



National Capital Region
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Item #2

Overview of the National Capital Region **Vehicle Probe Data Users Group**

Vehicle Probe Data Users Group Meeting
October 9, 2014



Background

- I-95 Corridor Coalition Vehicle Probe Project
 - Probe data became a major source for traffic and system performance monitoring
 - VPP2 in a multi-vendor fashion
 - Desire for enhanced consistency, collaboration and capabilities
- FHWA National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS)
 - May provide valuable freight movement information
- Potential future datasets
- MAP-21 and FHWA anticipated new rules
 - Performance measures, reporting, targets, etc.



MAP-21

- Under MAP-21, FHWA is establishing performance measures in 12 areas:
 - 4 areas in safety
 - 3 areas in pavement and bridge conditions
 - 1 area in on-road mobile source emissions
 - **Traffic congestion**
 - **Performance of the Interstate system**
 - **Performance of the non-Interstate NHS**
 - **Freight movement on the Interstate system**
- This Users Group will serve as the platform for DC-MD-VA-TPB **common data sourcing** and **traffic congestion performance measures calculation**



Mission as Proposed

The mission of the National Capital Region's Vehicle Probe Data Users Group (VPDUG) is to enhance regional coordination, consistency, and capabilities in the use of vehicle probe-based traffic data toward performance-based transportation planning and programming.



Goals

1. The VPDUG will be a regional platform for probe data information exchange, user experience sharing, and professional skills development.
2. The VPDUG will develop recommended technical guidelines for probe data processing and performance measure calculation and improve the guidelines over time.
3. The VPDUG will also discuss probe data-related other data and system performance issues to support performance-based transportation planning and programming.



Structure

- Sub-group of the Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee
- Quarterly meeting
- Volunteer participants
- Limited- term



Participation

- Public agencies of TPB member jurisdictions,
- Consultants working for TPB member jurisdictions and enabled by a valid Data Use Agreement (DUA) with the I-95 Corridor Coalition or the University of Maryland,
- Peer public agencies outside TPB jurisdictions with a valid DUA with the I-95 Corridor Coalition or the University of Maryland, and
- Other eligible entities reviewed and, if acceptable, permitted on a case-by-case basis.



Website

- <http://tinyurl.com/vpdug>
- Description
- Event Calendar
- Documents

- COG/TPB website to be revamped in a few months



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/default.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=283. The page header includes navigation links: About COG, Doing Business with COG, Human Resources, Contact Us, and Site Map, along with the date September 23, 2014. The main header features the MWCog logo and the tagline "One Region Moving Forward". The page title is "Committee Business". A sidebar on the left lists various site sections: What is COG, Member Jurisdictions, Board of Directors, Officers of the COG Corporation, Executive Director, Annual Reports, Key COG Documents, COG's e-Newsletter - Capital Region Connections, and Contact & Directions. The main content area is titled "Committee Business" and includes a sub-header "Vehicle Probe Data Users Group - Description". It provides a staff contact: Wenjing Pu, (202) 962-3761. The "Mission" section states: "The mission of the National Capital Region's Vehicle Probe Data Users Group (VPDUG) is to enhance regional coordination, consistency, and capabilities in the use of vehicle probe-based traffic data toward performance-based transportation planning and programming. Probe data such as those supplied by the I-95 Corridor Coalition Vehicle Probe Project (VPP) and the Federal Highway Administration's National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) reveal unprecedented coverage and details of traffic conditions on surface roads, providing data support for a major transportation policy shift to establish accountable and performance-based transportation programs as required by the MAP-21 legislation. As an emerging data source, probe data comes with some technical challenges, inconsistencies, and the state of practice is still fast evolving. It is anticipated that the VPDUG will be a limited-term group in the region's transition to a broad and appropriate utilization of probe data; after that, the necessity of the group's existence will be re-evaluated." The "Goals" section lists three points: 1. Provide a regional platform for probe data information exchange, user experience sharing, and professional skills development. 2. Develop recommended technical guidelines for probe data processing and performance measure calculation and improve the guidelines over time. 3. Address probe data-related other data and system performance issues to support performance-based transportation planning and programming. The "Governance" section states: "The Vehicle Probe Data Users Group is established as a sub-group of the Management, Operations, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (MOITS) Technical Subcommittee, with a quarterly meeting schedule and volunteer members. A member of the TPB staff is designated as the lead staff person for the Group." The "Participation" section states: "Participation is encouraged by all member agencies of TPB. Participating group members are ideally key technical transportation engineers and planners for member agencies."



Access to Vehicle Probe Data

- VPP data
 - Public sector to sign a DUA
 - <https://vpp.ritis.org/suite/dua/>
 - Members of the TPB are encouraged to sign the DUA to take advantages of the data and tools
- NPMRDS data
 - MPOs, States are eligible
 - send e-mail to heretraffic.nhsdata@here.com

