

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

March 17, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lou Belmonte, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), 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. Some of the highlights include:

- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: PennDOT's new ATMS software in the Regional Traffic Management Center should be up and running in June 2014. PennDOT will be initiating three additional Emergency Service Patrol routes operating in the AM and PM peak periods along the US 30 Bypass, US 422, and PA 309 in the next couple of months.
- ▶ DVRPC: The I-476/76 Crossroads, NJ SAFR, and Burlington County Incident Management Task Forces (IMTF) recently met. To foster more interaction with the freight community, DVRPC presented the PhillyFreightFinder application to 125 first responders at these IMTF meetings. The Delaware and Philadelphia IMTFs are scheduled to meet in April. Staff continued to work with Burlington and Chester County's IMTFs to develop Traffic Incident Management Guidelines documents.

3. Construction Coordination – Forum Discussion

Agency representatives highlighted major regional construction projects scheduled for this upcoming construction season and what might be forthcoming in the next two to three years.

- ▶ *New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)*
Will Day, NJDOT, presented construction projects focusing on the southern portion of the state. NJDOT continues to exercise day to day maintenance on New Jersey's roadways, especially the pothole patching blitz that is needed after dumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of brine and nearly one hundred thousand tons of sodium chloride on the road. In addition to maintenance, there is significant work in the upcoming 2014 construction season. These projects included:
 - I-295/I-76/NJ Route 42 Direct Connect (2014-2021)
 - US 30/US 130 Collingswood /Pennsauken Bridge Replacement (Project completion expected May 2015)

- US-322 Raccoon Creek Br / Mullica Hill Pond Dam; (Project completion expected July 2014)
- I-76/I-676 bridge deck replacements; (in design, no let date)
- NJ-38, US-30/130 to Lenola Road (CR 608) Resurfacing (Scheduled to start August 2014)
- NJ-70, NJ-38 to Cropwell Road Resurfacing (in design, scheduled to start early 2017)

The Direct Connect Advance ITS Project is under construction on I-76, I-295, I-676, US 130, NJ 42, NJ 55, and NJ 168. Contract #1, awarded January 2013, will construct four new bridges as well as reconstructing sections of I-295 (south of NJ 42) and I-76 (at the northern end of the project).. The construction of a new interim ramp from NJ-42 NB to I-295 NB (completed February 2014) has eliminated the existing weave between NJ-42 NB and I-295 NB traffic.

Contract #2, awarded in February 2014, will construct I-295 north of Browning Road to NJ-168, new ramps connecting I-76 East to I-295 North; I-295 South to I-76 West; and a portion of I-295 South to NJ-42. Also the Bell Road Bridge over I-295 will be replaced. Estimated construction completion for this contract is December 2017

Traffic impacts for this project include long term construction zones, bridge demolition and construction, local road detours, as well as daily daytime and night time temporary lane closures.

► *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6-0*

Jim Miller, Michael Baker, and Mike Girman, AECOM, presented projects for PennDOT focused on the I-95 corridor. Active projects included:

- I-95, Section CPR – Cottman Avenue (2014- 2017)
- I-95, Section GIR – Girard Avenue (2014-2020)
- I-95, Section MB3 – Walt Whitman Bridge to Philadelphia International Airport; (2014-2015)

Future projects include:

- I-676 Vine Street Expressway project to include replacement of seven bridge structures from 18th Street to 22nd Street, Spring Garden Street Bridge rehabilitation and other local road and sidewalk improvements. (June 2014-2016)
- I-95, Section BSR – Betsy Ross Bridge (October 2014-2024)
- I-95, Section AFC – Allegheny (2016-2025)
- I-95 at US 322
- I-95/Scudder Falls Bridge
- I-95 at PA Turnpike Interchange
- 3037-JFK Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitations

Two sections of I-95 in Philadelphia are currently under construction: CPR (from north of Levick Street to north of Bleigh Avenue including the Cottman-Princeton Interchange) and GIR (from Vine Street to Allegheny Avenue, including Girard Avenue Interchange). Both projects will maintain three travel lanes in each direction, and traffic lanes will be shifted over the course of construction.

► *Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)*

Mark Green, DRPA, reported that they are currently in the final stages of the Walt Whitman Deck Replacement Project. In 2015, both the Walt Whitman and Commodore Barry Bridges will begin a three-year painting project. Other future projects include resurfacing of the approach roads on the New Jersey side of the Commodore Barry Bridge and the Philadelphia side of Ben Franklin Bridge. The Betsy Ross Bridge will also undergo a two-year resurfacing project that will begin later this year. The Walt Whitman Toll Plaza rehabilitation project will begin in May 2014. Also, the 5th Street tunnel will be rehabilitated and northbound traffic along 5th Street will be rerouted to 7th Street in that immediate area.

PATCO

In mid-January, PATCO began a major capital construction project to rehabilitate the tracks that run across the Ben Franklin Bridge. This project is expected to last for two years. During the project, train schedules will change several times and will include multiple weeks when one bridge track is closed at all times. Because trains will be running across the bridge on one track instead of two, passengers may face periodic, 30-minute gaps in train service, although some trains will continue to run every five minutes. Passengers are advised to consult updated PATCO timetables.

► *Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)*

Amber Reimnitz, TC, presented several PTC projects.

I-476 North Extension Widening & Reconstruction Project

- Milepost A20–A26 (Fall 2014 completion)
- Milepost A26–A31 (starting construction in April 2014 with anticipated completion by end of 2016))
- Milepost A31–A38 (preliminary design underway)
- Milepost A38–A44 (preliminary design underway)
- Milepost A44–A57 (preliminary design to start early 2014)

I-276 Eastern Mainline Turnpike Widening & Reconstruction

- Milepost 320–326 (starting construction Spring 2014)
- Milepost 312–320 (preliminary design underway)
- Milepost 298–312 (preliminary design just starting)

PA Turnpike/I-95 Interchange Project

- Mainline, Delaware River Bridge, and US13 toll plazas (2014– 2016)
- Turnpike Widening With Interchange Flyovers (2015 – 2018)
- I-95 Widening and Interchange Flyovers completion (2014 – 2017)
- I-95/I-195 re-designation in PA and NJ

Overhead Bridge Replacement

- Ridge Rd. bridge, located between Lansdale and Quakertown (November 2014 completion)
- Bensalem Blvd at milepost 355 (bids Fall 2014)
- Hulmeville Rd at milepost 353.5 (bids Fall 2015)
- Bensalem Interchange Ramp bridge replacement (bids Spring 2015) 2015.

Other ITS projects

- 12 Full Color Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) East Mainline (August 2015 completion)
- ITS Conduit connection between Valley Forge and Norristown
- 16 CCTV East Mainline and Northeast Extension (Bids March 2014)
- DMS East Pre-Entry. Approximately 30 Full Color DMS locations along PennDOT roads (Anticipated to be for Construction Summer 2015)

▶ *Future Construction Coordination Efforts*

A yearly regional construction meeting will be held each year, in March, prior to the construction season.

4. **New Business**

- ▶ Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 16th, 2014 at DVRPC.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1. | Mike Girman | AECOM |
| 2. | Bill Deguffery | Chester County Planning Commission |
| 3. | Mark Green | DRPA |
| 4. | Jacqueline Mandy | DRPA |
| 5. | Ek Phomarasth | FHWA – New Jersey Office |
| 6. | Jim Parel | FHWA – Pennsylvania |
| 7. | Kyle Guie | GVFTMA |
| 8. | Jim Miller | Michael Baker |
| 9. | Will Day | NJDOT |
| 10. | Sgt. Nicolas Delromano | PA State Police |
| 11. | Amber Reimnitz | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 12. | Manny Anastasiadis | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 13. | Lou Belmonte | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 14. | Harold Windisch | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 15. | Shawn Glynn | Philadelphia Fire Department |
| 16. | Sgt. Bill Stermel | Philadelphia Police Department |
| 17. | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |
| 18. | Matt West | DVRPC |
| 19. | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 20. | John Ward | DVRPC |
| 21. | Paul Carafides | DVRPC |
| 22. | Jesse Buerk | DVRPC |

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