

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 24, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bill Ragozine, Cross County Connection TMA (CCCTMA), 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.

- ▶ Cross County Connection TMA – The Fall 2012 version of their newsletter called Easy Rider is now available at www.driveless.com and has an article about the Burlington County Traffic Operation Center.
- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): The advanced ITS contract for the I-295 Direct Connect Project is set to start in October. The project includes Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), travel time readers (on I-295, I-76, I-676, and NJ 42), and adaptive traffic signals on US 130 and NJ 168.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT): Mainline construction on the I-95 projects at the Cottman-Princeton Interchange and Girard Avenue interchange will start in spring of 2013 and will utilize smart work zones. In the near future, the Emergency Service Patrol will now feature advertisements on the sides of the vehicles in the hope of off-setting costs. This has become a common practice among many state departments of transportation agencies including NJDOT.
- ▶ Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC): The I-476 Northeast Extension project is on schedule and expected to be completed by 2014. Also, the Route 29 slip ramp is due to be completed later this year.

3. Emergency Preparedness and Transportation Operations Panel Discussion

This agenda item included agency program overviews and then a discussion on how the region's emergency management and traffic operations agencies can more effectively and reliably coordinate with each other.

- ▶ *Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force (SEPA RTF)*
Evalyn Fisher, Executive Director of the SEPA RTF, presented on the task force which is the geographically smallest RTF in Pennsylvania, yet with the greatest amount of risk. It is comprised of the five counties in the Philadelphia region, an executive board, and ten workgroups, providing free emergency response training. Funding of the SEPA RTF is a major concern as the grant application process is timely and allocating funds, restricted. Typically, they find themselves two years into the process before they can start to use funds, which support Regional Response Teams such as the Surge Medical Assistance Response Team (SMART). For more information, please visit their website at www.separtf.org.

- ▶ *City of Philadelphia Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management (OEM)*
Ryan Abbott, Infrastructure Program Manager of the City of Philadelphia Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management presented on the history of OEM. Their mission is to make sure the City of Philadelphia is ready in emergency situations and events. To attain this goal, personnel undergo training and exercise programs. The City also uses the Incident Command System to stay connected, with OEM acting as liaison. They are also involved in the emergency preparation of special events.

- ▶ *NJDOT Operations Office of Emergency Management*
Terrance Garvey, Senior Transportation Analyst for the NJDOT Operations Office of Emergency Management gave a presentation on the development of the OEM after the events of 9/11. His office works closely with NJ State Police, the New York City OEM, FHWA, and local counties and municipalities. They also have a statewide action plan, and conduct drills at nuclear facilities. Sheltering is a big issue in New Jersey, and he encouraged other counties to develop their own sheltering program. His office is in the process of partnering with motor coach companies to transport affected people far distances, as needed, during or after emergency events.

After the presentation, a panel discussion and Q&A took place between members and presenters, who stressed the importance of coordination and increasing public awareness. Ryan Abbott spoke of using Ready Notify PA (www.readynotifypa.org) to stay connected, working directly with radio and TV stations, posting alerts on all social media sites, and using DMS devices to update the public regarding emergency situations/events. Terry Garvey also suggested working with traffic operations. Also, the high turnover of emergency personnel was a concern, which stresses the need for routine training opportunities.

4. **University of Pennsylvania's University Transportation Center**

Daniel Lee of the University of Pennsylvania's (UPenn) University Transportation Center presented on the newly established University Transportation Center (UTC) which is a partnership between University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science and Carnegie Mellon's College of Engineering. The USDOT has awarded the UTC a grant for the next two years to conduct research and implement technologies for improving the safety and efficiency of transportation. Mr. Lee discussed his interest in creating new partnerships between his staff and UPenn students, and transportation operations practitioners. Services offered would be at no cost and include real-time congestion control, embedded diagnostics, security and formal verification, trust management, smartphone sensors, and visual scene analysis. More information about the center can be found at: <http://utc.ices.cmu.edu/utc/>

5. **RIMIS Update**

Chris King, DVRPC, gave an update on RIMIS stating that it is installed at 60 entities in the region. Since the last TOTF meeting, RIMIS presentations and installations were provided to the Bensalem Police Department, Gladwyne Fire Company, Westhampton Police and Fire Departments, Burlington Township Fire Department and PennDOT Bucks Count Maintenance Office. DVRPC continues to work with the Philadelphia Streets Department to establish a data interface with the department's Street Closure Permit System.

6. **New Business**

Upcoming Events

- ▶ November 1, 2012 – FHWA Active Transportation Demand Management (ATDM) Workshop: This workshop will be held at DVRPC, and we are still accepting registrants. Please contact Erin McCann at emccann@dvrpc.org for more information.
- ▶ November 2, 2012 – UPenn's UTC Consortium Session: Please contact Daniel Lee for more information.
- ▶ November 8, 2012 – 2012 CSNJ Symposium – Connecting New Jersey: Accelerating ITS Deployment Opportunities: This will be held at the Busch Campus Center of Rutgers University, 604 Bartholomew Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854. Please contact Dotty Drinkwater, CSNJ Administrator at 609-448-3882 or email DottyD@aol.com for registration information.
- ▶ Next Meeting Date: Monday, December 3, 2012 at DVRPC.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1. | Harry Klatt | Burlington County Traffic Operation Center |
| 2. | Bill Ragozine | Cross County Connections TMA |
| 3. | Lou Hufnagle | Delaware County Planning Commission |
| 4. | Ek Phomarasth | FHWA – New Jersey Office |
| 5. | Ryan Jeroski | GVFTMA |
| 6. | Wes Ratko | Montgomery County Planning Commission |
| 7. | Vinny Cortese | NJDOT |
| 8. | Terry Garvey | NJDOT - OEM |
| 9. | Susan Winter | NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness |
| 10. | Catherine Valencia | NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness |
| 11. | Christine Bugel | NJTA |
| 12. | Dave Fullerton | PATCO |
| 13. | Eric Turk | PA State Police |
| 14. | Lou Cortelazzi | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 15. | Amber Reimnitz | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 16. | Manny Anastasiadis | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 17. | Lou Belmonte | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 18. | Ryan Abbot | Philadelphia OEM |
| 19. | Christine Fisher | Plan Philly |
| 20. | Evalyn Fisher | SEPA RTF |
| 21. | Daniel Lee | University of Penn |
| 22. | CJ Taylor | University of Penn |
| 23. | Seri Park | Villanova University |
| 24. | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |
| 25. | Matt West | DVRPC |
| 26. | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 27. | Erin McCann | DVRPC |
| 28. | Stan Platt | DVRPC |
| 29. | John Ward | DVRPC |

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