

MEETING NOTES

**TPB INTELLIGENT
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TECHNICAL TASK FORCE**

DATE: Friday, March 24, 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@co.pg.md.us
Zia Burleigh, VDOT, burleigh_zm@vdot.state.va.us
Ned Carey, MD Aviation Administration, ecarey@mdot.state.md.us
Chris Detmer, VDOT/TPD/Richmond, detmer_ce@vdot.state.va.us
Kathleen Donodeo, WMATA, kdonodeo@wmata.com
Jonathan Gifford, George Mason University, jgifford@gmu.edu
Kamal Hamud, DCDPW, khamud@wam.umd.edu
Doug Hansen, Fairfax County, DOT, doug.hansen@co.fairfax.va.us
Duke Hanson, Lockheed Martin, duke.j.hanson@lmco.com
Dennis Kershner, John Hopkins University/Applied Physics Lab., dennis.kershner@jhuapl.edu
Lora Mayo, WMATA, lmayo@wmata.com
Glenn McLaughlin, MDSHA-CHART, gmclaughlin@sha.state.md.us
Christopher Merdon, Computer Sciences Corporation, cmerdon@csc.com
Karen Cavallo Miller, Battelle/Partners In Motion, cavallok@battelle.org
Frank Mirack, FHWA
Steve Rochon, MDSHA-CHART, srochon@sha.state.md.us
Sharmila Samarasinghe, NVTC, sharmila@nvtc.org

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Page 2

Laurie Schintler, George Mason University, lschintl@gmu.edu
Lane Swauger, Parsons, lane.swauger@parsons.com
Phil Tarnoff, University of Maryland, tarnoff@eng.umd.edu
Kenneth Todd, Member of the public
Alex Verzosa, City of Fairfax, DPW, averzosa@ci.farifax.va.us
Ron Welke, M-NCPPC Montgomery County, welke@mncppc.state.md.us
Jeris White, VDOT, white_jj@vdot.state.va.us
Bob Winick, Motion Maps, LLC, rmwinick@motionmaps.com
Leonard Wolfenstein, Fairfax County DOT, leonard.wolfenstein@co.fairfax.va.us
Carol Zimmerman, Battelle/Partners In Motion, zimmermc@battelle.org

COG Staff:

Malaika Abernathy, mabernathy@mwcog.org
Andrew Austin, aaustin@mwcog.org
Ron Kirby, rkirby@mwcog.org
Andrew Meese, ameese@mwcog.org
Gerald Miller, gkmiller@mwcog.org
Cicero Salles, csalles@mwcog.org
Daivamani Sivasailam, siva@mwcog.org
Joe Zelinka, jzelinka@mwcog.org

ACTIONS:

1. Review of Notes from the February 25, 2000 Meeting

Chair Emil Wolanin was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Chair Alex Verzosa called the meeting to order at 10:45. No changes were made to the February 25, 2000 notes.

2. Briefing on COG/TPB Proposed Use of the ITS Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) Computer Model

Mr. Meese introduced the IDAS project. The IDAS software is a planning tool, developed under the direction of the U.S. Department of Transportation, designed to help public agencies and consultants integrate ITS deployment within the traditional transportation planning process. The IDAS software provides systematic assessments and quantitative evaluations of the transportation, cost, and emissions impacts of more than 60 types of ITS investments. The software has been under development, but had not yet been released; official release was expected in Spring 2000. COG staff did have in hand a preliminary "beta" version of the software.

COG has proposed, under the FY 2001 Unified Planning Work Program, to look at the IDAS

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting

Page 3

software for testing and software evaluation. However, a need had arisen to instead utilize the beta version of the software in the immediate future in a “production” mode, rather than testing mode, to look at the air quality impacts of ITS strategies. For this newly proposed activity, the Travel Management Subcommittee (a subcommittee under the TPB’s Technical Committee with responsibility for air quality-related transportation strategies) would be the main oversight group for staff activities, with additional advice sought from the ITS Technical Task Force on what strategies to evaluate.

Daivamani Sivasailam added that the timeline for jurisdictions to input their projects would be the end of May. Mr. Meese and Mr. Sivasailam will provide a list of possible projects that can assist in the analysis of the software next month.

Ron Kirby further explained the Air Quality Conformity process and the potential opportunities for ITS projects. There were concerns that the region will fail to meet emissions targets in the conformity test, particularly in projections for 2005 and 2025. The two pollutants of concern were VOC and NOx. ITS strategies that address traffic-flow and improvements and vehicle delay reductions would reduce VOC; and it is anticipated that there will be a VOC problem in this year’s conformity determination.

Therefore, it would be helpful to explore regional wide ITS strategies, assessing them using IDAS, which could be incorporated into the regional long-range transportation plan.

In response to a question from Phil Tarnoff, Mr. Sivasailam said that he will look into whether IDAS can handle operational measures of projects.

Laurie Schintler from George Mason University was working on a project for VDOT using the Integration software model to assess certain operational improvements in the I-66 corridor. The model also looks at emissions impacts and can be coordinated with the IDAS project. Ms. Schintler agreed to make a presentation during a future ITS Technical Task Force meeting.

3. Report on Follow-Up Activities of the January 19 ITS Conference

Mr. Meese said that no changes to the previous Draft Proceedings have been made. The Final Proceedings should be expected next month. A revised Executive Summary was expected to be completed next month. This version will be suitable for media. COG staff was working on developing the TPB’s Web Site. The Conference Proceedings and the Executive Summary will be available on the Web Site.

4. ITS Strategy Development

Mr. Meese thanked the group for comments on further developing the ITS strategy. Mr. Meese

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Page 4

reviewed the following changes that have been made to the document:

- The introduction identified the development of an ITS subcommittee. This subcommittee would consist of members from both the ITS Policy and Technical Task Forces, and would be responsible for performing the work and progress reports of the strategy development.
- Task 1 of the strategy development, would identify previously existing local, state and regional plans such as the Wolf report, the Umbrella Study and VDOT's strategic plans. These and other documents would be reviewed to determine how their interrelationships should be reflected or incorporated into the regional ITS strategy.
- Task 2 (which would be undertaken overlapping Task 1) will review federal regulations regarding ITS regional planning and architectures.
- Task 3 would entail identifying needs and opportunities for regional collaboration in ITS systems.
- In conjunction with Task 3, Task 4 would examine needs and opportunities for regional collaboration in relationship to issues of costs, sequence and timing.
- Task 5 would require the preparation of a draft document to be reviewed by the ITS Policy and Technical Task Forces, and other stakeholders, to be eventually presented to the TPB. The Regional ITS Architecture subcommittee will work in conjunction with the ITS strategy subcommittee.

Kathleen Donodeo stated that Task 4 should address policy as well as technical issues. Ms. Donodeo further identified the need to include a discussion and recommendation section in Task 4 to help develop what needs to be said and identified before the first draft. Ms. Donodeo strongly suggested that the TPB be involved more explicitly during the preliminary stages of the strategy development rather than only in the end to review the final document. Ms. Donodeo said that we need to either have better elected official representation on the Policy Task Force or that the TPB needs to be more involved in the process. Mr. Meese suggested that the Policy Task Force remain the lead group. He also commented that under the direction Mayor Snyder and the Policy Task Force, if necessary, an additional effort can be taken to invite elected officials. This effort could be accommodated within the work scope.

Lora Mayo suggested that funding could be received from other FTA funding sources if money was an issue. Mr. Meese explained that the effort would be accomplished in-house with existing funds, perhaps with some advice from a task order consultant, and that detailed technical issues should be addressed by the ITS Regional Architecture effort. Other monies were available; timeliness was the main concern.

Ms. Donodeo questioned whether there was going to be ample staff and time to finish the strategy.

Mr. Tarnoff asked about the level of detail for Task 3. He commented that once we identify the level of detail then we could determine the necessary amount of time to allocate to the strategy. Mr. Meese explained that the strategy document would only discuss how the MPO addresses regional

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Page 5

planning on an interjurisdictional and interagency basis.

Ms. Donodeo stated that the Regional Architecture and ITS strategy efforts should be combined into one document in which policy initiatives support technical efforts. She stated that the assumption that the strategy supports the Regional Architecture should not be taken for granted and should be further addressed.

Comments and concerns were to be sent to Mr. Meese.

5. Update on Mailing Lists and Subcommittee/Working Groups

Mr. Meese requested that all ITS Technical Task Force members and others fill out and return the update form to either Malaika Abernathy or himself. The update was an effort to improve communication and services to COG member jurisdictions and agencies. Mr. Meese encouraged the Task Force to photocopy the form and provide it to others that may be interested.

6. Update on Partners In Motion

Carol Zimmerman said that Partners In Motion (PIM) was currently in its fourth year of operation. New additional services that have been offered include Audio Point, which was an interactive voice response telephone service provided for travelers needing route information. Ms. Zimmerman stated that PIM has approached its revenue sharing phase, where under the direction of VDOT, agency revenues will be deposited into an account on a quarterly basis. Ms. Zimmerman also discussed VDOT and Battelle signing a contract to use FY99 earmark funding to:

- Upgrade agency data server to a more efficient Internet based server;
- Push Technology: Technology, which provides a means of getting alert messages to travelers.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that she would be stepping aside, and Karen Cavallo Miller will be assuming the role of Project Manager for Battelle. Ms. Miller requested participation for the Operations and Maintenance subcommittee of PIM. The group would present PIM's current and future project status. Recommendations and comments would be welcomed at the meeting. For further information please contact Ms. Miller.

Mr. Meese commended Ms. Zimmerman's hard work as the PIM's Project Manager.

7. Reports from the Working Groups/Subcommittees/Focus Area

Traffic Signals and Operations: Jeris White reported that the last meeting date was March 10, 2000. Topics included discussion of the signal optimization survey, which was ready to send out.

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Page 6

Mr. White stated that subsequent to the survey, the development of white papers should be created on operations for signal systems. Mr. White also discussed the suggestion to develop a signal system campaign that explains how traffic signals work. An example would be to create a video to be part of DMV Drivers Training Program. The next meeting was scheduled for April 25, 2000 at 10:00am at COG. Mr. Meese added that Virginia Tech and George Mason were underway with the Signal Prioritization and Preemption study and interviews with key stakeholders were being completed.

ITS Training: The PCB Training Program, Introduction to ITS Telecommunications Systems Workshop was held on March 8-9, 2000 at Virginia Tech, Falls Church location. Course revisions would be made based on the feedback of attendees. VDOT and MDSHA would offer SYNCHRO training sometime this year; time and dates were TBA. Mr. White requested Task Force members to identify Vendors to participate in the training program.

Regional ITS Telecommunication Study: Glenn McLaughlin said that on March 6, 2000 a meeting was held to review the final draft of the study. Major comments from the CFC included the following:

- The recommendations were too strong regarding how the projects were going to be implemented and what jurisdictions would be responsible for the deployment; and
- Details of the study need to be worked out due to the minimal cost opportunities related to Maryland, Virginia and DC.

Once revisions are completed, the ITS Technical Task Force would be briefed.

Regional ITS Architecture: Mr. McLaughlin reported that Maryland will be the lead agency in developing a Regional Architecture. Currently, there were three additional regional efforts going on. Mr. McLaughlin requested that this subcommittee should include membership from the other regional efforts as well as those interested from the ITS Policy and Technical Task Force. Please email all interests to Mr. Meese.

Electronic Payment Systems: Sharmila Samarasinghe reported that the Volpe Center has completed interviews of stakeholders. The next phase was to prepare a technical memo, which would include describing existing conditions of electronic payment deployments within the region. A presentation would be made to the ITS Technical Task Force in September.

ITS As A Data Resource: Mr. Meese stated that the consultant, TransCore, has been briefed on the work scope. The study will concentrate on the inventory stage and use the CHART and VDOT Data Warehousing projects to assist in identifying what systems are out there. A notice to proceed was expected soon.

8. Proposal for ITS Deployment Game

TPB ITS Technical Task Force
Notes from the March 24, 2000 Meeting
Page 7

Mr. Meese introduced the ITS deployment game developed by the University of Michigan. The Game was intended to provide learning opportunities for public or private sector officials who have limited knowledge about ITS and are decision makers or managers facing ITS deployment within. Sixteen participants are needed to plan and deploy ITS Market Packages in a generic metropolitan region. The following issues would be addressed:

- Which ITS Market Packages should be deployed and when;
- Who should team up to deploy which ITS;
- What are the benefits of collaboration;
- What is the role of regional integration in planning and deployment;
- Who pays for deployment and through what mechanisms;
- What are the benefits of deployment,
- Who benefits and how.

Jonathan Gifford stated that the participants would be chosen from the TPB ITS Policy and Technical Task Force Groups. The duration of the workshop will be half a day. There will be no or minor monetary costs involved for participants (FHWA supports the course). The time, date and place of the workshop were TBA. Mr. Meese stated that this workshop will be a positive adjunct to the ITS Strategy Subcommittee in further allowing committee members to experience interjurisdictional and interagency issues when deploying ITS applications. COG Staff would work with Mr. Gifford in further developing this effort.

9. Other Business

Mr. Meese responded to a question from Ms. Mayo by stating that the ITS Technical and Policy Task Forces are open to examining interrelationships regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ITS. Mr. Verzosa adjourned the meeting at 12:28 pm.