



Vehicle Probe Project Committee Monthly Status Webcast December 5, 2013 Minutes

Participants – see attached

Agenda

Topic		Speaker
1	Introductions and Welcome	George Schoener
2	Coalition Activity Update	George Schoener
3	Contract Issues	Kathy Frankle
4	INRIX Update	Rick Schuman
5	Data Validation Effort	Stan Young
6	National Performance Management Research Data Sets - A First Look at the NPMRDS for Maryland	Stan Young
7	VPP Suite Tools and Enhancements	Michael Pack
8	VPP Suite User Group	Karen Jehanian
9	Pilot Study (NJDOT/NJTPA) to test AASHTO's PM methodologies	John Allen, NJDOT & Keith Miller, NJTPA
10	Partners Using Archived Operations Data Group	Zoe Neaderland
11	Enhanced Performance Measures – State/MPO Outreach	George Schoener
12	Agency Updates on VPP/VPP Suite	All
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1. Introductions and Welcome

Karen Jehanian opened the webcast at 10:30 a.m. by welcoming the participants, noting the call courtesies, and reviewing the agenda for the webcast. George thanked all of the agencies for their continued support of the Coalition and the Vehicle Probe Project.

The following is a summary of the discussion. These meeting minutes, the webcast presentations and all Vehicle Probe Project (VPP) information are available at: [I95 CC Vehicle Probe Project Documents](#).



2. Coalition Activity Update

George provided an update on the Coalition's review of the NPMRDS (National Performance Management Research Data Sets) provided by FHWA. He noted that the Coalition is preparing a summary of the various data set attributes for both the NPMRDS and the VPP archived data and that the Coalition plans to have this summary to the VPP Team soon. George mentioned that Stan Young will provide some detail on a data set from Maryland during the webcast.

George also noted the various VPP projects that have been funded through MCOM1 and MCOM2 and are currently underway.

3. Contract Issues

Joanna Reagle reviewed the contract issues for Kathy Frankle. She stated that the MCOM2 funds for Vehicle Probe Project data have been processed and that the pooled fund monies have been received. She noted that a complete list of executed Data Use Agreements (DUAs) is posted on the Vehicle Probe Project Page of the Coalition website in the "Contract Documents" tab and is updated monthly.

Joanna also reviewed the VPP re-compete schedule noting that the RFP was issued on November 18, 2013 and responses are due by January 8, 2014. Stan Young noted that the process is still on schedule to go live by July 1, 2014.

4. INRIX Update

Rick Schuman noted that a map update is scheduled to occur on January 30, 2014. INRIX is working to work to achieve a smooth transition for the data feed users.

Rick presented the project statistics. The availability of data for October 2013 was 99.95%, the availability for the year to date is 99.86% and the project to date is 99.89%. Rick noted that as of December 11, 2013, 801 individuals have access to the monitoring site and the number of data feed users remained 46. Rick noted the website address for the monitoring site: <http://i95.inrix.com/>.

The VPP support contacts for help with various aspects of the VPP are as follows:

- For the Monitoring Site contact Support@inrix.com.
- For data feeds/integration contact i95support@intix.com.
- For the VPP Suite contact vpp-support@ritis.org.

5. Data Validation Effort

Stan Young reviewed the validation schedule. He noted that four arterial data collection have recently been completed in Maryland, New Jersey, and North Carolina. Sensors are currently deployed in the Philadelphia area. Stan asked that participating states interested in arterial validation should contact him (seyoung@umd.edu).

6. National Performance Management Research Data Sets - A First Look at the NPMRDS for Maryland

Stan Young described the UMD's work to date (in Maryland) with the National Performance Management Research Data Sets (NPMRDS). He noted that the data was provided by HERE (formerly NAVTEQ and Nokia) to FHWA in support of MAP 21 requirements, for the national highway system. The archived data sets were acquired for the Urban Congestion



Report (UCR) and Freight Performance Measures (FPM) programs. FHWA has made this data available to states and MPOs for their use in performance management activities.

Stan began by reviewing the attributes of this data set. He explained the data characteristics and provided caveats based upon their use and discussions with HERE. Specifically, he noted that “no data modeling, blending or smoothing is applied to ensure that only raw observed values are included in this data set.” Stan also discussed some of the issues UMD encountered while using the data particularly with TMC codes (location and length). He noted that the TMC codes used for the NPMRDS are from Navteq and the TMC codes used for the VPP are from Tele Atlas.

Stan explained that UMD is in the process of comparing NPMRDS, VPP and Bluetooth using validation data.

A discussion was held following Stan’s presentation. New Jersey noted that there were several TMCs missing from the TMC shapefile they requested for New Jersey and they are waiting to hear back from FHWA. Rich Taylor noted that it is not possible to tell how many vehicles are included within a data set (based on volume, it could be only one). It was noted that the NPMRDS is raw data only so it needs to be treated differently than smoothed or blended data. Many agencies noted that they are beginning to look at the NPMRDS and thanked Stan for providing analysis of this data.

POST MEETING NOTE: The Coalition is sponsoring a webcast on January 23, 2014, to review the information provided in NPMRDS (FHWA/HERE) and in the VPP. You will be receiving registration information soon.

7. VPP Suite Tools and Enhancements

Michael Pack reviewed updates to the VPP Suite (as of November 18, 2013). He discussed the following enhancements and improvements and provided examples to illustrate:

- Navigation Improvements
- Standardization Across All Tools - Location Selection, Dates, and Granularity
- Bottleneck Ranking - Multiple Roads and Exporting Ranked Bottleneck Map
- Trend Maps – Comparing and Exporting as animated GIF
- Performance Charts - New Styling, Layout & Customization options
- Jumping Between Tools
- Dashboard filtering improvements
- Upgrades to hardware
- Faster single-day queries

Discussion during and after this presentation included the following topics. NJDOT asked if the one hour time interval is okay for analysis because they were having difficulty obtaining data in the 15-minute interval format. It was noted that it depends on the analysis being conducted. Michael provided the following link to documentation that explains how they need the volume data formatted: <https://vpp.ritis.org/suite/docs/preferred-volume-format/>. New Jersey also noted that they are having difficulty matching CMS links with TMCs.

Additional information on the VPP Suite and these enhancements is available at <http://vpp.ritis.org/suite/updates/>.



8. VPP Suite User Group

Karen Jehanian noted that a VPP Suite User Group meeting was held via webcast on October 15, 2013 at 10:30am. Twenty-five persons representing 14 agencies participated. The presentation is posted on the Coalition website. Based on discussions during the webcast, a follow up survey was sent to all VPP Suite members and webcast participants to give the agencies an opportunity to note any new enhancements that might be of assistance. Seven responses were received for this five question survey. Karen reviewed the results. She noted that all respondents agreed that the projects on the current list are still relevant. Of the Tier 2 and 3 enhancements, Mile Marking Linking was listed as the enhancement that most would like to see advanced. Based on the responses received, it is recommended that the team stay with the current plan.

9. Pilot Study (NJDOT/NJTPA) to test AASHTO's PM methodologies

John Allen (New Jersey Department of Transportation) and Keith Miller (North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority) presented their work on a pilot study to test AASHTO's Performance Measures methodologies for MAP-21. John provided background for this work. He noted that Standing Committee on Performance Management (SCOPM) Task Force recommended Annual Hours of Delay (AHD) and a Reliability Index (RI80) as national-level (system) performance measures. Initial concerns in New Jersey were raised about this approach so it was agreed to do a pilot corridor "test" using the proposed methodologies to help address these concerns. John provided the following update on the overall work to date:

- A Scope of Work was created and the Study has been initiated
- Preliminary results have been summarized
- The entire effort is being documented

There are two pilot study test corridors – Interstate 78 and NJ 18. The focus areas of this pilot study are to:

- Ensure measures can be calculated with available data
- Test alternate formulations & thresholds for delay and reliability
- Test aggregation methods
- Get a sense of the range of values, and what the values are telling us
- Research data automation methods
- Develop a Summary Report, with particular emphasis on the procedures, results, "lessons learned" and recommendations

Keith Miller reviewed the preliminary results for the Annual Hours of Delay (AHD). He noted that varying threshold travel time creates different AHD results. The various thresholds included: Free-flow travel time, Median travel time (over entire year), Median travel time (for each day of week and hour of day), Maximum "throughput" (at 85% posted speed), and "acceptable" speeds (based on area type and time of day).

Keith noted that using all hourly data instead of an hourly data for a calculated "average week" increases the amount of delay. In addition, comparing average to threshold is different than comparing individual values to threshold.



Keith presented the Reliability Index (RI₈₀) preliminary results. He noted that they used the AASHTO methodology and that varying threshold travel time creates different RI₈₀ results.

They noted the following challenges, concerns, and considerations based upon their work:

- Huge volumes of data
- Manual conflation of TMCs (for volumes) tedious and time-consuming
- Missing hourly volumes by day of week, especially weekends
- For NJ, lacking traffic volume data in NJCMS for 128 miles of the enhanced NHS (need to find out coverage of INRIX and HERE (Nokia/NAVTEQ data))
- Adjusting average vehicle occupancy with transit ridership is problematic
- Determining how to “aggregate up” TMCs for “telling the story”, particularly for reliability

Finally, they reviewed the next steps:

- Look at multiple years to see “useful” changes in PMs occur (time/scale)
- Test corridors/years where there have been recently completed projects (“telling the story” re: project effectiveness)
- Have other States and MPOs run through similar tests (varying levels of resources, tools, etc.)
- Consider more critical thinking re: “agency-determined threshold travel times”
- Develop analytical tools to automate the processes and create summary output (tables, graphs, visualizations)

Based upon the comments received from the participating agencies, a webcast is being planned for early 2014 (January or February) to review this study in greater detail. Additional information on this webcast will be provided to the VPP Team when the date is selected.

10. Partners Using Archived Operations Data Group

Zoe Neaderland provided an update on the Shared Measures Brochure developed by the Partners Using Archived Operations Data Group. Zoe explained that the Partners agreed on a few shared measures that they have been included in the brochure that DVRPC developed. Zoe noted that at least three agencies (SJTPo, BMC, and NJDOT) are using it. The reviewed the draft brochure that SJTPo has developed using the VPP Suite and the brochure template. If you would like to provide comments on SJTPo’s brochure, please email David Heller (dheller@sjtpo.org). BMC is striving to have their brochure drafted by March 2014 and NJDOT is beginning the process.

Zoe noted that their goal is for multiple agencies to have used measures so the knowledge can be joined to provide helpful comments when the MAP-21 proposed rule-making comes out on these measures. If you would like a copy of the template, please contact Zoe Neaderland (zneaderland@dvrpc.org). Karen Jehanian noted that the brochure template and sample will soon be available on the Coalition website.

11. Enhanced Performance Measures – State/MPO Outreach

Michael Pack noted since the last VPP Team meeting he and George Schoener have traveled to South Carolina and Massachusetts to get feedback on VPP data, promote the VPP Suite, and answer any questions. The meeting in Massachusetts was held following



the TISPTC Meeting/webcast in MassDOT’s Boston office. If any states are interested in meeting with the Coalition regarding the VPP Suite, please contact Michael Pack, George Schoener or Karen Jehanian.

12. Communications Update

Karen Jehanian presented an update on the project correspondence sent to VPP Team members and posted on the Coalition website. She reviewed the schedule for upcoming meetings for the VPP Team and the TISPTC.

Meeting/Webcast	Proposed Date(s)
TISPTC webcast on Travel Information Sponsorship	January 2014 (tentative)
Review of information provided in NPMRDS (FHWA/HERE) and in the VPP.	January 23, 2014 10:30am to Noon
In depth review of the New Jersey Pilot Project testing AASHTO’s PM methodologies	January/February 2014
TISPTC webcast to review Coalition Work Plan process	February 2014 (tentative)
VPP Team Webcast	February 2014 (tentative)
TISPTC Meeting/Webcast (DVRPC, Phila, PA)	Late March/Early April 2014 (tentative)

POST MEETING NOTE: Two webcasts were added to the schedule based upon comments received from the VPP Team during this webcast. These webcasts are shown in bold and are highlighted. Information on these webcasts will be sent to all VPP Team members.

Participants with questions regarding any of the upcoming meetings/webcasts or VPP documents should contact Joanna Reagle at 610-228-0760 or jreagle@kmjinc.com.

13. Thank You and Wrap Up

The next VPP Team webcast is planned for February 2014 however, the date was not established. A “Save the Date” notice will go out to the VPP Team with the date/time.

Any questions in the meantime should be directed to:

- George Schoener at 703-389-9281 or geschoener@comcast.net
- Karen Jehanian at 610-228-0211 or kjehanian@kmjinc.com
- Contract expansion/funding issues should be directed to Kathy Frankle at 410-414-2925 or kfrankle@umd.edu

The webcast adjourned just after noon.



**Minutes
Vehicle Probe Project Committee
Webcast/Conference Call
December 5, 2013**

PARTICIPANTS

I-95 Corridor Coalition:
George Schoener

Vehicle Probe Project Webcast Registrants/Attendees:	
Tom Maziarz, Stephanie Molden	Connecticut DOT
Glenn McLaughlin	Maryland SHA
Rob May	Massachusetts DOT
John Allen, Sudhir Joshi, Neha Galgali, Ahsan Ali, Kelly McVeigh, Simon Nwachukuou, Yashesh Patel	New Jersey DOT
Mike Marsico	New York City DOT
Kelly Wells	North Carolina DOT
Bob Pento, Dan Farley, Steve Grimme, Scott Benedict, Jeremy Freeland, Todd Trautz	Pennsylvania DOT
Bill Nordstrom, Dan Herstine, Deanna Peabody	Rhode Island DOT (Jacobs/Traf Info)
Scott Cowherd, Rose Lawhorne, Mena Lockwood, Karen Blackwell	Virginia DOT
Keith Miller, Brian Fineman, Sutapa B	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Ed Stylc, Victor Henry	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Zoe Neaderland, Laurie Matkowski	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Andrew Meese, Erin Morrow, Daivmani Sivasailam	Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments
Bill Schiavi, David Heller	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Jean Friedberg	Fort Meade Regional Growth Mgmt Committee
Bob Rupert, Rich Taylor	FHWA
Rick Schuman	INRIX
Stan Young, Michael Pack	University of Maryland

Consultant Support Staff:
Karen Jehanian, Joanna Reagle KMJ Consulting, Inc.