

**PennDOT Planning Services and Implementation
Regional Operations Plan for the Southwestern Region
Operational Projects Forum
March 22, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
Regional Enterprise Tower, Pittsburgh, PA**

Participating

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Anthony Castellone
Robb Dean
Chuck DiPietro
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Jeffrey Leithauser
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Lou Rocchini
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Representing

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Port of Pittsburgh Commission
PBS&J
PennDOT District 12-0
SPC
PennDOT District 12-0
URS Corporation
Port Authority of Allegheny County
Maguire Group, Inc.
SPC
PennDOT District 10-0
PennDOT District 11-0
PennDOT BHSTE
Washington County Planning Commission
Port of Pittsburgh Commission
DMJM Harris
ACTA
Beaver County Transit Authority
DMJM Harris
PennDOT BHSTE
PennDOT District 11-0
Oakland Transportation Management Association
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I. Purpose of Today

At 9:00 AM, Steve Buckley and Doug Smith welcomed everyone, began introductions and explained the purpose of today's Operational Projects Forum was to further define and prioritize the regions' operations projects developed from the previous Task Force groups.

II. ROP Project Status

Steve Buckley reviewed the status of the ROP Work Order and led a discussion of the proposed projects developed as a result of the work of the four Task Forces. It was noted based on today's rankings a prioritized list of suggested projects will be included in the ROP, however all the projects below will be included in the draft ROP as an appendix item.

It was also mentioned that the projects identified today will most likely fall into three categories for implementation; SPC initiatives, items to be programmed and lastly projects requiring either further guidance or to be executed by the state. Operations projects undertaken by SPC would tentatively be incorporated into their yearly UPWP or as a separate program. Programmed items would be mainstreamed through each TIP update (the 2009 SPC TIP is currently being developed) while the remaining projects may require further direction from PennDOT 's Central Office or could be conducted under the TSOP 2007 document currently being created.

III. Discussion and Prioritization of Projects

The following potential projects were identified:

ROP# 1 - Establish IM Teams on corridors with the highest concentrations of incidents

ROP# 2 - Improve incident management (incident command) and response procedures for various types of incidents and emergencies

ROP# 3 - Explore real or virtual co-location of the operations centers (e.g., transit, PSP, EMAs and 911 Centers)

ROP# 4 - Develop pre-planned detour routings for key roadway segments

ROP# 5 - Increase publicity for a "Move It!" or "Steer It and Clear It" program

ROP# 6 - Develop and implement a "Quick Clear" or "Clear the Road" program

ROP# 7 - Explore expanded use of Freeway Service Patrols

ROP# 8 - Work with utility companies to ensure quicker response times when utility-related incidents require the closure of facilities, especially in rural areas

ROP# 9 - Have venues prepare traffic management plans in conjunction with PennDOT

ROP# 10 - Develop and implement a plan to close existing "regional" equipment gaps

ROP# 11 - Develop evacuation plans and procedures for emergency events (either natural or man-made; flooding, HAZMAT etc.)

ROP# 12 - Develop a Regional Traveler Information Business Plan

ROP# 13 - Explore additional opportunities for data sharing with public and private entities

ROP# 14 - Institute a real-time information system for several transit routes

ROP# 15 - Institute pilot project showing travel time information postings on VMS signs

ROP# 16 - Expand partnerships with organizations to utilize their communication (e.g., e-mail distribution lists) networks for distributing critical traveler information

ROP# 17 - Create a GIS-based Signal Management System

ROP# 18 - Develop a signal maintenance and upgrade plan

ROP# 19 - Develop a regional program for allocating funding dollars for municipal signal upgrades

- ROP# 20** - Prepare a list of "top 10" intersections to upgrade
- ROP# 21** - Institute one-time "signal maintenance fees" to developers
- ROP# 22** - Institute a signal decommissioning program
- ROP# 23** - Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Pilot Project
- ROP# 24** - Create a regionally funded operations coordinator position
- ROP# 25** - Create an "operations outreach program" including a brochure, presentation and website

In addition to these projects the Form participants included four new projects they believe were missing from the original list. These projects were included in the prioritization exercise and included the following;

- ROP A** - Automated fare collection system
- ROP B** - Tolling study of regional highways; suggested as a first step toward use of cordon or congestion pricing along several regional interstates
- ROP C** - Study the conversion of High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) facilities
- ROP D** - Freight study of parallel corridors

The forum participants then prioritized the proposed projects using a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest priority and 1 being the lowest. Using a cordless voting system, each participant ranked each project immediately after receiving a description of the project. It was noted that after all the projects were prioritized the group was allowed to revisit the list in a holistic manner. The following voting results and calculated averages are shown below:

Proposed ROP Projects	High (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Low (1)	Total Votes	Priority Rating
ROP# 1 Establish IM Teams on corridors with the highest concentrations of incidents	7	4	11	3	2	27	3.41
ROP# 2 Improve incident management (incident command) and response procedures for various types of incidents and emergencies	9	10	8	0	1	28	3.93
ROP# 3 Explore real or virtual co-location of the operations centers (e.g., transit, PSP, EMAs and 911 Centers)	8	7	6	5	2	28	3.50
ROP# 4 Develop pre-planned detour routings for key roadway segments	10	5	9	4	0	28	3.75
ROP# 5 Increase publicity for a "Move It!" or "Steer It and Clear It" program	2	2	3	4	17	28	1.86
ROP# 6 Develop and implement a "Quick Clear" or "Clear the Road" program	1	5	9	6	6	27	2.59
ROP# 7 Explore expanded use of Freeway Service Patrols	9	7	6	2	3	27	3.63
ROP# 8 Work with utility companies to ensure quicker response times when utility-related incidents require the closure of facilities, especially in rural areas	0	1	10	9	8	28	2.14
ROP# 9 Have venues prepare traffic management plans in conjunction with PennDOT	1	5	15	4	3	28	2.89
ROP# 10 Develop and implement a plan to close existing "regional" equipment gaps	13	2	5	2	3	25	3.80
ROP# 11 Develop evacuation plans and procedures for emergency events (either natural or man-made; flooding, HAZMAT etc.)	11	5	3	3	2	24	3.83
ROP# 12 Develop a Regional Traveler Information Business Plan	7	8	5	3	1	24	3.71
ROP# 13 Explore additional opportunities for data sharing with public and private entities	4	6	9	5	1	25	3.28

Proposed ROP Projects	High (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Low (1)	Total Votes	Priority Rating
ROP# 14 Institute a real-time information system for several transit routes	8	6	4	4	3	25	3.48
ROP# 15 Institute pilot project showing travel time information postings on VMS signs	9	2	2	7	4	24	3.21
ROP# 16 Expand partnerships with organizations to utilize their communication (e.g., e-mail distribution lists) networks for distributing critical traveler information	8	7	7	3	2	27	3.59
ROP# 17 Create a GIS-based Signal Management System	11	8	7	0	0	26	4.15
ROP# 18 Develop a signal maintenance and upgrade plan	13	7	6	1	1	28	4.07
ROP# 19 Develop a regional program for allocating funding dollars for municipal signal upgrades	16	4	3	2	1	26	4.23
ROP# 20 Prepare a list of "top 10" intersections to upgrade	7	7	9	2	2	27	3.56
ROP# 21 Institute one-time "signal maintenance fees" to developers	11	5	5	5	1	27	3.74
ROP# 22 Institute a signal decommissioning program	6	2	12	2	5	27	3.07
ROP# 23 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Pilot Project	7	10	6	2	0	25	3.88
ROP# 24 Create a regionally funded operations coordinator position	11	5	7	1	2	26	3.85
ROP# 25 Create an "operations outreach program" including a brochure, presentation and website	6	6	7	6	2	27	3.30
New Projects added on 3/22/07 Meeting							
ROP A Automated fare collection system	7	4	8	2	3	24	3.42
ROP B Tolling study of regional highways	2	4	5	6	6	23	2.57
ROP C Study of conversion to HOT facilities	5	10	3	5	2	25	3.44
ROP D Freight Study of parallel corridors	3	2	5	4	6	20	2.60

The prioritized results are as follows:

Proposed ROP Projects	High (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Low (1)	Total Votes	Priority Rating
ROP# 19 Develop a regional program for allocating funding dollars for municipal signal upgrades	16	4	3	2	1	26	4.23
ROP# 17 Create a GIS-based Signal Management System	11	8	7	0	0	26	4.15
ROP# 18 Develop a signal maintenance and upgrade plan	13	7	6	1	1	28	4.07
ROP# 2 Improve incident management (incident command) and response procedures for various types of incidents and emergencies	9	10	8	0	1	28	3.93
ROP# 23 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Pilot Project	7	10	6	2	0	25	3.88
ROP# 24 Create a regionally funded operations coordinator position	11	5	7	1	2	26	3.85
ROP# 11 Develop evacuation plans and procedures for emergency events (either natural or man-made; flooding, HAZMAT etc.)	11	5	3	3	2	24	3.83
ROP# 10 Develop and implement a plan to close existing "regional" equipment gaps	13	2	5	2	3	25	3.80
ROP# 4 Develop pre-planned detour routings for key roadway segments	10	5	9	4	0	28	3.75
ROP# 21 Institute one-time "signal maintenance fees" to developers	11	5	5	5	1	27	3.74
ROP# 12 Develop a Regional Traveler Information Business Plan	7	8	5	3	1	24	3.71
ROP# 7 Explore expanded use of Freeway Service Patrols	9	7	6	2	3	27	3.63
ROP# 16 Expand partnerships with organizations to utilize their communication (e.g., e-mail distribution lists) networks for distributing critical traveler information	8	7	7	3	2	27	3.59
ROP# 20 Prepare a list of "top 10" intersections to upgrade	7	7	9	2	2	27	3.56
ROP# 3 Explore real or virtual co-location of the operations centers (e.g., transit, PSP, EMAs and 911 Centers)	8	7	6	5	2	28	3.50
ROP# 14 Institute a real-time information system for several transit routes	8	6	4	4	3	25	3.48
ROP C Study of conversion to HOT facilities	5	10	3	5	2	25	3.44

Proposed ROP Projects	High (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Low (1)	Total Votes	Priority Rating
ROP A Automated fare collection system	7	4	8	2	3	24	3.42
ROP# 1 Establish IM Teams on corridors with the highest concentrations of incidents	7	4	11	3	2	27	3.41
ROP# 25 Create an "operations outreach program" including a brochure, presentation and website	6	6	7	6	2	27	3.30
ROP# 13 Explore additional opportunities for data sharing with public and private entities	4	6	9	5	1	25	3.28
ROP# 15 Institute pilot project showing travel time information postings on VMS signs	9	2	2	7	4	24	3.21
ROP# 22 Institute a signal decommissioning program	6	2	12	2	5	27	3.07
ROP# 9 Have venues prepare traffic management plans in conjunction with PennDOT	1	5	15	4	3	28	2.89
ROP D Freight Study of parallel corridors	3	2	5	4	6	20	2.60
ROP# 6 Develop and implement a "Quick Clear" or "Clear the Road" program	1	5	9	6	6	27	2.59
ROP B Tolling study of regional highways	2	4	5	6	6	23	2.57
ROP# 8 Work with utility companies to ensure quicker response times when utility-related incidents require the closure of facilities, especially in rural areas	0	1	10	9	8	28	2.14
ROP# 5 Increase publicity for a "Move It!" or "Steer It and Clear It" program	2	2	3	4	17	28	1.86

Additional Comments on each project:

- ROP# 2 - Consider adding PEMA to list of key agencies as noted in the candidate project description handout.
- ROP# 10 - Consider adding transit gaps to project description including need for ITS and other operations equipment.
- ROP# 10 - Participants discussed breaking up project into two separate efforts; one to identify the approach to closing the existing regional equipment gap (includes Central Office input) and another to explain the work plan and potential implementation schedule.
- ROP# 11 - It was noted that there are industries throughout the region that could be potential targets and should be included in the candidate project description. The City of Pittsburgh is also starting a revision of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which should be incorporated into this effort.
- ROP# 12 - Consider adding transit in the candidate project description for its regional transit trip planner capabilities.
- ROP# 15 - Examine developing policies and procedures based on FHWA guidance to display emergency or security alert messages on VMS.
- ROP# 16 - Examine use of regional TMA databases for dissemination of relevant traveler information. It was noted that the airport corridor TMA database can reach many businesses and up to 12,000 individuals.
- ROP# 17 and #18 - Consider increasing stated *Level of Effort* to Complex instead of Moderate as noted in the candidate project handout due to the vast stakeholder coordination anticipated.
- ROP# 18 - Consider switching the lead agency role to SPC instead of PennDOT as noted in the candidate project handout.

- ROP# 18 and #19 - SPC noted that a similar regional signal maintenance and upgrade program is underway (including examination of possible dedicated funding) however a liaison is needed between municipalities and PennDOT. This project could tie into GIS database efforts under ROP# 17.
- ROP# 19 - Consider revising the *Time to Complete* timeframe to 1-2 years instead of 3-5 years as noted in the candidate project handout.
- ROP# 21 - One participant noted that some municipalities already have up-front fees for tenants of new developments (e.g., Washington County).
- ROP# 24 - Participants felt strongly that the Regional Operations Coordinator position is paramount to the success of many of the proposed ROP projects.

The group also voted on ten additional institutional suggestions. These projects originating from the Task Forces were treated separately since it was noted these were most likely to be undertaken by PennDOT Central Office leadership or would require a statewide policy direction to be implemented. The prioritized voting results were as follows:

Proposed Institutional Suggestions	High (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Low (1)	Total Votes	Priority Rating
1. Create an ADE of Operations to elevate District ITS coordinator to a full time position	17	4	2	0	1	24	4.50
8. Seek dedicated funding for signal program	15	5	4	0	0	24	4.46
2. Creation of regional or statewide signals manager position (full-time) to coordinate and advance traffic signal needs	12	11	0	1	1	25	4.28
4. Seek opportunities for piggy-backing on communication infrastructure with other state agencies or PEMA	7	10	7	1	0	25	3.92
9. Lobby for the creation of dedicated funding from the TF&RC	12	0	7	3	1	23	3.83
7. Need for new types of staff with IT backgrounds and knowledge of software, hardware and communications platforms	10	4	8	1	2	25	3.76
3. Break down restrictive OA barriers to sharing communication infrastructure (wireless, etc.)	7	5	7	3	1	23	3.61
6. Increase supplemental technical training for operations staff	4	8	9	1	2	24	3.46
5. Establish a knowledge transfer program for PennDOT operations staff through a mentoring and training program	6	8	3	4	4	25	3.32
10. Establish "real-time" operations portal on PennDOT website similar to Maryland's DOT CHART and Delaware's DelTrac sites	3	7	4	7	3	24	3.00

IV. Next Steps

Steve Buckley will distribute via email the minutes for review. The draft ROP was expected to be completed by the end of April 07 for comment by Steering Committee. Adoptions of the plan will be conducted by SPC soon after all revisions are completed.