



**VPP Suite User Group Webcast  
January 20, 2016**

**Participants:**

<b>VPPII Webcast Attendees:</b>	
Ed Stylc, Victor Henry	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jesse Buerk, Paul Carafides	DVRPC
Rich Taylor	FHWA
Wenjing Pu	MWCOG/NCRTPB
Sudhir Joshi, Neha Galgali, Ira Levinton	New Jersey DOT
Henry Eibel	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Kelly Wells, Mike Bruff	North Carolina DOT
Keith Miller, Sutapa Bhattacharjee, Solomon Caviness	North Jersey TPA
Scott Benedict	Pennsylvania DOT
Paul Thebo	South Carolina DOT
Tiffany Dubinsky, Greta Ryan	Richmond Regional MPO
Andrew Tracy, William Schiavi	South Jersey TPO
Sanhita Lahiri, Ram Venkatanarayana	Virginia DOT
John Allen, Michael VanDaniker	UMD CATT Lab
Joanna Reagle, Emily White	KMJ Consulting (Coalition Support)

**Agenda:**

<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
1	Welcome & Introductions Agenda	Joanna Reagle, For the I-95 Corridor Coalition Kelly Wells, NCDOT
2	VPP Suite Probe Data Analytics Forum Update	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
3	VPP Suite Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests/Issues/Follow-up</li> <li>• Recently Released &amp; Upcoming Improvements</li> </ul>	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
4	User Group Member Spotlight: <b><i>Use of the VPP Suite for the Papal Visit to the DC Area</i></b>	Wenjing Pu, MWCOG
5	MAP-21: NPRM Status Update	Rich Taylor, FHWA
6	Focus Group updates	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
7	Other Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRB</li> <li>• Outreach</li> </ul>	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
8	Agency Input Session to learn about what is working & what needs some attention	All Facilitated by John Allen
9	Meeting Wrap Up	Joanna Reagle, For the I-95 Corridor Coalition



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### Next Meeting:

The next VPP II Agency Project Team webcast is scheduled for **April 21, 2016 (from 10:30am – noon)**.

### Important Notes:

- **Requests/Issues/Follow-up** - Past requests were discussed and John noted which ones have been submitted to the UMD CATT Lab developers for action. He noted that currently, within the Congestion Scan tool, users can lock 2 tool tips per day, per direction.
- **Multi-Road Congestion Scan** - Jesse Buerk discussed his use of the Multi-Road Congestion Scan for a Philadelphia Corridor being considered for light rail. He noted that it is easier to determine end to end travel time using this new tool.
- **New Feature Highlights** –
  - Raptor (backend framework for the Suite) is currently in testing and is expected to be deployed during Q1 2016. Raptor will significantly improve tool performance - greater speed, longer date ranges and larger geographies.
  - Accomplishment table will be developed for past deployments.
- **User Group Member Spotlight: Use of the VPP Suite for the Papal Visit to the DC Area** – Wenjing Pu (MWCOCG) reviewed their use of the Suite to analyze the transportation impact of the Papal visit to DC.
  - To disseminate their work, they developed a [technical memo](#) and [special news report](#), featured it on their website and sent out a press release that was referenced in the Washington Post, radio news, blogs, and tweets.
  - They used the Massive Data Downloader to get the 2-week 5-minute raw data, the Trend Maps for traffic visualization, and the Performance Summaries for travel times on freeways.
  - ***Their most important conclusion is that a 2% reduction in volume caused a 27% decline in congestion (region-wide, both peak and non-peak directions).*** Mr. Pu, however, cautioned that the Papal visit was a highly publicized event occurring during a very limited time period, and telework and flexible work hour-derived congestion relief of the magnitude experienced was a result of an extraordinary event.
- **FHWA MAP-21 update** – Rich Taylor, FHWA, provided an update on the MAP-21 for Systems Performance.
  - Although an anticipated Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) publication date of January 29, 2016, has been noted, he does not believe it will be published by that date as comments were being addressed and additional review would be needed before it is released.
  - A four-month comment period will be provided.
  - FHWA will be providing (via the NPRM Docket) a step-by-step guide to calculating the measures with the defined data sources.
  - Zoe Neaderland, DVRPC, noted that the Partners in Using Archived Operations Data would be coordinating a response. Zoe will be contacting current members and welcomed others to join.



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- **VPP Suite Focus Groups** – John Allen reviewed the highlights of the Performance Measures Summary Focus Group kick-off webcast on January 19<sup>th</sup>. He will be sending out an email regarding the Bottleneck Working Group in the next couple of months.
- **TRB Annual Meeting** –
  - Jesse Buerk, DVRPC discussed his participation in the TRB Poster session. Jesse used the Congestion Scan and Performance Charts (candlestick graph) to illustrate the impacts to travel time caused by the Amtrak Derailment in Philadelphia. The VPP Suite visuals made his poster easy to understand.
  - The UMD CATT Lab had a booth at TRB. John noted that the visualizations at the booth enabled participants to better understand the ability of the Suite tools and there was a high level of interest from folks, in particular visitors from other countries. There was also a very informative and highly attended session on new and upcoming visualization tools being developed by the CATT Lab. John will provide the presentations to the User Group via email.

### New/Upcoming VPP Suite Features

The new and upcoming features for the VPP Suite were reviewed. A description of each of the features noted below may be found in the slide presentation in the “Deployment Status Table.”

Feature	Status/ Anticipated Deployment
Multi-Road Congestion Scan	Deployed 11.30.15
Massive Data Downloader - Download by Quality	Deployed 10.15.15
MAP-21 widgets	Pending Release of NPRM
Massive Data Downloader - Enhanced feedback	In development/TBD
Link to Probe Data Analytics Forum from VPP Suite	In development/TBD
Backend Architecture	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016
Bottleneck Algorithm/Ranking Tool	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016
Advanced Time Selection – Date Range Summary	In development/TBD
User Delay Cost – Report Display Options	In development/TBD
Congestion Scan	In development /TBD



**Requests/Issues:**

**General –**

1. Ira Levinton, NJDOT, is going to send John Allen questions/comments about VPP Suite.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: Will meet with NJDOT to discuss further after reviewing the list.

**Congestion Scan Tool –**

1. Ira Levinton, NJDOT, would like to be able to use both the standard (ability to select a route) & advanced (ability to select a county) at the same time.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: Will work on it.
2. Ira Levinton, NJDOT, can no longer see the beginning and end points in the description – would like this information available.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: Will look into it.

**Overlapping Bottlenecks –**

1. Ed Stylc, BMC, noted that overlapping bottlenecks have become more of a problem.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: The new algorithm will address this issue.
2. Ed Stylc, BMC, is interested in finding out how others combine bottlenecks.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: Suggested posting this on the Probe Data Analytics Forum.

**Multi-road Congestion Scan –**

1. Jesse Buerk, DVRPC, would like that ability to add more road labels.
  - a. UMD CATT Lab: John will follow up with Jesse.