



**VPP Suite User Group Webcast**  
**July 28, 2016**

**Participants:**

<b>VPPII Webcast Attendees:</b>	
Ed Stylc, Eileen Singleton	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jesse Buerk	DVRPC
Kim Samson	Florida DOT/Turnpike
Andrew Meese	MWCOG/NCRTPB
Kelly McVeigh, Sudhir Joshi, Ira Levinton	New Jersey DOT
Mike Bruff	North Carolina DOT
Keith Miller, Sutapa Bhattacharjee, Solomon Caviness	North Jersey TPA
Scott Benedict	Pennsylvania DOT
Dipak Patel	South Carolina DOT
Greta Ryan	Richmond Regional MPO
Andrew Tracy, William Schiavi	South Jersey TPO
Scott Cowherd, Ram Venkatanarayana	Virginia DOT
Stan Young	NREL
Patricia Hendren	I-95 Corridor Coalition
John Allen	UMD CATT Lab
Karen Jehanian, Joanna Reagle, Bridget Postlewaite	KMJ Consulting (Coalition Support)

**Agenda:**

#	Topic	Speaker
1	Welcome & Introductions Agenda	Patricia Hendren, I-95 Corridor Coalition Jesse Buerk, DVRPC
2	User Group Member Spotlight: <b><i>SJTPO – Using VPP Suite for the CMP &amp; “Transportation Matters” Performance Report</i></b>	Bill Schiavi, SJTPO
3	Project Briefing: <b><i>Volume &amp; Turning Movements from Probe Data</i></b>	Stan Young, NREL
4	VPP Suite Improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey Results</li> <li>• Deploy Status Table</li> </ul>	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
5	MAP-21: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dashboard/Widget Feature Update</li> </ul>	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
6	Agency Input Session to learn about what is working & what needs some attention	All Agencies

**Next Meeting:**

The next VPP Suite User Group web meeting will be held in October 2016. More information will be provided in the VPP newsletter.



### Meeting Highlights:

- **User Group Member Spotlight: SJTPO - Using VPP Suite for the CMP & "Transportation Matters" Performance Report** - Bill Schiavi of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization presented a number of ways the MPO uses VPP Suite in helping to meet Congestion Management Process requirements, and performance reporting for their Regional Transportation Plan Update. The following items were discussed following the presentation.
  - When asked about the accuracy of the results for the arterial analysis, Bill noted they seemed accurate. Some of the bottlenecks shown in the Suite were already known locations of concern for SJTPO. This gave the leadership confidence in the results.
  - When asked how the VPP data/Suite has changed the way SJTPO approaches their CMP efforts, Bill noted that they are relying almost exclusively on the VPP data and the VPP Suite's analytical capabilities (to scan for congestion in the region).
  - Bill clarified that for the location excluded due to parking along the roadway, the location was excluded not individual data points. He further clarified that the exclusions were all on local roads.
  - Bill noted that map showing the bottlenecks for their region was created by SJTPO but noted that it would be helpful to have better integration with a GIS platform (shapefile creation).
  - Bill confirmed that the Before and After Study Use Case presented was to remove three signalized intersections and replace them with grade separated interchanges.
- **Project Briefing: Volume & Turning Movements from Probe Data** – Stan Young (NREL) provided an overview for this I-95 Corridor Coalition-sponsored research project. He also provided a list of the agencies on the Steering Committee and noted that any agency interested in participating should contact him or Kaveh Sadabadi (contact information is provided in the slides). Stan also noted that the USDOT has conflated the HPMS data to the NPMRDS shapefiles and agencies may want to contact them for more information. Trish Hendren noted that Coalition member agencies are excited to see the products of this project.
- **VPP Suite Tool Improvement Prioritization Survey** – John Allen (CATT Lab) reviewed the results of the recent Suite Improvement Prioritization Survey conducted in July. He noted that the rankings and comments will be used by the developers in smartly moving new features and functions into the Lab's delivery pipeline. John noted that some of the features noted in the comments are in the works while others will require more effort and data (including freight and transit).

**NOTE:** At the request of some members, the Prioritization Survey will be reopened from August 4, 2016 – August 12, 2016 for those users that would like to complete the survey.



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- **Deploy Status Table** – John Allen reviewed the Deploy table noting the accomplishments and upcoming work. Jesse Buerk expressed his gratitude for the survey and the process used to establish the Deploy Table. He noted that the on-going dialogue between members and the CATT Lab is a big reason for the VPP Suite being such a success.
- **MAP-21 Dashboard/Widgets** – John Allen reviewed the recent deployments of new features, improved functions and bug fixes to make using the MAP-21 dashboard and widgets easier, more productive and in line with NPRM requirements. Jesse noted that using the MAP-21 tools to look at data results for the DVRPC region was helpful in preparing their comment letter to FHWA.
  - BMC asked if the MPO geographies will be available and John noted that he will check into that. Jesse Buerk suggested a surrogate by exporting Urbanized Area data to a CSV file you can then trim out the roads that are not in your region.
- **Agency Input Session** – Kelly McVeigh (NJDOT Traffic Operations Unit), provided an overview on comparative speeds; specifically, that historic speeds are based on data that may be too all-encompassing temporally, and would like the flexibility to customize these values.
  - It was noted that the VPP Suite may be useful for counties and municipalities to show air quality improvements, in that it could be used to demonstrate funding need for advanced arterial signal system technology.
  - Following the presentation, a poll was conducted. The results below represent responses by agency.

<b>Question:</b> Based on what Kelly McVeigh presented on Comparative Speeds, is customizing how these values are computed a priority improvement for you?	
High Priority	25 %
Medium Priority	50 %
Low Priority	25 %
Not a Priority	0 %