CHAMPIONING TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Summary of the November 2, 2016 TPB Conference

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TPB Technical Committee
November 4, 2016

National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

Agenda Item #9

Background

- In January 2016, TPB Chairman Tim Lovain identified Traffic Incident Management as one of his priorities for the year

- This set in motion the planning and organization of this conference

    - Advised by MATOC committees and TPB subcommittees

- Held Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 9 AM to 12 Noon, at COG in the Ronald F. Kirby Training Center

- Notices to TPB, TPB Technical Committee, COG Police and Fire Chiefs committees, MATOC, others

- Media/social media outreach

- Conference materials have been posted at www.mwcog.org/TIM2016

Attendance

- Approximately 50 persons participated or attended, either in person or via a webinar option

- Convened a variety of agencies and disciplines including transportation operations and planning, and public safety

- Representatives included state DOTs, National Park Service, local jurisdictions, state and local police, others
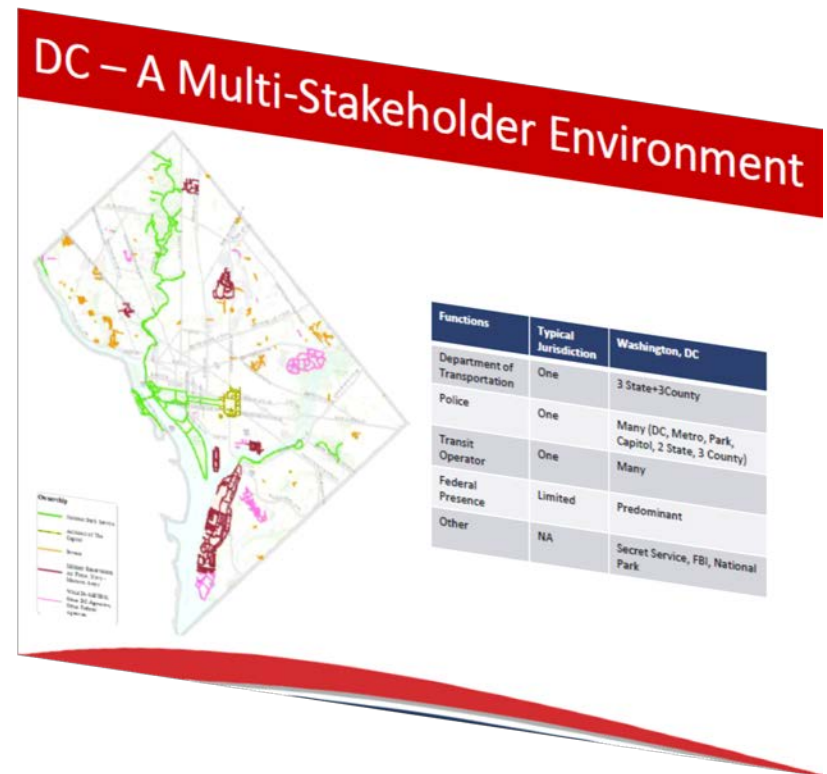
Sessions

- Chairman's Remarks

- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) in the Washington Metropolitan Area

  - DDOT; MDOT-SHA; VDOT; MATOC

  - Many activities common among agencies –surveillance, technology, data analysis, procedures, interdisciplinary training

- TIM in Other States/Metropolitan Areas

  - Las Vegas/Southern Nevada; Philadelphia; National Scan (focusing on a Seattle example)

- Opportunities for Enhancements of TIM in the National Capital Region

  - Discussion among Chairman Lovain and DDOT, MDOT-SHA, VDOT, and MATOC representatives

TIM in the NCR: DDOT

- *Soumya Dey, DDOT Associate Director of Transportation Operations & Safety*

- Also Chairman of the MATOC Steering Committee

- Described DC's organizational structure and approach, activities, and unique challenges

  - Federal agencies and other unique stakeholders

  - Arterial incidents

- Emphasis on systems, processes, data analysis

TIM in the NCR: MDOT-SHA

- *Joseph Sagal, Director, Office of CHART & ITS Development*

- Described MDOT-SHA's organizational structure and approach, activities, and challenges

  - Patrols

  - Cameras

  - Traveler Information Systems

- Performance measures emphasis

TIM in the NCR: VDOT

- *Hari Sripathi, Regional Operations Director, VDOT-Northern Region Operations*

- "PSTOC" integrated operations center (VDOT, VSP, Fairfax Co.)

- Safety Service Patrols do more than just assist motorists – they manage traffic

- Quick clearance practices

- Multi-disciplinary training program
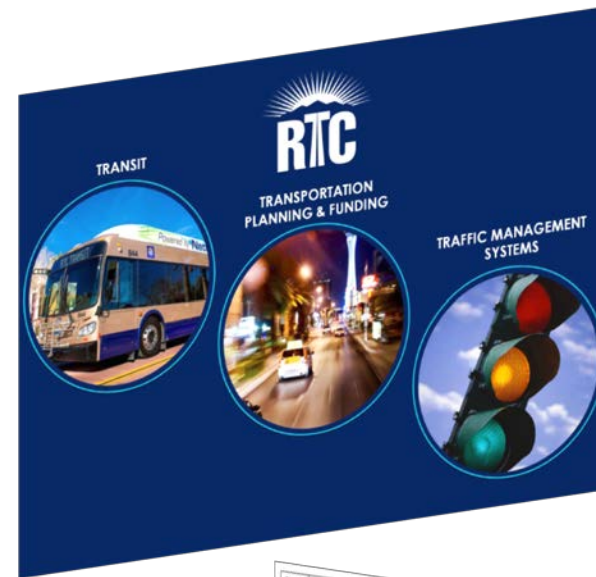
TIM in the NCR: MATOC

- *Taran Hutchinson, MATOC Facilitator*

- Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program Mission/Operations

- Interagency information sharing

- Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) – centrally compiles agency data to provide a common operating picture

- Sponsored a practitioner TIM conference April 27, 2016, complementary to the November 2 TPB conference

TIM in Other Regions: Southern Nevada

- *Brian Hoeft, Director, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)/ Freeway & Arterial System of Transportation (FAST)*

- Highly integrated RTC including all regional operations, transit, and planning within a single agency

- Camera image (snapshot) analysis combined with data analysis

- Used data analysis to focus on secondary crashes – with a demonstrable reduction

Secondary crashes reduced from 143 in 2012 to 69 in 2015!

TIM in Other Regions: Philadelphia

DVRPC's Task Force Locations

Task Force Locations:
- I-76/I-476 Crossroads (1) est. 1999
- NJ SAFR (2) est. 2002
- Philadelphia (3) est. 2007
- Delaware County (4) est. 2008
- US 30 Chester County (5) est. 2009
- Burlington County (6) est. 2012
- I-95/US 1 Bucks County (7) est. 2012
- Mercer County (8) est. 2015

- *John Ward, Deputy Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission*

- TIM support program within DVRPC – receives extra (non-UPWP) funding to do so (total ~$1.2M budget/year)

- Supports 8 separate corridor-based task forces convening specific stakeholders in those corridors

- Training and data are emphases

- Provides responders uniform guideline documents (NJ, PA) for safe operations at the scene

TIM in Other Regions: National Scan

- *Joseph Sagal, MDOT-SHA / formerly FHWA*

- Provided national context of the NCR's TIM activities – we are strong

- Used a Seattle example to show what happened when TIM was not effectively in place (a 9-hour closure), and improvements there after TIM was adopted

- Importance of continuing training opportunities, because of inevitable staff turnover (especially police/fire)

Opportunities Session Panel

- Chairman Lovain & DDOT, MDOT-SHA, VDOT, and MATOC representatives discussed opportunities for enhancement of TIM in the NCR

"Opportunities" Session
What the TPB and the Region Can Encourage/Pursue

- Ways to address responders getting stuck in traffic on the way to incidents (emergency lights, training, dispatching quickest rather than nearest)

- Regionally coordinated opportunities for TIM training and federal guidance-based "TIM self-assessments"

- Expanding the number of agencies using data tools such as RITIS

- Informing Maryland General Assembly consideration of expanding existing Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact to more bridges

- Expanding the number of local jurisdictions sharing automated computer dispatch information from 911 call centers with transportation data systems – shortens transportation agency detection and response times

- Following up: TPB, SPOTS (formerly MOITS), RESF-1, MATOC

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