



SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL ITS COALITION

March 28, 2007 Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 **TIME:** 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

PLACE: Florida Department of Transportation District 4 / Broward County Traffic Engineering
SMART SunGuide Transportation Management Center (TMC)
2300 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

MEMBERS PRESENT: See Attached List

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Mr. Jesus Martinez of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) District 6 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Office called the meeting to order. Self-introductions for all attendees followed. Mr. Reanos of HNTB Corporation distributed the handouts that included the agenda, sign-in sheet, and the minutes from the January 31, 2007 meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Reanos asked if there were any comments on the meeting minutes from the January 31st meeting. No comments were offered. It was decided to accept review comments until April 2, 2007. No comments were received and the January meeting minutes have been deemed final.

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Martinez, the chair of this sub-committee, reported on the Executive Sub-Committee meeting held on March 13, 2007. He updated on the status of the execution memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the fiber optic communications system sharing between the partner agencies. He stated that the Miami-Dade-Expressway Authority's (MDX) legal department is reviewing the draft MOU. Mr. Rory Santana of the FDOT District 6 ITS Office mentioned that their legal department approved the MOU.

The sub-committee also discussed the Marketing Plan submitted on March 20 and approval of the closed circuit television (CCTV) labeling convention to provide better information to customers. Other sub-committee discussions included preparation of the agenda, a transition plan for a new ITS Coalition chair, future meeting format and schedule.

Mr. Martinez also stated that the Public Outreach sub-committee provided an update to Goal 5 of the ITS Coalition list of goals and objectives.

OPERATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bob Murphy of DMJM+Harris provided an update of the South East Florida Regional TMC Operations Committee (SEFRTOC) monthly meeting conducted earlier in the day. He mentioned that the committee had John Sparks of Delcan who is working with the I-95 coalition talk about establishing kind of a South Eastern communication network between Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. He mentioned that the South Eastern communication network would emulate an existing model that the North Eastern states have for their interstate communications between the Transportation Management Centers (TMC's). Mr. Murphy mentioned that Mr. Sparks is in the early stages of collecting information about TMC set up in different states. He also mentioned that the sub-committee will be working towards collecting all the information to develop a communications process between the TMC's in South Eastern states. Mr. Murphy added that this process would be presented to the Central Office.

Mr. Murphy reported that the SEFRTOC had done a monthly QA/QC of the 511 System that consisted of measuring and tracking the TMC's data presented on the 511 system. He stated that the 511 System



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performance showed 89% accuracy for the data collected from the four TMC's. He added that the information accuracy is expected to increase with the ongoing communication improvements between the Turnpike TMC and the 511 System.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the SEFRTOC sub-committee discussions also included updates to the Standard Operations Guidelines (SOG's). The subcommittee will be working on updating agency and regional TMC's contact information.

Mr. Murphy stated that the sub-committee also discussed hurricane preparations. The sub-committee established a daily teleconference plan to be implemented before, during and after the storm or hurricane event. The teleconference plan includes daily communication between TMCs and/or their personnel from their facilities or remote locations.

Mr. Murphy mentioned a pilot program with the *FHP motorist assist service. The thirty-day pilot program with the District 4 SMART SunGuide TMC involves the routing of motorist assist calls from the *FHP service to the TMC operators. As part of this initiative, FHP provided customer relations training to the District 4 TMC operators. The purpose of the training was to prepare operators on how to assist motorists when the call is related to an emergency.

Mr. Murphy stated that the program may expand to include *FHP calls made within Palm Beach County. He mentioned that the sub-committee will be working with regional Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's) and eventually have those calls routed directly to the TMC's for motorist assistance.

Mr. Reanos asked if calls coming to the TMC are coming directly or filtered by the FHP. Mr. Murphy responded that the *FHP menu was changed to provide callers with options for emergency or motorist assist calls. Callers choosing the motorists assist option are routed to speak to a SMART SunGuide TMC operator. Callers dialing in for emergencies or locations outside the expressway system will be asked to call the 911 system. Mr. Murphy stated that emergency calls made to the *FHP system from locations outside the expressway system are routed to either the Lakeworth or Miami FHP call centers.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the effort to expand statewide TMC coordination under the Florida Unified Statewide Integrated Operations Network (FUSION) concept continues. The sub-committee is working with adjacent districts and regional agencies to meet and hold advance discussions at the ITS Working Group Meeting in Orlando, on April 3, 2007. He mentioned that one of the by-products of FUSION was the formation of a subcommittee consisting of information technology (IT) representatives from the various FDOT districts. The sub-committee will coordinate items related with SunGuide software, technology and communications systems used by the TMCs. Mr. Manuel Fontan of the District 6 ITS office will be the chair of that sub-committee. Mr. Santana added that the sub-committee will also focus on user interface improvements to better serve customers.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the SEFRTOC sub-committee is working on improving the quality of the 511 information in the Northern counties in the Treasure Coast. This task includes monitoring the FHP data used by the Palm Beach Interim Transportation Management System (ITMS) facility to assure quality and seamless service throughout the three counties.

Mr. Murphy also stated that SEFRTOC continues to provide reports at the Broward TIM Team and Palm Beach TIM Team on TMC activities.

PUBLIC OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. John Easterling of the Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) reported that the Subcommittee met on February 27, 2007 and March 20, 2007 since the last ITS Coalition meeting.

Mr. Easterling mentioned that the sub-committee has been finalizing a draft of talking points to be used for marketing and public information of the ITS program. The sub committee has also become more involved in the annual marketing plan and review of print material for the Advanced Traveler information System (ATIS). The



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marketing plan includes advertising enhancements for radio, program promotion during conferences, tradeshows and similar events. He mentioned that Ms. Sarah Stanley of the District 4 ITS Office is going to be presenting at the Intertraffic Conference scheduled for October 10-11, 2007. Mr. Martinez added that marketing efforts in Spanish are also being discussed.

The subcommittee is also working on increasing membership and is currently seeking for representation from the transit agencies.

Mr. Murphy mentioned the inconsistency and quality of traffic information broadcasted on the radio. He stated that radio stations should use a uniform traffic reporting format.

Mr. Easterling added that traffic reports on some radio stations lack information by not mentioning the impact to travel lanes. He also stated that radio stations continue refer to the Southern portion of Florida's Turnpike in Miami-Dade County as Homestead Extension of the Florida's Turnpike (HEFT). This may be confusing to listeners not familiar traveling on the Turnpike since FTE no longer uses HEFT on their system signage. Mr. Easterling also stated that FTE does not market the Florida's Turnpike mainline as SR 91.

Mr. Mike Millard of SmartRoute Systems (SRS) mentioned that he approached WLRN management to discuss deficiencies of their traffic reports. According to Mr. Millard, WLRN management stated that they are cutting back on staff and do not have dedicated staff for the traffic reports. Mr. Millard stated that a suggestion for WLRN management is to have them listen to the 511 reporting format. Mr. Millard will follow up with WLRN management.

TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Martinez stated that the sub-committee is in the process of forming a subcommittee to the technical subcommittee. This sub-committee will focus on developing procedures for agencies to troubleshoot fiber cable cuts. He mentioned that he is on a distribution list that sends out an email every time there is a fiber cut in Central Florida. He mentioned that he receives 5 to 6 e-mails a week about a fiber cut in central Florida.

ITS COALITION MEETING FORMAT DISCUSSION

Mr. Martinez stated that at the Executive Sub-committee meeting held earlier in the month of March included discussions about the purpose of the ITS Coalition meetings. He stated that the meeting objective is to provide updates on agency activities, presentations and lessons learned from the different partners.

He stated that the executive sub committee decided to reduce the frequency of the ITS Coalition meetings down to one every six months. The next two meetings are planned for September of 2007 and subsequently in March of the following year. He stated that the subcommittees would still meet on the current schedule to continue with the ongoing efforts and activities.

Mr. Santana suggested that future ITS Coalition meetings include a theme. Mr. Murphy added that future meetings can be coordinated with other meetings such as the ITS Working Group Meeting.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

INTERTRAFFIC CONVENTION

Ms. Stanley made brief presentation about the Intertraffic Convention to be held later this year on October 10-11, 2007 in Fort Lauderdale. Activities scheduled for the event include an exhibit hall and conferences on transportation themes such as roadway infrastructure, traffic management, roadway and work zone safety and parking. She mentioned that since the event date and location closely coincides with the next ITS Coalition meeting, it might be beneficial to hold the next ITS Coalition meeting during the event. However, the registration fee for the event is \$175.00 per person. Mr. Millard asked if there were any group registration discounts. Ms. Stanley responded that additional registration information would be available on April 2007. She stated that she would forward additional event information to HNTB for distribution.



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GOALS & OBJECTIVES UPDATE

Mr. Reanos mentioned that Goal 5 of the ITS Coalition list of goals and objectives has been updated.

ATIS PROJECT STATUS

Mr. Millard stated that CCTV cameras in traveler information web page are being renumbered to match the numbering convention used by District 6. The addition of newly deployed CCTV cameras on I-75 and I-195 are being added to the web page as well. He mentioned that ongoing efforts to provide streaming video on the web continue.

Mr. Millard announced that the ten millionth 511 caller will occur within the next four to six days. Mr. Martinez suggested notifying media on the event.

AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Dong Chen of the District 4 ITS Office stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for design-build ITS projects in the northern three counties of District 4 is nearing completion. He mentioned that Mr. Norbert Munoz of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was reviewing the Systems Engineering Management Plan (SEMP) document that is part of the RFP.

Mr. Chen stated that a new TMC will be built in the Palm Beach County Building. The project is expected to be completed by July 2007. He stated that the new TMC will be staffed on a rotation schedule in coordination with the District 4 TMC and the ITMS facilities. The new TMC will operate during daytime hours and transition to a twenty-four hour, seven days per week (24/7), year round operation as the ITMS phases out.

Mr. Martinez followed with an update of the District 6 ITS projects. The letting of the US1 and I-395 ITS project is scheduled for May of 2007 and construction completed by January of 2008. The I-95 ramp metering project is scheduled to be operational by end of this year.

Mr. Easterling stated that the final acceptance for the Sawgrass ITS Project is scheduled for early 2008. The FTE ITS Project - Part A is under construction and includes communications infrastructure, CCTV cameras, DMS, travel time system, and vehicle detection system. The project extends from mile marker 0 to 117.

Mr. Easterling also mentioned a June 2007 advertisement for a new TMC building at the Pompano Plaza to house toll operations, ITS operations and administration department. He added that the future facility will allow management and operation of the entire FTE system.

Mr. Angel Reanos of HNTB Corporation stated that the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) ITS RFP for State Road (SR) 112, SR 874, SR 878 and SR 924 will be advertised Summer 2007.

Mr. Martinez announced that this will be his last meeting as the ITS Coalition chair as he will be moving on from FDOT.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER BUSINESS

The next ITS Coalition meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2007 pending coordination with the Intertraffic Conference in October 2007. The final schedule and location will be announced in advance.

