

MEETING NOTES

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TECHNICAL TASK FORCE

DATE: Friday, September 22, 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:

Armen Abrahamian, P.G. County DPW&T, aabrahamian@pg.co.md.us
George Ake, University of Maryland, gake@wam.umd.edu
Brien Benson, GMU, bbenson@gmu.edu
Zia Burleigh, VDOT/STSS, burleigh_zm@vdot.state.va.us
Chris Detmer, VDOT/TPD/Richmond, detmer_ce@vdot.va.us
Kathleen Donodeo, WMATA, kdonodeo@wmata.com
John Frankenhoff, DCDPW/DDOT, jfrankenhoff@dpw.dcgov.org
Doug Frye, GMU-SPP, dougfrye@gmu.edu
James Gaston, GDI @ Telenetics Co., j_gaston@telenetics.com
Carolyn Goodman, VDOT Research Council, goodmancd@vdot.state.va.us
Kamal Hamud, DCDPW-DOT, khamud@wam.umd.edu
Duke Hanson, Lockheed Martin IMS, duke.j.hanson@lmco.com
Fatimah A. Hasan, MDOT, Planning & Capital, fhasan@mdot.state.md.us
Tom Jennings, FHWA- VA Div., tom.jennings@fhwa.dot.gov
Todd Kell, VDOT ITS Div., kell-wt@vdot.state.va.us
K.R. Marshall, PB Farradyne, marshallk@pbworld.com
Craig Maxey, WMATA, cmaxey@wmata.com
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Patrick McGowan, PB Faradyne, mcgowanp@pbworld.com
Frank Mirack, FHWA
Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, MDSHA, jpoint-du-jour@sha.state.md.us
J. R. Robinson, VDOT/ITS, robinson_jr@vdot.state.va.us
Kajaz Safarian, DCDPW-DOT, docioe@aol.net
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Robert M. Winick, Motion Maps LLC, rmwinick@motionmaps.com
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COG Staff:

Malaika Abernathy, mabernathy@mwcog.org
Andrew Meese, ameese@mwcog.org
Gerald Miller, gkmiller@mwcog.org
Joseph J. Zelinka, COG Public Safety, jzelinka@mwcog.org

ACTIONS:

1. Review of Notes from the July 28, 2000 Meeting

Chair Emil Wolanin called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. The July 28, 2000 meeting notes were accepted.

2. Update and Announcement of Professional Capacity Building Courses

Andrew Meese updated the committee on the progress of the ITS Training Courses. The ITS Professional Capacity Building subcommittee has for the first-time-ever in the nation, created four specialized courses for transportation professionals in our region. The courses would be offered twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring for transportation professionals around the metropolitan region. The following courses are scheduled for one day a week for three consecutive weeks:

University of Maryland

- Project Management: Managing Transportation Projects for Success, October 12, 19, 26, 2000
- Public Policy and Institutional Issues in the Deployment of ITS, November 1, 8, 15, 2000

UVA/VT Northern Virginia Center

- Information Technology Applications in Transportation Management Systems, November 1, 8, 15, 2000

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- The Application of Advanced Technologies in Public Transportation, November 28, December 5, 12, 2000

For additional information on these courses check the following URL:
<http://www.ence.umd.edu/mdt2center/PDF/ITSShortCourses.pdf>

The PCB subcommittee would also be offering additional vendor-based courses throughout the year on specific transportation issues. James Gaston would be hosting the first vendor course of the series on telecommunications. The course would be offered sometime in January 2001. For additional ideas on topics for vendor-based courses, please contact Mr. Meese.

Carolyn Goodman discussed the importance of the Task Force continuing to provide ideas to the PCB subcommittee on specific training needs for the region. She encouraged ongoing dialogue on training topics of specific importance to our region's transportation professionals.

Mr. Wolanin reminded the committee to visit the Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE's) Web Site at www.citeconsortium.org for additional information on ITS Web-based courses.

3. Update on Regional Payment Systems Study

Mr. Meese updated the committee on the TPB's efforts in identifying additional funding resources for the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP). On November 30, 2000, the TPB would be hosting a regional conference on ~~potential unfunded opportunities in technology for transportation projects~~ **transportation funding needs in the region**. The Electronic Payment Systems Study could be a ~~viable topic for discussion during~~ **background information** for this conference.

Mr. Meese reported the proposed results of the study from Leisa Moniz, to possibly be used for the aforementioned TPB meeting. Some highlights of the study for regional incentives include:

- Coordinating electronic payment activities in the region, i.e. SmartTrip, Smart Tag, to provide a more reliable and efficient situation for regional travel.
- Possibly encouraging additional non-transportation payment applications with the smart card. Examples include linking transit, toll and parking payments with corporate and university programs, human service benefits delivery programs, retail, phone and e-commerce programs.

A final report of the study would be expected for the October 27, ITS Technical Task Force Meeting.

4. Update and Recommendations on CapWIN

George Ake reported the progress of the CapWIN project.

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- Additional agencies participating in this effort include National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Public Safety Wireless Network and various transportation agencies from around the region.
- A pilot project on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge would be underway next month. NIJ, Public Safety Wireless and transportation officials would be testing voice and data communication between Virginia and Maryland using VDOT trucks. A voice piece pilot project on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge with NIJ would also be underway. Transportation officials have been invited to participate in this effort.
- The steering committee would discuss the need to attract additional agencies for funding opportunities.
- The CapWIN steering committee would be identifying stakeholders to participate in the CapWIN Executive Committee, an ad-hoc interagency group to provide executive guidance for the project. Possible transportation officials have yet to be identified but would hold a position on this committee.

Mr. Ake stated that this project is currently funded with an FHWA grant, however additional funding sources need to be identified. Mr. Meese stated that due to nature of CapWIN, the Executive Committee must identify a process in which this project could financially sustain itself, since transportation and public safety agencies operate differently. Mr. Ake said that currently involved agencies understand that a financial contribution is necessary for the deployment of CapWIN, however a stronger effort to identify the right stakeholders needs to be further identified.

The steering committee would be scheduling an Executive committee meeting inviting elected officials, public and transportation professionals to oversee all aspects of development and operation of CapWIN. The proposed list of attendees for this meeting would be discussed and approved at the October 2, 2000 ITS Policy Task Force meeting and a date for the Executive meeting would subsequently be scheduled.

5. Update and Recommendations on 5-1-1

Mr. Meese reviewed a proposed letter from Frank Mirack and the 5-1-1 subcommittee. The letter concerns the role and jurisdiction of state public service commissions in the use of the 5-1-1 number. J.R. Robinson suggested that Task Force should not use this letter to represent the state agencies. Mr. Robinson stated that VDOT had previously written a similar letter to the public service commission and recommended each jurisdiction should do the same. Mr. Robinson suggested the Task Force should come to a consensus on the following issues before making a regional decision on 5-1-1:

- Identify existing transportation information services in the region;
- Identify what information the regional service should contain out of the existing services;
- Identify funding opportunities for this regional service; provide experts on rate structures for telephone agencies.

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- Identify actions for the region to follow during the interim of the process; Kathleen Donodeo suggested the region utilize the already existing regional traveler information number, Smart Traveler, from WMATA.

The ITS Technical Task Force decided that each state agency should appoint a lead contact to pursue a regional decision for 5-1-1. Volunteers for the lead contact positions are the following: J.R. Robinson for VDOT, and Jean Yves Point-du-Jour for MDSHA.

6. Lunch Break

7. ITS Strategic Plan and Input to the CLRP Development

Mr. Meese updated the committee on progress of the ITS Strategic Plan. Currently, COG staff has interviewed a number of state and local transportation officials regarding possible ITS regional cooperation incentives. These efforts have yielded a short list of potential areas for consideration in the new CLRP development. Mr. Meese reviewed these potential areas for consideration with the ITS Task Force members and concluded the following revised list:

- Two additional regional opportunities were discussed and included on the chart; Signal System Upgrade and Regional Communications Upgrade.
- Changes to the “Rough Cost Estimate” column were made.

The revised list would be discussed during the October 2, 2000 ITS Policy Task Force meeting.

8. Reports from the Working Groups/Subcommittees/Focus Areas

Traffic Signals and Operations: Jeris White said that the Regional Traffic Signal Optimization survey results from Maryland, Virginia and DC were complete. The next meeting date is scheduled for October 20, 2000 at Montgomery County’s Transportation Management Center, in Rockville, MD at 10:30am. The meeting would focus on the following topics:

- Standards;
- Regional Traffic Signal Awareness Campaign;
- Survey results to be included in the ITS Strategic Plan;
- Preemption/Priority Update from George Mason University and Virginia Tech.

Regional ITS Architecture:

Mr. Meese reported that the Regional ITS Architecture subcommittee had its project kick-off meeting on August 30, 2000. The consultants, CSC and PB Farradyne, reviewed the project goals, objectives and deliverables. A more detailed report would be given next ITS Technical Task Force meeting.

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ITS As A Data Resource: Jean Yves Point-du-Jour reported that the survey on existing and planned data generating ITS activities had been completed. The committee is in the process of contacting those agencies that have not completed the survey. Additional follow-up face-to-face and telephone interviews are being scheduled for next month with specific agencies.

IDAS

COG staff has been working with the IDAS model for improvements.

Partners In Motion

Todd Kell reported the following info on PIM:

- Currently the project was producing 30% of the revenue sharing back to the agencies.
- The SmartTraveler site gets approximately 11,000-12,000 hits daily.
- In October there would be a replacement ~~to~~ of the Agency server ~~of~~ with Web Maps TOPS
- Each agencies speed maps would be modified also in October.
- The data warehouse would be ready in October.

Mr. Wolanin adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.