

Meeting Minutes

Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations Committee Meeting

January 14, 2009

Agenda is attached. Detailed reports and presentations available at
<http://rtsmo.cts.virginia.edu>

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1 Walter Kraft welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- 2 Self introductions were made by the approximately 50 attendees
- 3 Minutes from the summer meeting in 2008 were accepted as previously distributed to the members.
- 4 The TRB Report was given by Pete Briglia and Rich Cunard later in the meeting. Pete commented that the attendance at the Annual Meeting was down about 5% due to economic conditions but was still over 10,000 attendees. State DOT attendance, of particular interest to our committee, may be down as much as 40% however. He mentioned various webinars that TRB is sponsoring. Of particular note he discussed the identified TRB critical issues and solicited our committee's involvement and input. Another issue being addressed by TRB is the use of web sites by various committees'.
- 5 Bill Hyman gave a report updating SHP II activities. He mentioned overall there are 17 projects currently totaling about 20 Million dollars. There are 5 projects new for this year An RFP on travel time dissemination for 1M will be coming out in March followed by 4 RFP's in July; (1) incorporating reliability in the planning process (1.5M), (2) incorporating non-recurring congestion in the HCM, (3) incorporating non-recurring congestion in the ASASHTO geometric design, and (4) ways to improve travel time reliability.
- 6 Haitham al-Deek gave a report on the activities of the paper review committee. There were 13 papers submitted to our committee up from 6 in 2008. Each paper was reviewed by 5 or 6 reviewers. Six papers were recommended for presentation and two papers for publication. In addition two others are being modified for possible publication. RTSMO sponsored two paper sessions during the Annual Meeting. There was some discussion about how to encourage additional papers for submittal. Haitham also solicited additional reviewers. If you are interested please contact him at haldeek@mail.ucf.edu
- 7 Jeff Lindley gave a report on FHWA activities. The Office of Operations in FHWA is now, as of February 2009, ten years old. Jeff commented on several accomplishments during that period; improved congestion management and incident management and work zones, 511 systems, improved freight mobility, traffic signal improvements, etc. A lot has been accomplished. There are two important issues for the coming year; (1) The economic recovery package. It will likely have about 30 billion for transportation systems to be spent over a

180 day period. The funds are not federal aid money but will need to comply with federal aid procedures and rules. The funds can include operations projects as well as infrastructure. Agencies are encouraged to look at operations projects particularly in the light of so much many projects creating work zones over the next year. The Joint Program Office is developing a white paper on possible ITS and operations projects for consideration. It will be distributed to our committee and friends as soon as it is available. (2)

Reauthorization. There will likely be an extension beyond the September 30 expiration of the current bill. Several proposals have been submitted including ASSHTO, APTA and others. Jeff felt that there would be five key emphasis areas; (1) congestions reduction, (2) pricing, (3) freight movement, (4) technology and innovation and (5) performance management. There was a discussion about the extent of addressing climate change issues would be part of the final bill. Finally, Jeff mentioned there will be a new version of the MUTCD this year. In addition FHWA has identified 10 opportunity states to whom they are offering technical support, training activities, etc in order to emphasize and move forward with operations activities. A detailed report of FHWA current program activities is available at www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov.

- 8 Doug Noble gave the report for ITE. He mentioned several items; a policy statement on operations from ITE, an ITE Report, available for \$25, on Management and Operations. the spring conference in Phoenix March 22-25 focusing on Operations, a follow up conference on planned and unplanned special events, and the Annual Meeting August 9-12 in San Antonio. Further information on any of the above activities is available at the ITE website www.ite.org
- 9 National Workshop to Advance Transportation Operations – Wayne Berman gave the report. A PowerPoint presentation is attached with some of the details. Some possible follow up activities discussed at the conference include; a 2010 conference session on regional operations success stories, an ambassador program, targeted outreach to elected officials, research on better analysis methods thru the HCM and demand forecasting techniques, conference sessions, webinars and social networks. Much good discussion came out of the conference and pursuant discussions. Walter thanked Wayne for his efforts in organizing this notable event.
- 10 Committee Membership – Walter introduced new members Virginia Lingham and Mike Harris. We have a current count of 21 members and thus there are still some openings
- 11

Reports from the permanent sub-committees were presented. Lisa Burgess reported on the communications and outreach sub-committee. She solicited for updates to the website from sub-committee chairs and asked for volunteers to help her efforts. Presentations and handouts from this meeting will be posted to the website. The group had met on Monday at TRB and had discussed future activities. There seemed to be more of an interest in moving forward not just with internal communication but with external as well. Other forms of communication such as twitter and wiki are being looked at. Cathy McGhee

reported on the Meetings sub-committee. Cathy reported that besides the 2 paper sessions we sponsored at TRB there were also 2 others we co-sponsored. There was discussion about the summer meeting and the consensus was to revisit our strategic direction at the summer meeting. It will be a full 3 day meeting either at Woods Hole or Irvine CA. More information will be shared with the committee and friends as details are worked out. Mark Howard presented a written report (attached) on the research needs sub-committee. He asked for input and written drafts of any new ideas.

- 12 Reports for the task sub-committee's were presented. Wayne Berman presented of the planning sub-committee. Wayne said there was discussion of performance measures at the meeting on Monday. His sub-committee will take over the regional ambassador program. Jienki Synn reported on the freight sub-committee. This is a new group just getting started. They will plan a workshop for next year. The data sub-committee report was give by Bob Winick. This group also met on Monday and 12 people attended. The meeting centered on brainstorming about data issues to support operations. A white paper on the use of private sector data is being prepared and vetted within the committee. It is anticipated to be completed by the summer meeting. No report was given for the multi-sate corridor sub-committee. Tom George reported for the Partnership sub-committee. This group will be sunset and the regional ambassador program idea will be moved to Wayne's sub-committee. There was no report given for the Performance Measurement sub-committee. The Multi-State Corridor sub-committee was sunset. Lou Neudorff reported on the successful glossary completion. It should be out as a circular by April and updated possibly every 2 years. This sub-committee will take a 2 year hiatus until updates are needed. Les Jacobson reported on the strategic direction sub-committee. Since our summer meeting will focus on this topic those attending should review the tri-annual strategic plan prior to the meeting. It will be distributed with meeting arrangement information at a later date.
- 13 TRB Task Force on Energy and Climate Change. Lou Neudorff gave a presentation (attached) of this task force's efforts. Walter established a RTSMO sub-committee with Lou as the chair to act as a liaison to the task force. Lou asked for volunteers to assist him.
- 14 Eliminating the barriers with elected officials. John Mason presented several thoughts on this issue. He outlined several points concerning about we are on this issue; M&O has increased awareness among the public and with public officials, M&O not seen as a requirement, Unable to get decision makers on board with M&O projects, Need to relate M&O to things that are important to decision makers, Need to develop better analytical terms for investment, and finally need to integrate M&O into the HCM. He also suggested strategies for more effective communication; Determine who are the decision makers, understand their environment, use plain speak, make it relevant to their concerns, appreciate the role of their staff, have ideas about how to get funding. Finally John stated this needs to be a continuous process. Walter established a sub-committee for this task with John as chair and asked for volunteers.

- 15 Probe Workshop Report – None was given**
- 16 Regional Traffic Signals. Eddie Curtis gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached). Following the presentation Walter established a new sub-committee with Eddie as chair and asked for volunteers.**
- 17 Corridor Systems Management Conference. No report was given.**
- 18 Other Items – Walter appointed Wayne Berman as the liaison to the Highway Capacity Committee.**