

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 10:00AM
Regional Enterprise Tower, 23rd Floor, Fetterolf Room

ATTENDEES

Ryan Bowers, Skycomp
Anthony Castellone, McMahon Associates
Domenic D'Andrea, SPC
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Rich Feder, WR&A
Jim Katsafanas, Michael Baker
Tom Klevan, SPC
Brian Krul, L.R. Kimbal
Vincent Ley, Washington County Planning
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Brenda Murphy, PennDOT
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
David Roger, Hillman Foundation
Stephen Smith, Carnegie Mellon
David Totten, SPC
Sara Walfoort, SPC

Amanda Broadwater, City of Pittsburgh
Frank Cippel, PennDOT District 11-0
Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Bob Dudash, ACTA
Keith Johnson, URS
Eric Kaunert, Cranberry Township
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0
Jeff Leithauser, Washington County Planning
Mark Magalotti, Trans Associates
Gregory Moyer, City of Pittsburgh
Darryl Phillips, Parson Brinckerhoff
Lou Rocchini, Maguire
Doug Smith, SPC
Rick Stafford, Carnegie Mellon
Jim Vasiloff, PennDOT District 12-0

MEETING SUMMARY

- Mark Magalotti provided an update on the freeway ramp management research study currently being conducted by the University of Pittsburgh and PennDOT. Ramp management includes strategies such as ramp metering, ramp widening, turn lane additions, ramp closures, and signing and pavement marking changes. The first phase of the study looked at best practices in ramp management across the country and developed criteria for identifying congested freeways in Pennsylvania that may benefit from ramp management. The study also used computer modeling to evaluate various ramp management alternatives and to develop a conceptual ramp management plan along the Parkway East (I-376). Mark reviewed the measures of effectiveness that were developed to evaluate various ramp management alternatives and discussed the results of various options that were analyzed. He also provided information related to the local roadway improvements that would need to be implemented in conjunction with a ramp management system in order to accommodate traffic diversions. The study team will be performing a benefit/cost analysis for the I-376 plan and will be providing final research recommendations in the coming months.
- Following introductions, Ryan Bowers gave a presentation on Skycomp's aerial photography and video services for understanding and measuring highway system performance. Skycomp was established in 1970 and has worked for numerous government and private entities across the country on transportation planning and engineering studies. Ryan provided details on the various methods they use to collect aerial photos and how these photos are used and processed to gather data. He also reviewed various types of data, analysis, and reports that can be generated using these methods, and reviewed examples of a variety of projects that Skycomp has worked on.

- Doug Smith provided a recap of the development of the 2007 Regional Operations Plan (ROP) and discussed how the ROP relates to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and PennDOT's Transportation Systems Operations Plan (TSOP). He also reviewed a handout that outlined the proposed tasks associated with a ROP update, which SPC is in the process of initiating in association with an LRTP update. Doug also highlighted Carnegie Mellon's Traffic21 initiative as an emerging operations/ITS program that was not around when the 2007 ROP was developed, but will be an important consideration in the ROP update.
- Rick Stafford presented an overview of Carnegie Mellon's Traffic21 initiative and some of the projects that are underway and/or on the drawing board including: real-time transit traveler information, a smart parking pilot, a monitoring system for driver training, personalized transportation information for travelers with disabilities, a wayfinding system for Oakland, a spoken dialogue system that could be integrated with PA511, low cost road surface monitoring system, enhanced traffic incident detection, vehicle-based bridge assessment sensors, adaptive signal systems, and dynamic scheduling tools for ACCESS. Traffic21 continues to outreach to potential public and private sector partners and is looking forward to being part of SPC's processes for updating the ROP and LRTP.
- Doug Smith provided a handout and highlights from the recent USDOT certification review report related to the regional transportation operations and safety programs.
- Domenic D'Andrea supplied an update on the Regional Traffic Signal Program and the status of the 23 projects that are currently underway. Domenic also discussed plans for the next open application round for SINC and SINC-UP projects, which is expected to take place in late Spring – early Summer.
- Doug Smith gave an update on the Road Safety Audit (RSA) program, including the status of RSAs that were completed in the Fall and upcoming RSAs.
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2010. This meeting is likely to be changed to an 8:30AM start time to make it easier for participants to find parking. The subject for the May meeting will likely revolve around the ROP update, but participants are always encouraged to submit potential agenda topics for this and future meetings.