

## **SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee**

**Tuesday, November 20, 2007, 10:00AM**  
**Regional Enterprise Tower, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, A.E. Hunt Room**

### **ATTENDEES**

Mike Babusci, PB	Amanda Broadwater, City of Pittsburgh
Anthony Castellone, PBS&J	Frank Cippel, PennDOT District 11-0
Dominic D'Andrea, SPC	Robb Dean, PennDOT District 12-0
Kevin Ferry, SAI	Jim Hunt, FHWA (via phone)
Keith Johnson, URS Corporation	Sidney Kaikai, City of Pittsburgh
Eric Kaunert, Cranberry Township	Todd Kell, PBS&J
Tom Klevan, SPC	Paul Koza, PennDOT District 10-0
Todd Kravits, PennDOT District 11-0	Dave Kundrat, GAI Consultants
Lynn Manion, Airport Corridor TMA	Brenda Murphy, PennDOT BHSTE
Liz Nahm, Oakland TMA	Bob Pento, PennDOT BHSTE (via phone)
Darryl Phillips, PB	Doug Smith, SPC
Courtney Snyder, PennDOT District 10-0	Dave Wohlwill, Port Authority of ALCO

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

- Following introductions, Bob Pento presented an overview of PennDOT's efforts to advance TSOP 4 – Traveler Information. PennDOT received a federal 511 support grant and has undertaken customer surveys and a technical feasibility study to document existing traveler information sources and outline additional needs. PennDOT has developed a web-based Road Condition Reporting System (RCRS) that will be used as a foundational element for various TSOP efforts. The RCRS is currently available on PennDOT's intranet. A public interface is planned for June 2008. Bob discussed the flow of data between various agencies and information systems such as RWIS (Road Weather Information System), VMS (Variable Message Signs), HAR (Highway Advisory Radio), CCTV (Closed Circuit Television), and PennDOT's Winter Interstate Condition Hotline. Bob also reviewed PennDOT's Traveler Information web page, which is currently available. PennDOT is currently in the procurement process for final design and deployment of a statewide 511 system. There will be opportunities for Special Regional Content to be developed through the ROP implementation process and to be integrated into the 511 system.
- Doug Smith pointed out that the ROP for Southwestern Pennsylvania included a project to develop a Regional Traveler Information Business Plan, which could be used to create the Special Regional Content envisioned in the statewide 511 system. Doug indicated that SPC is considering including this initiative in its next Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will cover the July 2008-June 2009 timeframe, and questioned whether the timing would be right to do that. Bob Pento indicated that it seems that would be good timing.
- Domenic D'Andrea provided an overview and update of SPC's efforts to develop a regional traffic signal program, including the potential benefits of the program.

SPC and the PennDOT Districts are proposing a two-pronged approach to address signal needs. The Districts will seek to address corridors where major equipment upgrades (rebuids) are needed. These projects will likely need to compete for TIP funds; therefore, it will take longer to address these needs. SPC is developing a Regional Timing and Upgrade (RE-TIM-UP) Program to help municipalities monitor traffic and update signal timing and coordination on a more regular basis. SPC has submitted a \$3M CMAQ funding application to get this program established. Once established, the program would provide engineering support and minor equipment upgrades to municipalities, who in return would agree to implement the new signal timing and coordination plans that are developed. SPC is also working to establish an LED conversion program and develop various “soft side” elements including on-line tools, training, education, and outreach. SPC will also be working with PennDOT to improve asset management capabilities and to develop performance tracking mechanisms such as a regional traffic signal report card.

- Mike Babusci questioned whether municipalities have been contacted about the signal program yet. Doug indicated that he had spoken to various municipalities as part of recent CMP meetings, but nothing has been done formally yet. It was suggested that the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) and Councils of Government (COGs) may be good avenues for outreach. Domenic indicated that he will be looking at both of these as possibilities as he develops the outreach program.
- Sidney Kaikei asked how the City of Pittsburgh fits into the regional signal program. Doug indicated that the City is a special case due to the magnitude of signals (approximately 600 in Pittsburgh vs. 60 in New Castle which is the municipality in the region with the next highest number). SPC’s long-range plan treated the City of Pittsburgh separately by including a specific line item in the plan for City signals. As the regional signal program develops, SPC will be looking for ways for the program to provide value to the City, but needs to be cautious that the program does not become totally focused on the City, otherwise the regional support for the program will be jeopardized.
- Dave Wohlwill mentioned that the Port Authority will be looking at corridors where traffic signal preemption may be desirable for transit vehicles in order to provide bus rapid transit service. SPC will work with Port Authority to integrate the results of these studies into the regional traffic signal program.
- Doug Smith provided an update on the regional Congestion Management Process. Corridor data collected in the Spring 2007 cycle has been analyzed and is now available on SPC’s CMP website. Fall 2007 data has been collected and will be analyzed and posted to the web in coming months. Planning for the Spring 2008 cycle is now underway. Doug supplied the District Traffic Units and the City of Pittsburgh with a list of potential corridors for Spring 2008 data collection. The Districts and City will review this candidate list and identify corridors where construction is likely to impact travel times, volumes, and/or traffic patterns. SPC anticipates gathering travel time and delay data on 18-19 corridors in the Spring.
- Doug also reviewed the recent CMP Work Group meetings and outlined a study that SPC, PennDOT, Indiana County, Indiana Borough, and IUP will be

undertaking along Philadelphia Street in downtown Indiana. Paul Koza provided a summary of the project that will be constructed in this corridor, which will include converting the road from a 4-lane cross-section to a 3-lane section and installation of a new traffic signal system. The Before & After study that will be conducted will look at the impacts that this project has on travel time, speed, delay, safety, and pedestrian activity in the corridor. It will be used as an example of the types of studies SPC is looking to include as part of the Monitoring Strategy Effectiveness component of the CMP.

- SPC is currently working to schedule three training courses: IMSA's Traffic Signal Certification, FHWA's Safety Considerations in Urban Streetscaping, and NHI's Road Safety Audits/Assessments. There was brief discussion about these different training opportunities and Doug indicated he would e-mail the group with details once the plans and schedules are finalized.
- The next meeting of the regional Transportation Operations & Safety Committee is tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2008. Committee participants are encouraged to submit potential agenda topics for future meetings.