

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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Meeting Notes

MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (MOITS) POLICY TASK FORCE AND MOITS TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 2011

TIME: 12:30 PM

PLACE: COG, First Floor, Meeting Room 1

CHAIRS: Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church, Chair, Policy Task Force
Sean Kennedy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority,
Chair, Technical Committee

Attendees:

Tad Borkowski, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Gary Euler, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Taran Hutchinson, MATOC
Sean Kennedy, WMATA
Glenn McLaughlin, Maryland State Highway Administration
Frank Mirack, FHWA DC Division
Jean Yves Point-du-Jour, Maryland State Highway Administration

COG Staff Attendance:

Michael Farrell
Ron Kirby
Andrew Meese
Erin Morrow
Patrick Powell
Wenjing Pu
Huijing Qiang
Eric Randall
Daivamani Sivasailam

MOITS Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee

Notes from the July 12, 2011 Joint Meeting

Page 2 of 4

Actions:

1. Welcome and Review of Notes from the June 14, 2011 MOITS Joint Meeting

Mr. Kennedy began introductions and welcomed participants. Participants introduced themselves. Notes from the June MOITS meeting were approved.

2. Coordination Updates

a. Regional Emergency Support Function #1 – Emergency Transportation Committee Activities

Mr. Powell noted that there was no major update at this time and the 2011NCR UASI application is still in progress. Mr. Meese noted the priority for transportation projects and two RITIS enhancement projects. One is evacuation monitoring and the other is searching for new data sources for public safety data. The other project is to help DC on its evacuation plan. 2.3 million dollars out of total 2.6 million dollars will be used for RITIS.

b. COG Steering Committee for Incident Management and Response Activities

Mr. Meese reviewed recent activities of the COG Steering Committee for Incident Management and Response (IMR). Mr. Meese distributed a handout to the committee. It documented comparative roles and activities of TRANSCOM and MATOC. COG Board of Directors formed a Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response in response to the January 26 snow storm. COG staff prepared a draft work plan which was approved by the COG Board on March 9. This plan has four focus areas: 1. Situational awareness among public agencies; 2. Improve real-time information given to the public; 3. Expand operational support from MATOC and RITIS to improve regional coordination; 4. Strengthen and focused decision making.

The IMR Steering Committee is chaired by Councilmember Phil Andrews of Montgomery County. The committee consists of members from State DOTs, WMATA, and MATOC. It has had two meetings, one on April 28 and the other on June 29. At the June 29 meeting of IMR Steering Committee, main discussions were comparisons between TRANSCOM and MATOC (the main difference between TRANSCOM and MATOC being the scale of metropolitan area, and that TRANSCOM addresses construction scheduling coordination. He noted that during that meeting there were several interesting presentations from different stakeholders talking about resource distribution, personnel management, impact of decision making and public information dissemination. In response to a question as whether the committee has looked into best practices from other parts of the country, Mr. Meese said they did look into other parts of the country and there was not much difference in terms of snow storm response. Mr. Meese especially noted that TRANSCOM does not have direct authorities towards specific events. TRANSCOM does not make any decisions, but its information is valued by other authorities in New York area.

TRANSCOM's Open Reach software was also introduced in the meeting. The similarities and dissimilarities between RITIS and Open Reach were discussed in detail. Mr. Meese also explained

MOITS Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee

Notes from the July 12, 2011 Joint Meeting

Page 3 of 4

that Open Reach is the data engine of the state 511 system in New Jersey. Funding histories and mechanisms of TRANSCOM were also discussed and the committee is interested in learning from TRANSCOM.

c. Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program Activities

Mr. Hutchinson showed the new MATOC official website to the committee. Currently the website is still at its phase I stage. The website has a brief introduction of MATOC. Under its traveler information tab, the website provides links to travel information pages from three State DOTs and Metro. Mr. Hutchinson also showed MATOC's Twitter page. In response to a question as whether MATOC provides travel information of county level arterials, Mr. Meese and Mr. Hutchinson noted that there is currently no real-time travel information from counties available to MATOC for sharing by those counties.

3. Preview Demonstration of Maryland's 511 Service

Mr. McLaughlin gave a presentation and a live demo of the statewide 511 system for the State of Maryland. He used the official website of the 511 system to demonstrate different functionalities. The purpose, system structure, data sources, system coverage and platform were also introduced. He noted that there are 114 tasks in this project. The 511 system was currently still in pre-production and was expected to launch in early August.

Mr. McLaughlin also noted that the logo of the 511 system had been changed to incorporate the phrase "Know before you go". It advocates drivers using the 511 system as a tool for pre-trip planning as opposed to en-route mobile information gathering for the purpose of reducing driving distractions.

When asked the necessity of the 511 system with so many other existing new technologies and commercial systems, Mr. McLaughlin noted that the 511 system is a unique customized public service and it is also because of national consistency to have such system in most of states within the country. Mr. Meese added that New York TRANSCOM uses their 511 system as a media for public information dissemination and Mr. McLaughlin agrees that it is also the future direction of Maryland.

Mr. McLaughlin also did a live demo of Interactive Voice Response (IVR) of the 511 phone system and 511 trip planning function. The system is able to provide accurate information such as traffic conditions, incidents, transit and toll information, weather information, travel directions, et cetera.

4. Update on the National Capital Regional Congestion Report (Draft) – A Congestion Management Process (CMP) "Dashboard"

Mr. Pu made a presentation to introduce and review the second draft of the National Capital Region congestion report for the 4th quarter of 2010 and requested for comments. He explained the changes from previous version, which includes updates on the design of chart, the color, the layout and

MOITS Policy Task Force and Technical Subcommittee

Notes from the July 12, 2011 Joint Meeting

Page 4 of 4

different data analysis. Key performance measures include percentages of freeway lane-miles by congestion level, delay per freeway traveler, travel time index, travel time burden, most severe bottlenecks, most unreliable segments, travel time of the last (or first) 5 miles to (or from) the Beltway in the AM (or PM) peak, distribution of incident type and duration.

In response to a question on the reliability of RITIS data, Mr. Pu noted that we have to rely on RITIS no matter its level of reliability at this time [though it is thought to be sufficiently reliable]. Mr. Meese added that by publishing RITIS data, it might have positive impact on the data itself. When asked the lag between when data is available and the time report is released, Mr. Pu said it should be done in one to three months. Mr. Meese noted that the report is updated quarterly and the MOITS technical subcommittee serves as part of the review process.

5. Status Report on Preparations for the *Multimodal Coordination for Bus Priority Hot Spots Project*

Mr. Kennedy briefed the committee on the status of Multimodal Coordination for Bus Priority Hot Spots project. The study will be funded by DDOT, MDOT, VDOT and WMATA technical assistance programs through COG's UPWP. This project will use MOITS, as well as Regional Bus Subcommittee, as the technical review committee. He also talked about the pre-bid meeting they had just before this meeting. The consultant will be selected in the middle of August and will be briefing MOITS technical subcommittee on any updates in September.

6. Jurisdictional Roundtable

Nothing additional to report.

7. Other Business

Mr. Meese talked briefly about the reorganization in MWCOG and the addition of two new staff working on MOITS. He talked about the relationship and outlook for Congestion Monitoring Program and Congestion Management Process. The Committee expressed its interest in both programs.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13 at COG Room 1.