MINUTES OF MEETING (FINAL)

PROJECT: PENNDOT Agreement E00229
Open-end Agreement for ITS, Traffic and Highway Safety Engineering Services
Work Order 015- District 1-0 Regional Operations Plan (ROP)

PURPOSE OF MEETING:
NW PA Regional Operations Plan
Task Force Meeting #3: Congestion Management

LOCATION: PennDOT District 1-0 Office
Oil City, PA

DATE OF MEETING: March 6th, 2007
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES:
PennDOT Engineering District 1-0 (D-1)
Randy Brink (814-678-7181 / rabrink@state.pa.us)
Tom McClelland (814-678-7157 / thmcclella@state.pa.us)
Cheryl Pastor (814-678-7047 / cpastor@state.pa.us)
Sue Roach (814-678-7177 / sroach@state.pa.us)

PennDOT Engineering District 10-0 (D10)
Dave Tomaswick (724-357-2844 / dtomaswick@state.pa.us)

PennDOT Engineering District 11-0 (D11)
Jason Previte (412-429-6034 / jprevite@state.pa.us)

PennDOT BHSTE
Bill Laubach (717-787-9787 / wlaubach@state.pa.us) – via conference call

FHWA
Jim Hunt (717-221-4422 / Jim.Hunt@fhwa.dot.gov)

Northwest Commission
Bob Skarada (814-677-4800 / bobs@nwcommission.org)

City of Erie
LeAnn Parmenter (814-870-1379 / lparmenter@erie.pa.us)

EMTA
Lorene McGuire (814-454-4012 / lmcguire@emtaerie.com)
Michael T. Will (814-452-2801 / mwill@emtaerie.com)
The purpose of the Regional Operations Plan (ROP) Task Force Meeting: Congestion Management is to discuss the high level needs identified for Congestion Management. Project concepts will be developed to address the high level needs.

**Overview/Operations Concepts and Projects**

The meeting opened with introductions and Keith Mullins (EK) gave an overview of the ROPs purpose and explained how the Task Force Meetings are another step in defining projects for the NW PA Region. Bill Laubach (BHSTE) provided an overview on Traffic Signals statewide. He spoke about the Transportation Systems Operations Plan (TSOP) projects that are related, mainly *TSOP 08- TAC Signal Study Implementation*. His discussion focused around the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Signal Study information packet that was passed out.

Bill gave an overview of the traffic signal operations in Pennsylvania and shared the National Traffic Signal Report Card for traffic signal operation in the US with a score of a D-. The individual self-assessments are confidential, but it is fully expected that PA mirrors the national averages. From the Traffic Signal Report Card grade, it is clear statewide that signals are an asset and are a shared responsibility that needs to be investigated.

Bill stated that there are more than 13,600 traffic signals in PA, representing a $1 billion asset. Most of the signals are the responsibility of the municipalities. Traffic signals are important and need to be better managed in order to help mitigate congestion. The TAC Signal Study helped to form 12 core recommendations associated with the planning, deployment and management of Pennsylvania traffic signals. With the results of the National Traffic Signal Report Card and TAC Signal Study, PennDOT is looking to improve statewide traffic signal operations with its planning partners, municipalities and other stakeholders help.

Bill went over the section in the packet on *TSOP 08- Efforts Underway or Planned*. One of the goals of *TSOP-08* is to develop the Statewide Traffic Signal Asset Management System (TSAMS). TSAMS will be used as a tool to improve traffic signal planning, design, installation and operation. Bill stated that the Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Pilot Effort is an example of an innovative way to use signal systems in a dynamic manner. This project gives PennDOTs traffic management centers the capability to adjust traffic signal timings on the adjacent arterials when such actions would be beneficial due to incidents on the freeways. Bill stated the possibility of planning traffic signal improvements due to construction projects. Construction projects that generate high traffic volumes on arterials that normally do not experience high traffic volumes would benefit from traffic signal improvements. Regions statewide are encouraged to identify key locations where this approach would be useful.

Bill closed with the funding availability for TSAMS. The asset management system will provide a good database for figuring out where to put funding towards traffic signals. Additional funding can be found through retiming/optimization and modernization in other projects, such as Congested Corridor Improvement Programs (CCIP) and Traffic Signal Enhancement Initiative (TSEI). It is encouraged that
regions identify key signalized arterial corridors for optimization and/or modernization based on regional needs and criteria. Sue Roach (PennDOT D-1) mentioned that the District has proposed two corridors for these programs, Summit/Millcreek (TSEI) & Oil City (CCIP).

Discussion

Keith reviewed the NW PA Regional Operations Plan: Project Matrix for Congestion Management that was distributed to attendees. He explained that the high level needs were developed from the Workshop Meeting in January and that the project concepts were developed by EK based on the needs addressed. As a group the focus is to identify the project concepts that best fit the NW PA Region so that EK can identify potential project deployments to be reviewed at the next Task Force Meeting.

The task force engaged in a discussion on needs specific to Congestion Management. The Transit needs were reviewed based on what EK had developed from prior work with District 1-0 and the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA). The meeting today addressed additional needs for the region and project concepts. The following comments were collected during the discussion:

Traffic Signals

- District 1-0 has an excel database of all the traffic signals and keeps it coordinated with Central Office
- Funding for Traffic Signals
  - Central Office has funding for Asset Management
  - Traffic Signal Enhancement Initiative (TSEI) is planned for next fiscal year and only has $1.3 million available
  - Possibility of additional funding from Homeland Security and Incident Management
- TSEI can represent design and construction project depending on funding availability
- PennDOT can include traffic signals into projects with work zones that would require re-routing traffic onto arterials because of construction
  - As part of the planning stages under Work Zones include plans to upgrade traffic signals on adjacent roads to the highway
- District 1-0 wants to include Traffic Signal improvements with construction projects
- I-90 construction projects could make use of improving signal timing on 12th and 26th streets because they are adjacent arterials to use if I-90 traffic needs to be detoured
- NW PA Region would like to see the following corridors/locations prioritized for a Traffic Signal System Upgrades/Improvements:
  - Summit/Millcreek at Peach Street
  - City of Franklin
  - City of Erie:
    - Bayfront Connector- has had minimal upgrades done to the traffic signals and needs work
    - 12th Street
    - 26th Street
    - 38th Street
    - Peach Street
  - Meadville (Downtown)
  - Vernon Township
Opportunities as part of Construction Projects

- City of Corry
- Titusville Construction
- Greenville Corridors which are small but important because motorists have less tolerance for delay
- 12th Street is being re-striped, but needs signal improvements
- Look to re-time 12th Street, 26th Street and Bayfront Connector because these streets can be used as detour roads for I-90 incidents and/or work zones

EK will work with Sue Roach, PennDOT District 1-0 Traffic, to prioritize the signalized corridors that are most important to the NW PA Region. These corridors will be programmed in the ROP according to their priority.

Transit

- Transit projects fall under TSOP 17- Statewide Transit Operations
- Use ITS Technologies to improve transit including Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL)
- EMTA would benefit from better signal timings in the City of Erie
  - Transit Signal Pre-emption has been considered but preemption for Emergency Units is the current focus
- AVL and Kiosks Deployment Status
  - EMTA awarded contract for AVL and Kiosk Deployment with Notice to Proceed to go out the week of March 12th.
  - Contract includes a 4-5 month deployment for Phase 1 (10 vehicles equipped with AVL and 11 DMS to be deployed in phases)
    - DMS Kiosks will be deployed in popular areas, i.e. Convention Center
  - Riders will have the ability to plan their trip on EMTA’s website, and receive bus arrival information via kiosks

At the conclusion of the discussion on Traffic Signals and Transit in the NW PA Region the important needs were summarized. The most pressing needs include:

- PennDOT TMC
- CCTV surveillance at key locations
- Enhanced Traffic Signal Operations

Questions / Comments

If additional information is needed or documents wanted about the ROP, the ROP website is [www.paits.org/rop](http://www.paits.org/rop). The website includes updated information on meetings, ROP background and the process.
Next Steps / Action Items

The 2nd Taskforce Meeting has been set for April 3rd at 1:30 pm at the PennDOT District 1-0 Office.

- EK will send out Task Force Meeting #2 invitation to stakeholders;
- EK will develop Project Deployments based on the Needs and Project Concepts discussed at the Task Force meeting;
- EK will encourage the planning partners to attend the Task Force Meetings.

We believe the foregoing minutes to be an accurate summary of the meeting and related decisions. Failing written notification to the contrary, after ten (10) days, we will consider these minutes a statement of facts.

Minutes prepared by:

[Signature]

Keith R. Mullins, P.E.
Edwards and Kelcey

cc: All Meeting Attendees
    EK Project File 040015.038
    EK Project Team
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ATMS  Advanced Traffic Management System
AVL   Automatic Vehicle Locator
CCIP  Congested Corridor Improvement Program
CCTV  Closed-Circuit Television
DMS   Dynamic Message Sign
FHWA  Federal Highway Administration
HAR   Highway Advisory Radio
ITS   Intelligent Transportation System
PEMA  Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
PennDOT Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
PSP   Pennsylvania State Police
RCRS  Roadway Closure Reporting System
ROF   Regional Operations Forum
ROP   Regional Operations Plan
ROF   Regional Operations Forum
RTMC  Regional Traffic Management Center
RWIS  Roadway Weather Information System
STMC  Statewide Traffic Management Center
TAC   Transportation Advisory Committee
TSAMS Traffic Signal Asset Management System
TMC   Traffic Management Center
TSEI  Traffic Signal Enhancement Initiative
TSOP  Transportation Systems Operations Plan
USDOT United States Department of Transportation