

SPC Transportation Operations & Safety Committee

Wednesday, July 30, 2014, 10:00AM
SPC Conference Center, Chatham II, Pittsburgh

ATTENDEES

Anthony Castellone, Pennoni Associates
Steve Deck, PB
Jeff Grim, IUP Highway Safety
Chuck Imbrogno, SPC
Brian Krul, Transsystems
Lynn Manion, ACTA
Kelly Maurer, Cranberry Township
Marty McKinney, Cranberry Township
Mark Metil, Gannett Fleming
Ann Ogoreuc, Allegheny County
Darryl Phillips, PB
Mavis Rainey, OTMA
Michael Shanshala, PennDOT 10-0
Joshua Spano, SPC
Mario Toscano, Drive Engineering
Bryan Walker, PennDOT 12-0

Domenic D'Andrea, SPC
Chuck DiPietro, SPC
Natalia Holliday, City of Pittsburgh
Tom Klevan, SPC
Mark Magalotti, University of Pittsburgh
Adam Marshall, PennDOT 10-0
Duane McKee, Cranberry Township
Richard Meritzer, City of Pittsburgh
Kevin Meyer, Cranberry Twp. Police
Bob Pento, PennDOT Central Office
Kathryn Power, PennDOT 11-0
Lisa Kay Schweyer, SPC
Doug Smith, SPC
Jeff Thompson, PennDOT 11-0
Sara Walfoort, SPC
Dave Wolfe, Drive Engineering

MEETING SUMMARY

- Doug Smith welcomed meeting attendees and initiated a round of introductions.
- Kelly Maurer provided a summary of the recent utility incident on S.R. 228 in Cranberry Township that resulted in the road being shut down for multiple days. The incident began at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 24th when a microburst hit the area and sheared off a number of utility poles. The incident lasted 53 hours with S.R. 228 being reopened at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2014. Lieutenant Kevin Meyer spoke about the incident management aspects of the response and credited the work of the I-79/I-76 Local TIM team with helping to prepare everyone to deal with the situation. A coordinated effort between local municipal officials, emergency responders, PennDOT, and utility companies helped to manage traffic in the area during the incident and get S.R. 228 reopened. Marty McKinney summarized the work done in the Cranberry traffic operations center (TOC) to manage traffic on area roadways, including signal phasing and timing modifications made using their centralized signal system. Information was made readily available via dynamic message boards, Twitter, and Facebook, as well as by communicating with local media. A question and answer session followed the presentation.
- Bob Pento provided an update on PennDOT's new PA 511 Mobile App. The goal of the app is to be a reliable source for traveler information and a platform to relay information during emergencies. The app uses a wide variety of data sources including the Road Condition Report System, PA Turnpike, INRIX, and National Weather Service. The new service covers over 40,000 miles of state roads. The app was officially launched on May 5, 2014 and is available on iOS and Android. There have been over 11,000 downloads and PennDOT expects to reach 30,000 by the end of the year. Customers can provide feedback to PennDOT via the Customer Care Center.

- Doug Smith provided an update on Tier 1 congestion management performance measures, including 2 new reliability metrics being analyzed: Posted Speed Reliability Index and Expected Travel Time Reliability Index. He highlighted some of the insights that can be gleaned regarding both recurring and non-recurring congestion when 24/7 archived speed and travel time data is available for planning. SPC is currently working on a revamped CMP website to provide this new data to the public and Planning Partners.
- Mark Magalotti presented a summary of research on methodologies to incorporate transit, pedestrian and bicycle design features into highway and bridge projects in Pennsylvania. The goal of this study was to develop a more quantitative means of assessing the need for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities. A summary of PennDOT's current practices and use of checklists was discussed. The bicycle and pedestrian checklist was created to ensure the appropriate multi-modal features are considered. The research team analyzed five current methodologies used by various DOT's and MPO's. They included Arizona DOT, Colorado DOT, Georgia DOT, Oregon DOT, and Richmond MPO. Three methods were selected for adaption to Pennsylvania and testing: Arizona, Colorado, and Georgia. Kenmawr Bridge, Freeport Road, Derry Bridge, and Freeport Bridge were selected for testing of the methodologies. The research findings suggest that the Arizona or Georgia method would appear to be adaptable to Pennsylvania. The Georgia method provides a more prescriptive methodology and incorporates crash criteria, specifically for pedestrians and bicycles. The researchers recommended consideration of the Georgia method with the following modifications: Elimination or modification of the guidelines for bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities due to their qualitative nature; and addition of criteria for both pedestrian and bicycle standards that require direct data collection to establish current levels of usage.
- Joshua Spano provided a synopsis of the PA Safety Symposium that was held at the State Museum in Harrisburg on June 10th. There were two main breakout sessions – one covering DUI and automated enforcement in work zones and the other covering seatbelt use and young driver safety issues. Keynote speakers were PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch and Governor Tom Corbett. Their remarks touched on Act 89, PennDOT's safety initiatives and autonomous vehicles.
- Domenic D'Andrea provided an update on the Regional Traffic Signal Program. Cycle 2 is well underway and signal retiming will be completed by the end of 2015. Applications have been reviewed for the 3rd cycle projects and these projects have been selected. A handout was providing with a list of the 20 selected projects. Domenic also mentioned a \$100,000 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funded project that SPC is overseeing to replace incandescent signal bulbs with LED. These funds will be focused on financially distressed communities in the region including Clairton, Connellsville, Dormont, New Castle, and Rochester.
- Doug Smith gave an update on the Traffic Incident Management program. He highlighted the upcoming after action review of the S.R. 228 Incident. This meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2014 in Cranberry Township. SPC staff is helping to coordinate the PA/OH/WV TIM Conference in Wintersville, Ohio on October 15, 2014. Also, anyone interested in holding a SHRPII TIM responder training session can contact Doug.
- Doug also mentioned that the Regional Operations Plan update is continuing and that draft materials have been placed on the ROP Subcommittee's SharePoint site for review and comment.