

MEETING NOTES

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TECHNICAL TASK FORCE

DATE: Friday, December 15, 2000

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

PLACE: COG, 777 North Capitol Street, NE
First Floor, Room 4/5

CHAIR: Emil Wolanin, Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation

VICE CHAIRS: Wils DerMinassian, D.C. Department of Public Works
Donald McCanless, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax

ATTENDANCE:

Katherine Asmussen, VDOT/STSS, asmussen_ka@vdot.state.va.us
Terry Bellamy, Arlington County, tbella@co.arlington.va.us
Howard Benn, Montgomery County, howard.benn@co.mo.md.us
Brien Benson, George Mason University, bbenson@gmu.edu
Jim Bunch, Mitretek Systems, jabunch@mitretek.org
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment, rcarroll@mde.state.md.us
Karen Cavallo Miller, Battelle/PIM, cavallok@battelle.org
Howard Chang, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, hchang@somd.lib.md.us
Tony Clarke, Edwards & Kelcey, cclarke@ekmail.com
John Frankenhoff, DCDPW, jfrankenhoff@dpw.dcgov.org
Craig Franklin, TriChord, caf@trichord-inc.com
James Gaston, GDI Traffic Mgt. & Trans. Systems, gastonjg1@aol.com
Steve Gordon, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, mailto:gordonsr@ornl.gov
Mark Hagan, VDOT/STSS, hagan_md@vdot.state.va.us
Kamal Hamud, DC DPW-DOT, khamud@wam.umd.edu
Doug Hansen, Fairfax County DOT, doug.hansen@fairfax.va.us
Duke Hanson, Lockheed Martin IMS, duke.j.hanson@lmco.com
Ling Li, VDOT/STSS, li_x@vdot.state.va.us
Don McCanless, WMATA, dmccanless@wmata.com
Karen Cavallo Miller, Battelle/Partners In Motion, cavallok@battelle.org
Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, MDSHA, jpoint-du-jour@sha.state.md.us

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the December 15, 2000 Meeting
Page 2

Will Raine, WMATA, wraine@wmata.com
JR Robinson, VDOT/ITS, robinson_jr@vdot.state.va.us
Kajaz Safarian, DC DPW-DOT, doc10e@aol.net
Vaishali Shah, Mitretek, vshah@mitretek.org
Alex Verzosa, averzosa@cf.fairfax.va.us
Nhan Vu, STSS/VDOT, vu_nn@vdot.state.va.us
Ron Welke, M-NCPPC, welke@mncppc.state.md.us
Emil Wolanin, Montgomery County DPW&T, ewolanin@dpwt.com

COG Staff:

Malaika Abernathy, mabernathy@mwcog.org
Andrew Meese, ameese@mwcog.org
Joe Zelinka, jzelinka@mwcog.org

ACTIONS:

1. Review of Notes from the November 15, 2000 Meeting

Chair Emil Wolanin called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. The November 15, 2000 meeting notes were accepted.

2. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of 2001 Officers

Doug Hansen discussed the results from the nominating committee regarding election of the 2001 ITS Technical Task Force Officers. The nominating committee (Amy Tang, Doug Hansen, Ron Welke) nominated, and the group elected, the following Chair and Vice Chairs to serve for the 2001 term:

- **Chair**
 - Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax DPW
- **Vice Chairs**
 - John Frankenhoff, DCDPW/DDOT
 - Don McCanless, WMATA
 - Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, MDSHA/OOTS

Mr. Wolanin thanked the members of the committee and COG staff for their support and contribution during his two-year term.

3. Briefing on National Metropolitan ITS Deployment Tracking

Mr. Meese introduced Steve Gordon, a representative from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Mr. Gordon gave a presentation on Oak Ridge's Metropolitan ITS Deployment Tracking. The highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- Deployment Tracking- A database of national ITS deployment information which supports multiple users such as USDOT, state and local planners, as well as researchers and vendors.

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the December 15, 2000 Meeting

Page 3

- Deployment Tracking Tasks- The tasks used for tracking ITS deployments are:
 - Define Components
 - Define Indicators
 - Identify Tracking Boundary
 - Design Data Gathering Approach
 - Execute Data Gathering
 - Report Results
- ITS Integration Indicators- After the surveys have been distributed to state and local public agencies, they are collected and analyzed. These indicators measure the interaction of agencies associated with ITS infrastructure. Data has been gathered for FY 96, FY97, FY99 and currently FY2000.
- Summary Indicator- The aforementioned indicators were summarized for the 78 largest metropolitan areas surveyed. Common trends were derived from these indicators.
- Results- The results of the surveys could be viewed at the following URL: <http://itsdeployment.ed.ornl.gov/>
- Uses of the results- The results of the survey were used for program management, congressional (and other inquiries), and state and local ITS deployment decision making.

Mr. Gordon concluded his presentation by asking the committee to discuss possible ways of improving the process of gathering ITS deployment data. Some specific areas for improvement include:

- Survey Distribution- Mr. Meese stated that MPOs and agencies might improve coordination of survey responses, especially due to new Federal guidelines which require MPOs to record specific information typically recorded by state and local agencies. This survey could be coordinated with that effort. Mr. Meese also identified the need for locally-based experts, possibly from the USDOT, to assist and guide in the completion of the survey. JR Robinson concurred and suggested that one central person should be responsible for the survey. He also suggested that the survey should improve the goals on what information is needed and actually used. Jean Yves Point-du-Jour also suggested that trends in technology were important information to his agency and should be considered.
- Survey Methodology- The committee suggested a variety of mediums should be offered, such as a written survey, web-based survey and phone survey should be available. GIS might also be an option for data gathering.
- Frequency of Updates- It was suggested that the survey be distributed every other year.
- Data Gathered- The committee stated that the use of incorporating private agencies such as ITS America or Partners In Motion should be considered. Additional agencies to include in this effort are law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Meese stated that any additional comments could be emailed to his address.

4. Report from the ITS Policy Task Force

Mr. Meese discussed the following highlights from the November 20, 2000 ITS Policy Task Force.

- 511- Mr. Meese stated that the committee suggested the need to establish a proposal defining the requirements needed to address a regional collaborative effort relating to 511. A review of existing traveler information services should be established and an outline of important regional issues should be considered. Chair David Snyder concurred with this idea and suggested COG staff prepare an outline proposal for the next meeting.
- Electronic Payment Systems (EPS)- The Volpe Center report on regional EPS was reviewed by the committee. Mr. Meese noted that Mr. Snyder requested additional information on existing EPS deployment incentives be identified. Issues of specific interest include incentives such as cost/benefit analyses. Mr. Snyder also discussed possibilities of a regional approach in collaboration with the Smart Access program.

Mr. Wolanin updated the committee on the highlights from the COG Annual Meeting, which was held on December 7, 2000. A transportation break out session, chaired by Mr. Snyder, was very well attended. Mr. Snyder gave a presentation on regional ITS deployments and Robert Hicks, Corey Hill and Mr. Wolanin served in this sessions panel. Mr. Meese thanked Mr. Wolanin and the panelist for making this event such a success.

5. Report on the Working Groups/Focus Areas

511: Todd Kell, Chair of the 511 Working Group, updated the group on the region's progress with 511. Mr. Kell stated that current efforts to identify a representative for the District of Columbia. Maryland's and Virginia's efforts in this matter are ongoing.

Mr. Wolanin encouraged Mr. Kell to reestablish the 511 subcommittee. This subcommittee could play an important role in substantiating a regional effort in traveler information.

Partners In Motion: Karen Cavallo Miller stated the following progress with PIM:

- Web Tops- Currently the Web Tops survey responses have been slow. Efforts to encourage further surveys to be completed by the agencies need to be identified. Ms. Cavallo Miller encouraged the committee to provide her with additional options on this matter. The Web Site development was completed and future ideas need to be assessed.
- PUSH Technology- The demonstration was ongoing. Efforts to market this project continue.

Ms. Cavallo Miller stated that the public agency participants' interest has died and that efforts to rejuvenate the Operations and Maintenance committee could increase the public agencies' interest.

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the December 15, 2000 Meeting
Page 5

CapWIN: Mr. Wolanin recapped the highlights from the November 28 ad hoc executive committee meeting held at COG. The meeting was well attended by a number of high level public safety and transportation officials. The meeting introduced the CapWIN program and elected members to participate on the Executive Committee. Alexandria, Virginia's Police Chief, Charles Samarra, was elected to chair this committee.

Current efforts of the CapWIN project include reviewing and approving the RFP on installing a communications switch, and identifying methods to market this project on a nation-wide basis.

Traffic Signals and Operations: Mr. Meese announced that Jeris White (Chair of this Working Group) was leaving VDOT and was expected to accept a position with Mitretek. The Working Group met on December 8 at 10 a.m. Woody Hood of the Maryland State Highway Administration's Traffic and Signals section would serve as this working group's Chair. Topics of discussion during this meeting include the following:

- GMU/VT signal preemption/prioritization study- Comments on this study would be discussed at the next meeting.
- White paper on regional traffic signal operations- Efforts to incorporate this project with the ITS Strategic Plan were discussed.
- Awareness campaign for regional signal operations
- Development of an expert system content suite Web application for signals problem reporting was discussed.

Mr. Meese stated that the group tentatively scheduled to meet on the second Friday of odd-numbered months.

Professional Capacity Building (PCB): Mr. Meese stated that the Working Group has selected Carolyn Goodman of the Virginia T² Center as the new Chair, in place of outgoing Chair Jeris White. Mr. Meese briefly recapped the December 14 meeting which was held at the George Mason University Arlington Campus. This was to be the location for the Telecommunications Vendor Course on January 30, 2001. The second phase of the training courses are expected to kick off for the upcoming year. Information on the four classes to be offered in the spring was expected soon.

The group discussed efforts to identify training needs for the region. Mr. Meese encouraged the members to send him an email on regional priorities in training, which the group could act on. The next PCB Working Group meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 25, at the COG.

Regional ITS Architecture: No further update on this subcommittee. The teams from the VDOT architecture development, the Maryland ITS Working Group Architecture and the Washington Regional Architecture development have met and further discussed coordination issues of the three efforts.

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the December 15, 2000 Meeting
Page 6

ITS As A Data Resource: Mr. Meese reported that the consultants of TransCore and this subcommittee had met on December 4. The results of the surveys were presented and the committee provided comments. The report findings would be prepared and distributed on a later date. Expected completion of the study was February 2001.

6. Other Business

The ITS Strategic Plan was progressing. The ITS Policy Task Force had given direction and COG staff would continue working on a draft.

The ITS America was to hold a meeting on 511 on January 25, 2000. Speakers from the I-95 Coalition and ITS America are expected to attend.

Mr. Wolanin adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.