

Transportations Operations Task Force Meeting

Meeting Time: Monday, July 24, 2017 at 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: DVRPC Main Conference Room

Meeting Highlights:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Laurie Matkowski, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 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:

- ▶ New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT): The state has suspended its use of Variable Speed Advisory along stretches of I-295. Though implemented to warn travelers of downstream conditions, there were internal debates over the advisory's actual effectiveness. The distance between the signs and the queue beginning often varied, meaning commuters did not know when they were expected to adjust their speeds. The DOT is currently taking part in a research project to determine the most effective locations and conditions for Variable Speed Limits.

Construction updates: Pavement preservation on NJ 68 through Mansfield; Continuing work on US 206, Whitehorse Circle; I-295 Direct Connect currently in phase 2 and 3, about to enter the lane reducing portion of phase 3; Milling and paving to occur on US 130.

- ▶ Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), PA Division: Continuing to move forward with Every Day Counts Initiatives. Federal Highway is progressing in using data to improve performance measures, specifically for incident response times and secondary incidents.

There is a major push being made to monitor the performance of automated traffic signals, including better management and the collection of real time data.

- ▶ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), District 6-0: Upcoming US 30 project will implement a number of ITS initiatives, especially along the business portion of US 30. I-76 Hard Shoulder Running meetings are set to begin soon and a quick ramp-up is

anticipated. Variable Speed Limits will be utilized along I-76, from the PA Turnpike to US 1, including the reason for the change in speed.

The Safety Service Patrol (SSP) contract is about to be LET, including for US 1 in Bucks County.

- ▶ Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission: DVRPC recently held a joint Incident Management Task Force Meeting, consisting of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties. Moving forward, the commission is considering having one joint meeting per year.

Upcoming events: ITSPA registration is currently open and will take place August 9, 10, and 11 in Allentown. I-95 Corridor Coalition HOGS meeting, focusing on the use of crowdsourcing in operations, will take place September 14.

3. Pennsylvania Turnpike (PTC) Quick Clearance Efforts

Todd Leiss, PTC, reviewed the recently implemented incentive towing pilot program. The program ran from March 1st through May 31st and was conducted in District 2 (Rural) and District 4 (Urban). The purpose of the pilot program and the program as a whole is to promote the quick and effective clearance of roadway incidents, not to financially punish towers. Only incidents involving commercial vehicles and blocking lanes of travel qualify.

The benchmarks, which are timed by a certified turnpike employee and subject to stoppage when appropriate, are as follows:

- o 90 minutes or less = \$2,500
- o 120 minutes or less = \$1,000
- o 120 to 180 minutes = \$0
- o 180 minutes or more = Penalty of \$10 / minute

Authorized Service Providers (ASP's) continue to work with the turnpike on the progress of this program and understand safety is still their top priority. They shall not conduct any unsafe maneuvers with the singular goal of receiving their incentive. All incidents have been reviewed at a mandatory and thorough After Action Review.

Though the sample size of results is relatively small and the program still faces a number of challenges, to date the feedback has been positive and the turnpike is expanding the pilot program through May of 2018.

SSPs along the turnpike now carry 2.5 gallons of gasoline. This service has been instrumental in providing quick assistance to motorists who have run out of fuel, greatly reducing the exposure to all parties on the roadway.

4. SPATEL Tool – System Performance Measures

Rob Bamford, TRANSCOM, presented on the background of the SPATEL Tool and its data fusion process, as well as highlighted on some of its specific uses. To obtain the most accurate, real time data concerning travel times, TRANSCOM gathers data from a number of available sources and fuses them together to create the single, most reliable output possible. This eliminates gaps and delays that would otherwise result if only using a single data source.

The event analysis tool allows the user to identify specific type events that occurred along a designated route during a specific time frame. The tool provides a visual output of all incidents, including their location on a 3-D map and a graphic summary of the incidents' date and time.

The performance measures tool allows the user to track the resulting cost of delay caused by incidents, provided in both graphic and tabular outputs. This will be vital in upcoming performance measurement expectations and all updates will be in accordance with MAP-21 standards.

TRANSCOM then provided three operational examples of the SPATEL Tool and its uses: MTA B & T Police; Pulaski Skyway; and Penn Station

5. DVRPC Regional Traffic Signal Retiming Program

Paul Carafides, DVRPC, reported on the signal retiming programs in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Signals along twenty corridors have been retimed in Pennsylvania and have garnered tremendous success, averaging a benefit-to-cost ratio of 40:1. Corridors in New Jersey have been selected and are currently undergoing rapid field assessments in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer Counties. All stakeholders are fully invested in getting the most out of the program.

6. New Business

2017 TOTF Meeting Dates

- ▶ **Monday, September 18, 2017**
- ▶ **Monday, December 11, 2017**

(Meetings start at 10 A.M)

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Patrick Reilly | Burlington County Bridge Commission |
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2)	Heather Martin	Chester County Planning Commission
3)	Karen Whitaker	Delaware County Planning Commission
4)	William Kephart	DRPA Police
5)	George Bollendorf	DRPA Police
6)	Jagdish Rana	NJDOT
7)	Wayne Patterson	NJDOT
8)	Bill Ragozine	Cross County Connection TMA
9)	Bob Glantzberg	TRANSCOM
10)	Rob Bamford	TRANSCOM
11)	Mark Green	Delaware River Port Authority
12)	Matthew Popek	Montgomery County Planning Commission
13)	Manny Anastasiadis	PennDOT
14)	James Diamond	Philadelphia Police Department
15)	Jim Paral	FHWA – PA Division
16)	Patrice L. Nuble	Philadelphia Streets Department
17)	Todd Leiss	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
18)	Mike Pilsbury	NJDOT – TSM
19)	Laurie Matkowski	DVRPC
20)	Elizabeth Schoonmaker	DVRPC
21)	Paul Carafides	DVRPC
22)	Chris King	DVRPC
23)	Justin Neff	DVRPC

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