

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 10:00AM
Regional Enterprise Tower, 23rd Floor, O'Neill Room

ATTENDEES

Michael Bonini, PennDOT Research
Reggie Chandra, Rythym Engineering
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Dan Farley, PennDOT (via conf. call)
Lynn Heckman, Allegheny County
Jim Hunt, FHWA (via conference call)
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Marty McKinney, Cranberry Township
Mike Mudry, Trans Associates
Eric North, Wilbur Smith Associates
Chris Prisk, L. Robert Kimball & Associates
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
David Roger, Hillman Foundation
Doug Smith, SPC
Rick Stafford, Carnegie Mellon
Scott Thompson-Graves, WR&A

Anthony Castellone, McMahon Associates
Frank Cippel, PennDOT District 11-0
Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Rachel Duda, PennDOT District 12-0
Casey Hanner, Univ. of Pittsburgh
Max Heckman, Michael Baker
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC
Mark Magalotti, Trans Associates
Melissa McFeaters, PennDOT District 10-0
Tony Mento, FHWA
Brenda Murphy, PennDOT
Darryl Phillips, Parson Brinckerhoff
Liz Tillman, OTMA
Patrick Roberts, City of Pittsburgh
Mike Semchee, Pathmaster
Stephen Smith, Carnegie Mellon
Loren Stayer, Pathmaster
Sara Walfoort, SPC

MEETING SUMMARY

- Following introductions, Loren Stayer and Mike Semchee gave a presentation and demonstration of CENTRACS, a new software package for centralized management of traffic signals. The software gives signal managers the ability to monitor, communicate with, and remotely modify multiple signal systems with varying hardware and communications equipment. Marty McKinney explained how CENTRACS could be used to improve efficiency and operations for a municipality like Cranberry Township, and indicated that Cranberry is actively pursuing procurement of this software package.
- Reggie Chandra provided an overview of the InSync adaptive traffic signal system that Rhythm Engineering has developed, as well as background on the historical development and implementation of adaptive systems. Reggie showed video of a corridor that was recently redone using the InSync technology. The video is available at: http://www.rhythmtraffic.com/Video/291-PM_Peak_NB.wmv. PennDOT District 6-0 currently has two projects under development to pilot this new technology in Pennsylvania.
- Rick Stafford provided an overview of Carnegie Mellon's Traffic21 initiative, which is looking to advance new areas of research in ITS that can be linked to regionally-based demonstration projects. Carnegie Mellon, with support from the Hillman Foundation, is currently working to build partnering relationships with various public and private sector agencies as they begin this effort.
- 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 current phase of the study is using computer modeling to evaluate various ramp management alternatives along the Parkway East (I-376). The final two tasks to be completed will include designing a conceptual ramp management plan for the Parkway East and performing an associated benefit/cost analysis.

- SPC provided a handout with the results of the 2009 CMP network reassessment. The tables list all of the corridors currently on the regional CMP network and any modifications, additions, and deletions that will be made going into the 2009-2012 CMP data collection cycle.
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2010. Committee participants are encouraged to submit potential agenda topics for future meetings.