police
11)	Carol Ann Thomas	Burlington County Engineers Office
12)	Steve Buckley	Parsons Brinkerhoff
13)	Mesut Pervizpour	Drexel University
14)	Carmine Fiscina	Federal Highway Administration
15)	Michael Roberson	Federal Highway Administration
16)	Jim Hilbert	SmartRoute Systems
17)	Bob Hannigan	PennDOT- Central Office
18)	Kim Ferroni	PennDOT- Central Office
19)	Michael Pack	PennDOT- Central Office
20)	Peter Sisofo	PennDOT- District 6 Maintenance
21)	W. Keith Libengood	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
22)	Sasha Harding	Burlington County Bridge Commission
23)	John Bukowski	SEPTA
24)	Peter Quinn	Greater Valley Forge TMA
25)	Bruce Herbst	Burlington County Bridge Commission Police Dpt.
26)	Albert J. Kernagis	New Jersey State Police
27)	Nelia Dyer	Montgomery County Planning Commission
28)	John Ward	DVRPC
29)	Chris King	DVRPC
30)	Laurie Matkowski	DVRPC
31)	Keith Hartington	DVRPC