

Item #10

**Briefing on Review of the January 26
Winter Storm, Including Experience of the
Metropolitan Area Transportation
Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program**

**Presentation to the Transportation Planning Board
February 16, 2011**

Overview

David Robertson, COG Executive Director

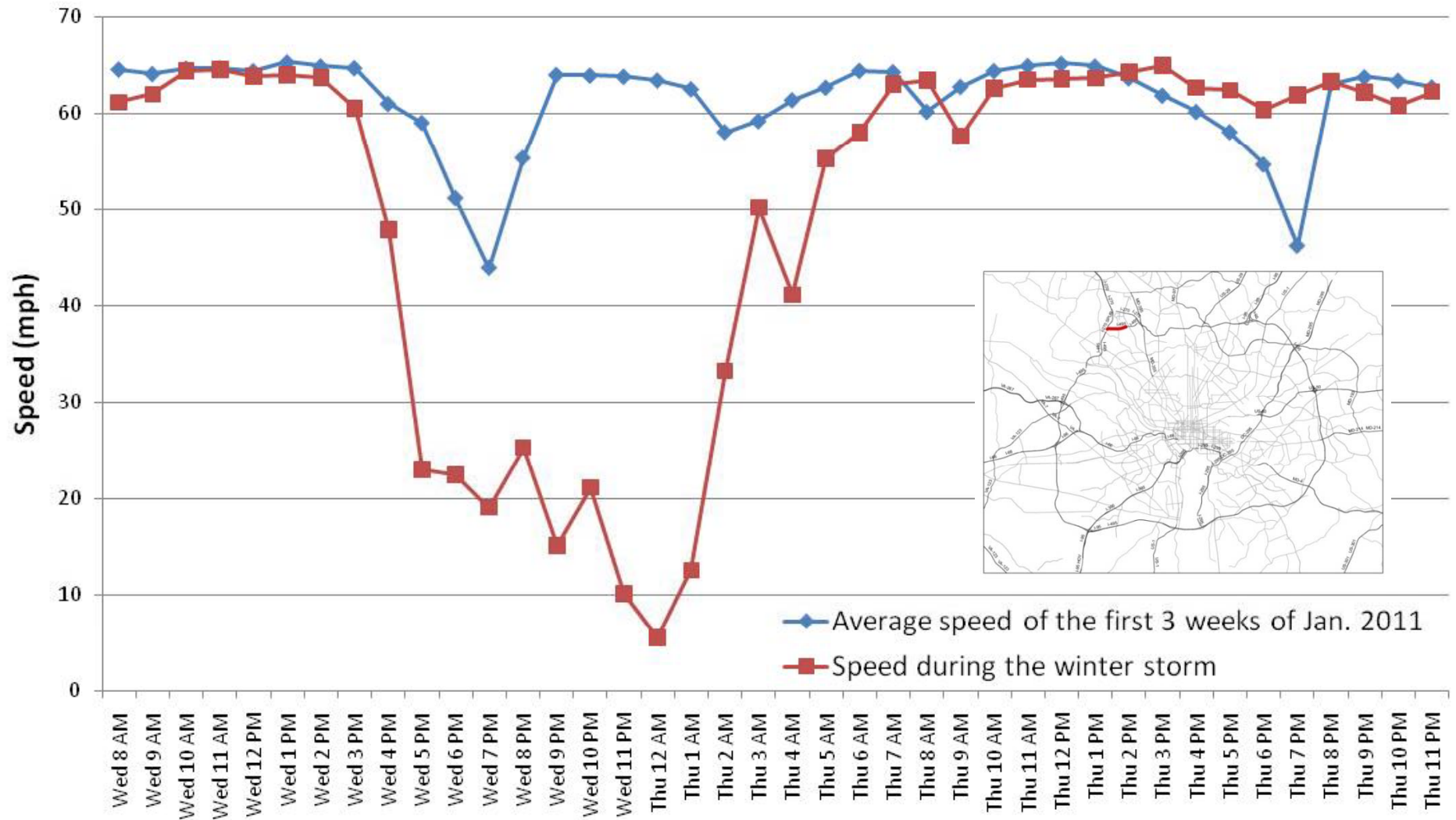
- Following the January 26 snow/ice storm and subsequent power outages, public officials, other community leaders and the public have voiced concerns regarding transportation and communications issues, power outages and emergency response
- The February 9 meeting of the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) focused on these issues
 - Chaired by Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council
 - Senior representatives of affected sectors participated – transportation (roadways and transit), emergency management, utilities, public information officers, and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, as well as elected officials
 - These representatives provided structured input on issues that arose during the storm and on recommended follow-up actions
- The COG Board has requested a report and potential after-action recommendations at their March 9 meeting
- Moving forward, COG will work with its local, state, federal and private sector partners to develop an action plan grounded in lessons-learned and opportunities for improvement

A Look at the Data

Ron Kirby

Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

Comparison of Jan. 26-27 Speeds to Average Conditions on the Beltway (IL) from I-270 Spur to Old Georgetown Rd (MD-187)



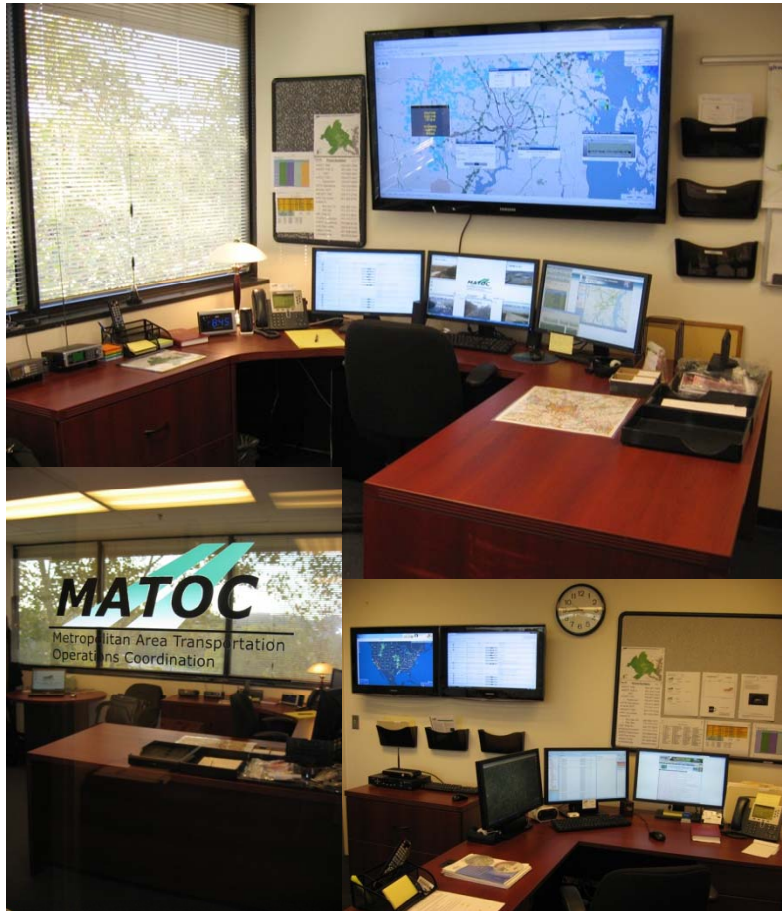
Experience and Perspectives of the MATOC Program

- **Taran Hutchinson**, MATOC Facilitator
 - Activities and Observations during the Storm
- **Tom Jacobs**, Director, University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT)
 - MATOC Future Direction
- **Mike Zezeski**, Director, Maryland CHART and Chairman, MATOC Steering Committee
 - MATOC Steering Committee Perspectives



Metropolitan Area Transportation
Operations Coordination

MATOC Operations



Hours of Operation

- Monday-Friday 4:30am-8:00pm
- After hours: On-Call Schedule
- Expanded schedule during major events

Staff

- 1 Facilitator, 2 Operators

Day-to-Day Duties

- Monitor several public and private feeds
- Maintain Situational Awareness of significant incidents affecting the region's transportation network.
- Recommend actions to mitigate delays
- Develop and maintain relationships amongst affected stakeholders



MATOC Operations During January 26-27, 2011

- Expanded hours of coverage to 24/7
- Provided Hourly Situational Awareness Reports
 - Jan 26 (2:00pm) to Jan 27 (12:00pm)
 - Objectives of the Situational Awareness Reports
 - Keep stakeholders aware of significant transportation incidents affecting the region as well as the status of road conditions and other transportation modes
 - Allow stakeholders to make better decisions on how to respond and plan for operations
- Coordination with other agencies
 - Proactive outreach to maintain awareness of agency activities
 - Monitored COG Snow Conference Calls, Regional Transit Operators Group Conference Call, emails

Observations and Challenges

- RITIS and other technical systems that MATOC monitors performed as they were designed
- Transit providers provided timely and accurate information to MATOC
- Roadway agencies also provided information to MATOC, but were overwhelmed by the sheer number of incidents
 - Competing duties
 - Information interrupted by utility outages, cameras obscured by snow
 - Reliance on unconfirmed media reports
 - Less information available on non-state roadways (e.g. parkways)
- Once traffic subsided, snow clearance activities accelerated



Metropolitan Area Transportation
Operations Coordination

MATOC Future Direction Major Work Activities

- Performance Measures
 - Continue Benefit-Cost Analysis Work
 - Automate Benefit-Cost Calculations & Reporting
- Program Planning
 - Annual Program Work Plan Update
 - Long Term (5 YR) Work Plan Development
- Ongoing RITIS O&M Support

**MATOC Benefit-Cost Analysis
White Paper**

MATOC
Metropolitan Area Transportation
Operations Coordination

June 2010

d. District Department of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
M metro
VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

"Working together to reduce incident-related travel delays through improved coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing."



Next Steps

- Further potential for MATOC role in event preparation, tabletop exercises
- Re-look at MATOC, agency standard operating procedures for snow events
- Continue development of public information components of MATOC website

MATOC Steering Committee Perspectives Mike Zezeski

Director, Maryland CHART and Chair, MATOC Steering Committee

- MATOC fulfilled its current role in providing situational awareness to agencies during the January 26 storm
 - In accordance with signed MATOC MOU
- Member DOTs, WMATA will continue to collaborate through MATOC to address regional incidents
 - Consistent with state laws, jurisdictional decision makers
- MATOC involvement is recommended in any after-action analysis called for by the COG Board at its March 9 meeting



Metropolitan Area Transportation
Operations Coordination

Questions

