



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2000

Location: OR&A's Philipsburg office

Attendees:

George Khoury	PennDOT 2-0
Bert Kisner	PennDOT 2-0
Rob Jaconski	PennDOT 2-0
Denny Prestash	PennDOT 2-0
Vicky Rusnak	PennDOT 2-0
Yvonne Buck	PennDOT 2-0
Ron Turner	PennDOT 2-0
Ronald E. Pollock	PennDOT 2-1
James J. Roman	PennDOT 2-0
John P. Lane	PennDOT Central
Daniel Leonard	PennDOT BHSTE
Brenda Murphy	PennDOT BHSTE
Mike Pastore	PennDOT 9-0
Steve Bergman	FHWA - PA
Paul P. Jovanis	Penn State University
Mike Patten	PTI (Penn State University)
Rick Viglione	ATA
Amy Kessler	NCPRPDC
Tom Zilla	Centre Regional Planning Agency
Bill Tobin	CATA
Leonard Kowalski	L. Robert Kimball & Associates
Steve Bolt	OR&A
Kivanc Caglar	OR&A
Alex Adeeko	OR&A

Purpose:

To inform Steering Committee members about the progress of the study, present an overview of how Intelligent Transportation Systems work and its role in transportation planning. The meeting also aimed to ensure active participation from members for successful progress of the program.

The following are key points during the meeting:

1. Steve Bolt opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. All attendees introduced themselves.
2. Kivanc Caglar introduced new members of the Steering Committee and explained Jim McAllister's absence.
3. There was a presentation by Kivanc Caglar and the following are the highlights of the presentation:
 - Study area description: The nine counties within PennDOT District 2-0 were identified as well as Blair and Perry Counties, which come under Districts 8-0 and 9-0 respectively. In addition, three New York State counties were identified because they share a common border with District 2-0 in the north. Amy Kessler also pointed out that Jefferson County, PA was under NCPRPDC's jurisdiction and a major partner in the ITS initiatives in North Central Pennsylvania.
 - There was a brief discussion of the transit authorities and planning organizations in the study area. Location of transit authority offices, planning organizations, and their coverage areas were outlined. Tom Zilla pointed out that CATA operations did not cover the entire Centre County, but there is a "Van Service" operated by Centre County Office of Transportation.
 - An explanation of the National ITS Architecture and the need for an ITS architecture in the region was discussed. ITS terminologies such as User Services, Physical Architecture, Logical Architecture, and Terminators were also explained. A comparison was made between traditional transportation planning and ITS as a new planning tool for transportation agencies.
 - Rural transportation issues were outlined and the benefits of ITS in rural areas were pointed out. A brief explanation of the Advanced Rural Transportation System as well as its goals and service categories was provided. These service categories include: Emergency Services, Fleet Operation & Management and Commercial Vehicle Operations, Traveler Safety and Security, Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance, and Public Traveler & Mobility Services.
 - Orth-Rodgers' scope of services, deliverables, and anticipated project schedule were reviewed.
 - The need for defining project vision, goals and objectives through a consensus among Steering Committee members was pointed out. This is necessary as a selling point to all the stakeholders in the region. Two examples of project vision were provided as a guide.

- It was highlighted that there is a need for clarity and understanding of ITS concepts and terminologies by all attendees to ensure effective contributions in defining project vision, goals and objectives.
 - George Khoury emphasized the importance of the Regional ITS Architecture Program and pointed out its connection to PennDOT's current planning strategies. He reiterated the need for active participation from all the Steering Committee members to ensure the success of the program. He also expressed his satisfaction with the level of interest and participation at the meeting.
 - Tom Zilla suggested that the feedback from members on project vision, goals and objectives should be gathered after the meeting
- Steve Bolt inquired about the final composition of the Steering Committee. He also reaffirmed the need for positive feedback from all attendees with regards the vision, goals and objectives, as soon as possible.
 - Kivanc Caglar introduced speakers for Item no. 5 on the Agenda. The speakers discussed various ITS related projects currently being implemented in their jurisdiction.
 - Mike Patten presented an overview of PTI (Pennsylvania Transportation Institute) and discussed some current PTI projects. Some of these projects include: commercial vehicle related ITS deployments, motor carrier safety related projects, computerized HAZMAT treatment systems, traveler information systems on the PA turnpike, and AUTOSCOPE (traffic operations program).
 - Amy Kessler discussed some ITS projects within NCPRPDC's jurisdiction. An Executive Summary of these projects was distributed to attendees.
 - Rick Viglione expanded on other ITS initiatives in the North Central Pennsylvania region. These include smart card technology for transit operations and emergency dispatch systems.
 - Steve Bergman highlighted upcoming regulations that would affect funding for ITS projects. He also reiterated the availability of federal funds and various training resources for public sector ITS awareness programs. He stated that the FHWA could provide ITS training through the National Highway Institute (NHI), and offer Peer-to-Peer program and help for specific areas of need. He also stated that he could provide "2-day" public sector ITS training courses within 3 months of application. He promised to provide regular updates on National ITS development.
 - Daniel Leonard provided information on ITS projects in the state that might have an impact on District 2-0's Regional ITS Architecture Program. He specifically pointed out the Letterkenny Rural Operations Center project in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. He stated that this center was being considered as a test facility for ITS technologies, and that it would provide a central location for the rural ITS operations for the South Central counties in

Districts 8-0 and 9-0. He emphasized the rural characteristics of this regional ITS architecture program, but noted that special consideration should be given to special events in State College, which can be classified as an urban area. He also pointed out that the Statewide Traffic Operations Center will share the same facilities with PEMA, and will be located in Harrisburg. The center will serve as a hub for all traffic operation centers in the state and will not necessarily control the roadside equipment.

- Dennis Prestash summarized current ITS initiatives within PennDOT District 2-0. Some of these include: computerized HAZMAT mitigation operations, RWIS deployments on I-80, joint projects with the State Police, Enhanced 911 in Center County, and DMS along the Lewistown bypass.
- Mike Pastore held a short presentation outlining the various ITS initiatives within PennDOT District 9-0. Some of the ITS deployments include: DMS, HAR, CCTV, RWIS, Closed Loop Traffic Signal Systems, and Fiber Optic Cable backbone. He stressed the need for compatibility and standardization of ITS deployments between Districts 2-0 and 9-0.
- Bill Tobin outlined current ITS initiatives being undertaken by Centre Regional Planning Agency and CATA. These include: secondary signal preemption for transit vehicles, web site traveler information (real-time picture of bus locations on the internet), effective utilization of archived data, “talking bus” technology, and collaboration with other agencies towards the establishment of an ITS Strategic Plan for the region.
- Tom Zilla provided an overview of Centre Regional Planning Agency’s activities. He also stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement and highlighted incident management issues, particularly on the I-99.
- Brenda Murphy advised the Steering Committee on strategies based on her previous ITS projects and provided useful contacts for ITS related queries.
- Attendees completed the Project Logo Selection Form. Interim Stakeholders’ List was briefly reviewed and attendees were advised to provide feedback at the meeting or later.
- Kivanc Caglar identified members of the Technical Advisory Committee for the program. These include: Steve Bergman, Paul Jovanis, Bill Tobin, Dennis Prestash, and Kivanc Caglar. He also requested for committed volunteers from other attendees who might be interested in joining the Technical Advisory Committee.
- With no further discussions, Steve Bolt closed the meeting.