



## Vehicle Probe Project Committee Monthly Status Webcast May 24, 2011 Minutes

Participants – see attached

### **Agenda**

Topic		Speaker
1	Introductions and Welcome	George Schoener
2	Review of Action Items from previous webcasts	Karen Jehanian
3	Communications Update	Karen Jehanian
4	INRIX Update	Rick Schuman
5	Data Validation	Stan Young
6	Contract Issues and Year 19 Update	Kathy Frankle
7	Vehicle Probe Project Suite update	Michael L. Pack
8	Spotlight Presentation – SafeTrip 21 Evaluation	Chris Armstrong, SAIC
9	Long Distance Trip Planner	Karen Jehanian
9	Agency Questions and Updates	All
10	Participation in Meetings/Conferences	Karen Jehanian
11	Review of Action Items from this call	Karen Jehanian
12	Selection of Date for Next Webcast	All

#### **1. Introductions and Welcome**

George Schoener opened the webcast at 10:30 a.m. by welcoming everyone and thanking those participating, both regularly attending agency members and the representatives of the participating MPOs. The following is a summary of the discussion. These meeting minutes, the webcast presentation and all Vehicle Probe Project (VPP) information are available at:

<http://www.i95coalition.net/i95/Projects/ProjectDatabase/tabid/120/agentType/View/PropertyID/107/Default.aspx> (Most documents may be found on the 'Highlights' page).

#### **2. Review of Action Items from previous webcasts**

Karen Jehanian reviewed the status of the action items from the April 14, 2011 webcast and noted that most items will be discussed during this webcast.

#### **3. Communications Update**

Karen Jehanian reviewed the correspondence sent to the project team and the website postings since the last webcast.



**4. INRIX Update**

Rick Schuman began by presenting the project statistics about the service availability for April 2011 (100%). Rick noted that as of May 5, 2011, use of the monitoring site grew to 433. The data feed participation increased by two accounts to 44, and archive requests are at 603 since launch. As previously mentioned, archive requests can be very specific and limited or very large in terms of time period and scope. In either case, the requests are counted individually regardless of size.

Rick provided information on the coverage change to include the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels in the New York and New Jersey coverage areas. He noted that the tunnels have been desired in the coverage since the project began.

Bob Pento (Pennsylvania DOT) asked Rick if the source data for the tunnels will still be GPS. Rick indicated that GPS is still used as the data source, and the same enhanced processing used on arterials is applied to the tunnels.

Rick reviewed the TMC set modifications that are going to be implemented July 1, 2011 as part as the VPP’s 4<sup>th</sup> year (Coalition Year 19) contract changes. A new TMC set has been added for ramp coverage. The TMC sets break up the road coverages, and there are different sets for freeways, arterials and ramps. The following table indicates proposed TMC set modifications for July 1, 2011:

TMC Set	ME	NH	MA	RI	CT	NY	NJ	PA	DE	MD	VA	NC	SC	GA	FL
All	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	NEW	ADD
Freeways	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW					ADD	ADD	ADD?	NEW	ADD
Arterials											ADD	ADD	ADD?		
Ramps				NEW		?	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW		ADD

Rick concluded by showing a ramp data example located in Charleston, South Carolina. He showed the area before and after ramp coverage, and noted that significant ramp delays are now being seen where no freeway delays were seen previously.

**5. Data Validation**

Stan Young reviewed the Data Validation effort to date. He discussed the table titled “Data Validation Status.” Stan noted that the report for the South Carolina data is in state review, and the report for the North Carolina is in draft. He also noted that data was collected in April 2011 in New Jersey on the Lincoln Tunnel ramps, and data is currently being collected on the Route 1 and Route 18 arterials in New Jersey. Stan noted that the results for North Carolina will be available in the next two weeks. Data validation is expected to be conducted in Delaware in June 2011. Plans for data validation in July have not yet been determined due to the coverage area expanding dramatically and the desire to extend data validation to states in the expanded coverage area.

Stan briefly reviewed the validation results for South Carolina (data collected February 2011). The data was collected on I-20 in the vicinity of Columbia. Stan



noted that out of more than 1,000 hours of data, there were only 10 hours of congestion, which is an insignificant sampling of low-speed data. Stan presented the South Carolina data validation chart and sample freeway data, highlighting the data validation results and noting that the AASE is within specifications for all speed bins.

## 6. Contract Issues and Year 19 Update

Kathy Frankle reviewed the DUA status and noted that the Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO) signed a DUA in May 2011. A list of consultants with DUAs was also presented, with no new DUAs to note.

Kathy stated that the states planning to participate in the VPP for Year 19 through the pooled fund have not yet committed. She requested that Rhode Island, Delaware, Virginia, and Georgia go online and commit funds by May 30, 2011, if at all possible, in order for Kathy to submit the necessary paperwork. She noted that FHWA still needs to review and return the contracts, so more steps are needed. The following table summarizes the participation status of the states:

State	Core Miles	Expansion Miles	Funding	Status
Maine	53	N/A	N/A	
New Hampshire	16	N/A	N/A	
Massachusetts	88	N/A	N/A	
Rhode Island	78	0	Pooled Fund	Needs to commit to project on-line
Connecticut	111	N/A	N/A	
New York	24	N/A	N/A	Transcom is reviewing vendors
New Jersey	470.5	423.6	UMD Contract	UMD sent contract modification 5/9
Pennsylvania	148.3	488	State Contract	State contract not yet complete
Delaware	46	0	Pooled Fund	Needs to commit to project on-line
Maryland/DC	297.2	420.1	UMD Contract	UMD processing contract modification
Virginia	305.5	198	Pooled Fund	Needs to commit to project on-line
North Carolina	261.8	1,291.2	UMD Contract	UMD sent contract modification 5/13
South Carolina	220	980	UMD Contract	UMD will need to process a contract modification before 8/31
Georgia	139.1	0	Pooled Fund	Needs to commit to project on-line
Florida	728	533	UMD Contract	UMD processing contract modification

Kathy also noted that the Vehicle Probe Project Pooled Fund Study has been posted as Solicitation #1304

(<http://www.pooledfund.org/projectdetails.asp?id=1304&status=1>). Kathy noted the waiver for the pooled fund study was approved so the project will be 100% federally funded as opposed to 80/20.



## 7. Vehicle Probe Project Suite

Michael L. Pack of the University of Maryland CATT Laboratory presented an update on the Vehicle Probe Project Suite that provides performance measures. The system was available for use on April 14, 2011. Michael noted that, as of May 23, 2011, 375 million records have been downloaded, 30 different organizations have been added as well as nearly 300 users. Michael also noted that on the morning of May 24, 2011 prior to this webcast, seven additional requests to join were received after notices were sent the TISPTC members and the VPP listserv list.

Michael noted that feedback has been provided by New Jersey DOT, DVRPC, North Carolina State University students and North Carolina DOT. Recently, North Carolina DOT has been using the tool to justify a recent road construction project, comparing the congestion prior to the project to the congestion after, and using the tool to quantify the value of the improvements to traffic flow. The data is currently available and provided in one-minute increments. Michael noted that the lab is receiving requests to aggregate the data to 15 minute increments. It was also noted that data sets in 5 minute increments would be useful.

Michael noted that user training videos are provided on the website, <http://vpp.ritis.org/suite/screencast>. Michael explained that access to the Vehicle Probe Project Suite is available for agencies with signed Data Use Agreements for the VPP. A list of agencies with signed DUAs can be found here: <http://vpp.ritis.org/suite/dua/>. Once commitments are signed by the agency, individual user requests should be sent to [accounts@ritis.org](mailto:accounts@ritis.org) with first and last name, agency affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail. Users will then receive an e-mail with login credentials and instructions.

It was noted in the April 14, 2011 webcast that any public agency can access the RITIS system free of charge. However, if an agency wants to contribute their detailed incident, detector, CCTV, CAD, or other data sources into RITIS so that their data can be integrated into the VPP suite, then that agency will need to pay for integration of their data into RITIS. Interested agencies should contact Michael Pack at [packml@umd.edu](mailto:packml@umd.edu).

After Michael's presentation, John Allen of the New Jersey DOT congratulated Michael and the University of Maryland CATT Laboratory on developing the tool. He noted that the Vehicle Probe Project Suite has helped the New Jersey DOT in providing system performance information, determining areas that need attention, indicating congestion relief projects, and project evaluation. John noted that providing information at ramps is a huge help to determine problematic ramp junctions and acceleration lane needs.

Scott Silva (Virginia DOT) asked if consultants can access the data on behalf of the DOT. Kathy Frankle answered that it is possible for consultants to access the site with the agency DUA or the agency can have their consultant sign a separate DUA, depending on agency preference.

Karen Jehanian requested that agencies using the Vehicle Probe Project data for applications that they believe would be beneficial to other agency members to please contact the Vehicle Probe Project Management Team to discuss.



## 8. **Spotlight Presentation – SafeTrip 21 Evaluation**

George Schoener introduced Chris Armstrong of the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). George noted that the I-95 Corridor Coalition received funding from the US DOT for the SafeTrip-21 initiative, which supports the use of advanced technology to improve safety, improve public transportation services, and reduce gridlock on America's roadways. An independent evaluation of the various I-95 CC projects under this initiative was part of the contract, and was performed by SAIC. Chris Armstrong was a lead member of the team that looked at applications in the I-95 Corridor. George also introduced Gary Ritter of the US DOT Volpe Center as the lead on the SafeTrip 21 Program. Gary thanked the I-95 Corridor Coalition for working on the project, and noted he was happy to share the results.

Chris introduced his presentation as an overview of the findings in the National Evaluation of the SafeTrip 21 Initiative for the I-95 Corridor Test Bed.

SafeTrip stands for Safe and Efficient Travel through Innovation and Partnerships for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Chris noted that emphasis was put on applications that do not entail extensive infrastructure, can achieve immediate benefits, demonstrate potential for substantial deployment, and leverage existing technology to address current transportation needs. The initiative was launched in Spring 2008 with the California Connected Traveler Test Bed and the I-95 Corridor Test Bed. The report was finalized in April 2011.

There were three test bed applications in the I-95 Corridor Test Bed, including the Long Distance Trip Planner (included entire I-95 corridor), displaying travel times in public areas (installed at 3 locations in Virginia), and airport ground transport travel information (implemented at BWI airport in Baltimore, MD). There was also an independent application of portable traffic monitoring devices, which was tested in various areas of North Carolina by the North Carolina DOT.

Chris reviewed the Long Distance Trip Planner (LDTP) application and explained how they evaluated the application. The findings indicated a significant increase in the website usage after the I-95 Corridor Coalition press release describing the LDTP in November 2009, which garnered national and local media coverage. Chris also noted they saw a significant increase in website usage before, during, and after weather events, such as the snow storms in December 2009 and February 2010. The web user surveys indicated that 1/3 of frequent users had changed travel routes or departure times based on the website, 75% said they would use the website to make decisions, the information appears to be more useful to weekend travelers, and frequent users reported a higher accuracy rating than one-time users.

Next Chris described the application displaying travel times in public areas. The application was implemented in two Welcome Centers in Virginia, as well as the Tyson's Corner Shopping Center, also in Virginia. Chris noted that they evaluated the application based on user intercept surveys and interview with deployment partners. The findings indicate that traffic conditions and travel time information is useful to travelers and can help travelers make better decisions about their trip and may lead a traveler to choose an alternate route. In addition, travelers taking long trips use traffic condition and travel time information differently than those taking short trips.



Chris went on to describe the airport ground transport travel information application, which was implemented at BWI airport in Baltimore, Maryland. Travelers were able to utilize the application through kiosks, a website, or a mobile website. Chris then discussed the portable traffic monitoring (iCone) devices which are disguised in work zone traffic cones and monitor volumes and speeds in work zones. Chris discussed evaluation techniques and results for each application.

After the presentation, Nathan Erlbaum (NYSDOT) asked about the current availability of the airport ground transport travel information application at BWI. It was noted that the application is currently unavailable, as BWI wanted more detail about the Baltimore area transit provided. The application should be back the week of May 23, 2011. It was also noted that they are currently working on a similar project with the Philadelphia International Airport.

Chris concluded his presentation by noting that all reports are expected to be published in July 2011 and that they can be accessed through [http://www.its.dot.gov/library/its\\_ntl.htm](http://www.its.dot.gov/library/its_ntl.htm) and search "SafeTrip-21". Chris also noted that if anyone has further questions they can e-mail him at [armstrongc@saic.com](mailto:armstrongc@saic.com).

#### **9. Long Distance Trip Planner**

Karen Jehanian provided an update of the Long Distance Trip Planner (LDTP) project. She thanked the members that have provided a prominent "Multi-State Trip Planner" link to the LDTP website. She requested that members please advise the VPP Management Team of any notices/releases regarding major events in which the LDTP is mentioned as LDTP usage is being monitored and assessed to determine benefit to the Coalition members.

#### **10. Agency Questions and Updates**

Karen Jehanian opened the floor to agencies using the Vehicle Probe Project data to ask questions and provide updates. There were no questions or updates.

#### **11. Participation in Meetings/Conferences**

Karen Jehanian reviewed the upcoming meetings for 2011 including the ITE Annual Meeting & Exhibit, the TRB – Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livability, and the ITS World Congress. She invited any agency using the VPP data to contact her if they would like to share their experience with the VPP data at any of these meetings.

Karen also summarized the I-95 Corridor Coalition's participation in meetings, conferences, and papers, noting that several papers and presentations relative to the Vehicle Probe Project have been accepted by the ITS World Congress.

#### **12. Review of Actions Items from this Webcast**

The following action items were generated from the webcast:



#	Responsible Party	Action Item
1	Rhode Island, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia	Go online and commit funds as soon as possible, preferably by May 30, 2011.
1	VPP Management Team	Make a presentation on the Score & C-Value Analysis, Filtering Based on Score and C-Value, and Volume Analysis research conducted by University of Maryland at the next VPP Team webcast in June.
2	Kathy Frankle/Member Agencies	Finalize paperwork with agencies committed to Year 19 whether through a direct contract with UMD or the Pooled Fund Study.
3	VPP Management Team	Monitor usage and benefit of the Long Distance Trip Planner website.

### **13. Selection of Date for Next Project Team Webcast**

A date for the next meeting was proposed and reviewed by the participants. It was agreed that **Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.** was acceptable.

Stan gave a brief overview of the presentation he will be doing at the next webcast on June 23, 2011. The information will include:

- Score and C-Value Analysis (a white paper will be completed by the end of April 2011),
- Filtering Based on Score and C-Value, and;
- Volume Analysis (looking at rural roadways to determine a minimum volume needed to assure quality of data).

Any questions in the meantime should be directed to:

- Stan Young at 301.403.4593 or [seyoung@umd.edu](mailto:seyoung@umd.edu)
- Rick Schuman at 407.298.4346 or [rick@inrix.com](mailto:rick@inrix.com)
- Karen Jehanian at 610.228.0211 or [kjehanian@kmjinc.com](mailto:kjehanian@kmjinc.com)
- Contract expansion issues should be directed to Kathy Frankle at 410-414-2925 or [kfrankle@umd.edu](mailto:kfrankle@umd.edu)

George Schoener thanked the Committee members for their time and valuable input. The conference call was adjourned at approximately 11:35 AM.



**Minutes  
Vehicle Probe Project Committee  
Webcast/Conference Call  
May 24 2011**

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>I-95 Corridor Coalition:</b>
George Schoener

<b>Vehicle Probe Project Webcast Attendees:</b>	
Gene Glotzbach	Florida DOT
Glenn McLaughlin	Maryland SHA
John Allen	New Jersey DOT
Nate Erlbaum	New York State DOT
Bob Pento, Jay Sengoz	Pennsylvania DOT
Joe Schall, Michael Moan, Dan Herstine	Rhode Island DOT
Scott Silva	Virginia DOT
Ed Stylc	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Robert Rupert, Gary Ritter	FHWA
Jean Friedberg	Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee
Wenjing Pu	MWCOG
Keith Miller	North Jersey Transportation Planning Association
Tiffany Tran	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
Chris Armstrong	SAIC
Rick Schuman, Pete Costello	INRIX
Stan Young, Michael L. Pack, Kathy Frankle	University of Maryland
Todd Kell	Atkins (formerly PBS&J)
<b>Vehicle Probe Committee Members – Not in Attendance</b>	
Delaware DOT, Georgia DOT, North Carolina DOT, South Carolina DOT	

<b>Consultant Support Staff:</b>
Karen Jehanian, Joanna Reagle, Bridget Bitto KMJ Consulting, Inc.