



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Andrew Meese, TPB Systems Performance Planning Director
SUBJECT: Description of Upcoming TPB Staff Systems Performance, Operations, and Technology Subcommittee (SPOTS) Outreach
DATE: March 29, 2019

BACKGROUND

SPOTS is the current evolution of the TPB Technical Committee's advisory subcommittee on the interrelated topics of technology plus management and operations of the region's transportation system. What is now SPOTS began with establishment of an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Task Force in 1997. Changes over the years included expanding scope to accommodate [regional transportation systems] management and operations plus ITS (MOITS); conversion from a task force to a standing subcommittee; establishment of a Traffic Signals Subcommittee; and addition of a systems performance focus with operations and technology (SPOTS).

The evolving and growing scope of member agency and jurisdiction SPOTS-related activities now necessitates more information exchange than can be accomplished during subcommittee meetings, leading to a TPB staff recommendation for a tour of one-on-one outreach site visit meetings with/at SPOTS-involved jurisdictions and agencies.

WHY A SPOTS OUTREACH TOUR?

Three primary reasons for TPB staff to conduct a SPOTS outreach tour are: 1) to meet with a wide number of jurisdictional/agency staff persons/subject matter experts involved, but who may not be able to attend SPOTS meetings; 2) to explore how the SPOTS program can be most helpful to each jurisdiction/agency; and 3) to conduct site or field visits to increase TPB staff awareness of jurisdictional/agency operations and technology deployments. This information, in turn, will help improve the quality of TPB's SPOTS-related regional planning.

STARTING SOON

At the April 5 meeting, TPB staff will describe what is anticipated for SPOTS outreach, giving a heads-up that outreach is coming. Details are not finalized. We will start with "pilot" outreach meetings with two or three jurisdictions/agencies, to probe the topics covered, questions asked, and subject matter experts involved. Volunteer hosts for anticipated April/May pilot meetings include Arlington County and MDOT-SHA. Outreach is anticipated to emphasize SPOTS core topics of transportation systems management and operations, ITS, traffic signals, and related data systems, plus others. Lessons learned from the pilots will advise the remainder of outreach meetings, which will extend into FY2020. For more information, please contact Andrew Burke (aburke@mwkog.org).