

RTSMO Summer Meeting Minutes
July 24-25, 2007
Woods, Hole, MA

Attendees:	Affiliation
Wayne Berman	Federal Highway Administration
Lisa Burgess	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Dong Chen	Florida DOT District 4
Brad Cook	Stantec Consulting
Bruce Duncan	Bluegrass Area Development District
Steven Gayle	BMTS
Thomas George	NITTEC
Mark Howard	Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Les Jacobson	Telvent Farradyne
Gregory Jones	FHWA
Walter Kraft	Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates
Mac Lister	FHWA Resource Center
Catherine McGhee	VTRC
Freda Morgan	TRB
Mark Norman	Transportation Research Board
Brian Rowback	New York State DOT
Thomas Werner	NYS DOT (retired)
Robert Winick	Motion Maps, LLC

Committee Business

Welcome by Walter Kraft. Walter thanked us all for our attendance and set the general format for the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was identified as setting a strategic direction for the committee. The major portion of the time together was to focus, in breakout groups, on issues that would help us identify our direction and doable activities that would support advancing these issues.

TRB Report – Mark Norman discussed several issues related to TRB (attachment). The major issue facing TRB is a funding cut of approximately one million dollars. Staffing cuts of 30 % and several avenues of increasing revenues are being looked at and planned. There will also be several changes to the Annual Meeting including the registration process and the paper submittal process. Papers will now be submitted on one of two dates; July 27 or August 1. Details on all of these changes will be forthcoming.

Research Needs Statement – Mark Howard reported on establishing a sub-committee to address this issue. A Needs Statement will be developed and submitted to TRB.

Performance Measures – A presentation (attached) on the work he has done was presented by Dong Cheng from the Florida DOT. Dong asked that any pertinent input that the attendees might have be sent to him.

Committee Website – Planning for this is being led by Lisa Burgess who reported on her efforts. She is still negotiating how and by whom the website will be maintained. The goal is to have a functioning web site by the TRB Annual Meeting.

Meetings – Cathy McGhee reported on meeting plans. It was decided that there would not be a workshop at the Annual Meeting in 2008. Cathy will co-ordinate with sub-committee chairs to develop sessions for presentation at this meeting. The deadline for development of these sessions is October 1, 2007. There was also discussion about the summer meeting in 2008. It was decided to meet in conjunction with the Freeway and Toll way Operations Conference, June 15-19, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Addressing the Strategic Direction

The balance of the meeting focused on breakout group and full committee discussion focusing on the strategic direction of the committee. Walter Kraft introduced this topic by doing a brief review of the short history of our committee and activities we had undertaken in the past. He then turned the meeting over to Les Jacobson to lead the process. Les presented a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the process to be used. The purpose of this process was to develop action items for our committee for the next 1-2 years. In addition, setting new task groups and possibly identifying others to take actions, was also part of the discussion.

Three breakout groups were formed and over the next two days issues were identified and actions planned. The summary of those discussions is provided below.

RTSMO Issues by Category

COORDINATION

- Need consistent use of terms in M&O (Glossary is ignored)
- What role does RTSMO have related to other organizations, such as NTOC
- Coordination within TRB
- How to achieve true inter-jurisdictional coordination/cooperation within a region
 - Tools to overcome hurdles and to reconcile organization vs. regions priorities
 - Tools for sustainability
- Share experiences with regional transportation funds
- How to leverage event to “all events“ to manage and optimize the network.

REGIONAL ISSUES

- How to anticipate changes to the transportation system (respond to unanticipated changes)

- How do we know how to manage and operate transportation on a regional level?
 - RTSMO is optimizing the surface transportation system (difficulty in optimizing the network).
 - The network is important.
 - How to describe optimization that all stakeholders buy
 - How to identify decision points and optimize travel time (including reliability)
- Legal/institutional barriers to RTSMO
- Impact of policy (outside transportation), such as security on Regional M&O
 - Other emergencies
- Synthesis of the state of the practice – overall or by □category
- Institutional/organizational changes or structures needed for Regional M&O

DATA

- Data on reliability/variability (framework to organize and analyze)
- What data is needed to do regional operations
 - Data needs (across stakeholders) and best way to get data (including acquiring from the public sector)
- Data for emergency responders for “situational awareness”
- How to incorporate data collection to support asset management
- Data to support efforts in behavioral change

OTHER

- Do we deal with multiple modes?
 - How do we approach the freight industry effectively? (truck, rail, airport, ports, etc.)
- Working with the regional transportation planning process
- ICM
 - Research topics
 - Information sharing/lessons learned
 - How can it be adopted for regional operations
- How to get planners to understand operations; operators to understand planning. (FHWA developing guidelines)
- Tools for real sustainability of RTSMO (regional organizations)
- How to define the network
- Analytical tools needed to reflect operational improvements (credible and acceptable)
- Models that reflect rare events
- Private sector investments – How are private sector players involved in regional issues?
 - How to make sure there is alignment between private operators’ goals and public goals?

RTSMO Committee Actions

- Actions from last session
 - RTSMO Clearing house - Lisa Burgess will initiate
 - RTSMO Conference
 - Wayne Berman and Walter Kraft will prepare a national conference proposal
 - Walter Kraft will ask ITE M&O/ITS Committee for co-sponsorship
 - Research to document benefits and costs of RTSMO strategies/actions/projects - Cathy McGhee and Mark Howard will prepare a research needs statement on documenting benefits and costs of RTSMO strategies/actions/projects. Steve Gayle will help.
 - Integration Planning and Operations - Brad Cook will be the champion and work with Wayne Berman
 - White Paper on Defining the committees vision of RTSMO – Will be part of the national conference
 - Defining the Region – on hold until Steve Gayle gets more information from AMPO
 - Optimizing Operations
 - Could update the FHWA Self-Assessment of Roadway Operations
 - Could develop a synthesis
 - Could develop a research needs statement
 - Could be part of the national conference
 - Bob Winick will further define
 - Assessing and strengthening the role of RTSMO in delivering results for state strategic highway safety and congestion mitigation plans
 - Need sponsorship
 - Could do a synthesis or white paper
 - This could be an NCHRP AASHTO project
 - Brian Rowback and Wayne Berman will develop a white paper
 - Session on Management and Operations of Multi-Modal Corridors within a regional context Multi-Modal
 - Bob Winick will work on it.
 - Data for Regional Operations
 - Mark Howard and Bob Winick will write a research problem statement or a synthesis statement
 - Bob Winick will check with other TRB committees
 - Data sharing for regional operations
 - Referred to Data subcommittee
 - Operations Ambassadors
 - Tom George will follow up
 - Organizational Models of Regional Operations

- Monitor FHWA peer exchange and put into national conference
- Regional Integration into Emergency Management
 - Tom Werner will follow-up and report back in January
- Analytical Models for Regional Operations
 - Mark Howard and Wayne Berman will work with Cathy McGhee to develop a conference session for January