

# **Transportation Management Center Pooled Fund Study 2007 Annual Meeting – August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Hyatt Regency Irvine Hotel  
17900 Jamboree Boulevard  
Irvine, California 92614**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Introductions, Welcome, & Opening Remarks**

Dave Kinnecom (Utah DOT) and Jeff Galas (Illinois DOT) chaired the meeting. Introductions were made.

Raj Ghaman (FHWA) welcomed everyone to the TMC Pooled Fund Study (PFS) Annual Meeting. Ghaman introduced the new members of the TMC PFS and welcomed the first-time meeting participants.

The agenda was reviewed.

### **Pooled Fund Study Funding Status**

Tom Granda (FHWA) reported the funding status. Members discussed funding related issues. Ghaman noted that States can use 100% SP&R federal funds to participate in the study and do not require local match. All states' contributions go toward the development of products. Costs associated with other expenses, such as travel costs, program administration, contract management, etc., were from FHWA as part of FHWA's contribution to the study.

Ghaman also noted that FHWA is currently revising the pooled fund study accounting procedures. This would change states' funding obligation process. FHWA would notify states when the procedures have been finalized. He also noted that due to issues associated with the FHWA Fiscal Management Information System (FMIS), information on the funding balance was not entirely accurate. States were cautioned not to base on the FMIS records to determine the balance of their contributions. States' contributions go entirely toward TMC PFS projects. Costs associated other expenses, such as travel costs, program administration, etc., were from FHWA as part of FHWA's contribution to the study.

### **Status Report on TMC PFS Projects**

Ming-Shiun Lee (URS) gave a brief overview presentation on the status of current and future projects. The presentation covered for each project the project purpose and objectives, intended audience, project deliverables, and schedule and milestones. Lee noted a quarterly progress report was also included in the meeting material binder.

Lee noted that 11 projects have been completed by the TMC PFS to date. 5 additional projects were at final stages and would be completed in the next 3-5 months.

#### TMC Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Handbook

- Final handbook and outreach materials are available on the project web page.
- The 508 version of the deliverables are under review.

#### TMC Business Planning and Plans Handbook

- Final handbook is on the project web page.
- The 508 version of the deliverables are under development.

#### Developing and Using Concept of Operations in Transportation Management Systems

- Final handbook and outreach materials are on the project web page.
- The 508 version of the deliverables are under review.

#### Multi-State, Statewide and Regional TMC Concept of Operations and Requirements

- Final handbook and outreach materials are on the project web page.
- The 508 version of the deliverables are under development.

#### Recovery and Mitigation for TMCs

- Final handbook and outreach materials are on the project web page.
- The 508 version of the deliverables are under development.

#### Procuring, Managing, and Evaluating the Performance of Contracted TMC Services

- Schedule delay due to change of contractors.
- Products are expected in late 2008, including a technical document, a primer, a project fact sheet, a tri-fold brochure, and a presentation on the subject.

#### Driver Use of Real-Time En-Route Travel Time Information

- Project is on schedule.
- Research work plan would be available in September 2007.
- Project would be completed in December 2008.
- Members noted this is an important project to many states.
- John Bassett (New York State DOT) volunteered to be on the project review team.

#### TMC Human Factors Design Guidelines: Requirements Analysis

- In contract process.
- Anticipated project kick-off in the fall of 2007.
- Key products would include a project report, sample guidelines, and phase 2 statement of work.

#### Integration of TMCs and Law Enforcement – Needs Assessment

- Anticipated project kick-off in the fall of 2007.
- Key products would include a synthesis report and a findings report.
- Granda noted that FHWA was seeking appropriate contractors to perform the work. Mike Jenkinson (Caltrans) indicated that Caltrans could provide suggestions.

### Methodologies to Measure and Quantify TMC Benefits – Phase 1

- In contract process.
- Anticipated project initiation in the fall of 2007.
- Key products would include a synthesis report and a work plan for Phase 2.

### Developing Travel Time Information

- In contract process.
- Anticipated project initiation in the fall of 2007.
- Key products would include a technical document, a project fact sheet, a tri-fold brochure, and a PowerPoint presentation.

### TMC Clearinghouse Support Services Phase 2

- Anticipated project initiation in the winter of 2007.

### Requirements and Position Descriptions for TMC Support Staff

- Anticipated project initiation in the winter of 2007.
- Key products would include an enhanced software tool, a project report, a project fact sheet, a tri-fold brochure, and a PowerPoint presentation.

### Techniques for Managing Service Patrol Operations

- Anticipated project initiation in the winter of 2007.
- Key products would include a synthesis report, a project fact sheet, and a PowerPoint presentation.

### Best Practices for Road Condition Reporting Systems

- Anticipated project initiation in the winter of 2007.
- Key products would include a synthesis report, a project fact sheet, and a PowerPoint presentation.

Lee indicated the following projects were at scope development stage and would be initiated in 2008:

- TMC Infrastructure Maintenance Management System
- TMC Staffing and Scheduling for Day-to-Day Operations, Phase 2: Software Development
- Developing TMC Operator Training Program Guidelines
- Knowledge Needs Assessment and Workshops for TMC Owners, Managers and Operators
- TMC Data Capture for Performance and Mobility Measures

### **Succession of Co-Chair**

Cathy McGhee (Virginia DOT – Virginia Transportation Research Council) was recommended to succeed Dave Kinnecom (Utah DOT) as a Co-Chair of the TMC PFS. The recommendation was approved by consensus. Members thanked Kinnecom for his leadership and tremendous contribution to the group for the past 3 years.

## Membership Updates

Members discussed the following items related to membership and contribution: marketing, new members, retain members, and scope and objectives.

Ghaman noted that TMCUpdate (a quarterly newsletter) was the marketing tool the group currently has. The newsletters include profiles of members. Other marketing efforts/tools could include: proactively sending out letters to target potential members; developing fact sheets highlight benefits; and presenting information to groups such as AASHTO Subcommittee on Systems Operation and Management (SSOM). Discussion is summarized in the following:

- Develop a marketing plan, defining:
  - What is it?
  - What does it do?
  - What does it do for me?
- The e-mail forum is very useful and successful.
- One of the most significant benefits is information sharing.
- Need to draw a fine line on information for members and non-members. It was noted that non-members have access to products but do not have input to product development.
- Find out from previous members on why they did not continue. It was noted that some of the states did not continue due to personnel changes. Every state is somewhat different.
- Capture rural areas and address not only urban TMC issues. Many states are looking into rural TMC/ITS applications. This is a potential market. Some members thought rural TMC is part of the current scope. Many states are moving into statewide operations.
- Both rural and urban should be covered.
- “Rural ITS” could be “intercity ITS.”
- Late in responding to hot topics. Need to speed up the contracting process and time.
- The group could set up visions and directions for future TMCs.
- Link with AASHTO and ITS America.
- The focuses of NCHRP, TRB, ITS America and AASHTO are different. The TMC PFS is not as high as the above groups and may have different audience. Need to find a balance between the various focuses.
- Change to “Traffic Management” PFS?
- Invite two potential states to the annual meeting each year. FHWA send an invitation to the chief engineer and copy to the targeted person. Also ask them to be on the e-mail distribution list so that can experience the benefits.
- Member’s contribution cannot be in kind.
- Suggested actions for members not paying dues: not eligible for travel reimbursement; exclude from the membership after two years of absence without explanation.
- Conduct a TMC scanning tour in Europe.

Ghaman requested each member to provide justification to join the group. He also would like members to respond to the three questions on the marketing plan.

### **FHWA TMC-Related Road Weather Management Activities**

Roemer Alfelor (FHWA) presented the FHWA Road Weather Management Program and initiatives. The presentation covered the program goals, weather impacts on highway systems, and tools and technologies for road weather management. Specific initiative discussed included:

- Weather-Responsive Transportation Management (WRTM)
- Weather Response/Decision Support System and Maintenance and Operations Decision Support System (MODSSS)
- Weather Integration in TMC's
- TMC Weather Integration Self-Evaluation and Planning Guide
- Weather-Sensitive Traffic Engineering Models

Alfelor noted that WRTM is essential and TMCs play a key role in WRTM. WRTM requires timely and accurate road weather data and forecast, as well as institutional changes. Integration of weather elements in TMC operations results in significant agency and highway user benefits.

### **FHWA Program Plan, Road Maps & Feedback on FHWA Freeway Management Program**

Jessie Yung (FHWA) reported on the FHWA Office of Operations current program activities. Discussion included initiatives related to freeway management and traffic operations, managed lanes, and HOV lanes. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Two NCHRP problem statements were seeking sponsors. The two statements were: Estimating and Scheduling TMC Staffing and Resource Needs; and Travel Time Prediction Techniques. Yung would like to get states' responses in the next two weeks.
- European Scan: FHWA sponsored a scanning study to examine congestion management programs and policies in Europe. The result the scan team saw was Active Traffic Management.
  - TMCs have a significant role in active traffic management. For example, one of the active traffic management strategies is temporary shoulder use. TMCs could monitor and control shoulder usage. Texas, Minnesota and Washington are currently looking at this concept.
  - Speed harmonization to decrease speed differentials in advance. Washington is performing a speed harmonization study.
- The Second International Symposium on Freeway & Tollway Operations will be held in Hawaii in June 2009. The TMC PFS may consider holding its annual meeting along with the event in Hawaii.
- Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) – pursuit of aggressive strategies under the umbrella of the "Four Ts" – tolling, transit, telecommuting and technology – a combined approach to reducing traffic congestion.
- Two high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes brochures were distributed: HOV/HOT Lanes and HOV Lanes and Low Emission and Energy-Efficient Vehicles.
- TRB Research Problem Statements were due on September 14. The group could share project ideas with TRB for consideration as well as for coordination to avoid duplications.
- Freeway Management Trends, a quarterly publication of the Freeway Management Program, was shared with the group. The next topic would be HOT lanes.

## **Status Report and Feedback on FHWA Programs**

Ghaman reported on the FHWA current program activities. Three major areas were reported:

- Congestion Initiatives: FHWA is focusing on a number of high-priority efforts, including: Tolling and Pricing; Public Private Partnerships; Real-Time Traveler Information; Traffic Incident Management; Work Zone Mobility and Highways for LIFE; and Traffic Signal Timing.
- Integrated Corridor Management (ICM): ICM Pioneer sites presented concepts for managing congestion at the ITS America Annual Meeting in June. In addition, a beta version of the ICM Knowledgebase was released at the event.
- Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII): Development of the VII network detail design is underway, construction of the laboratory test environment is in progress, as are the applications development and planning for the proof-of-concept testing in Detroit, Michigan.

## **Remaining TMC PFS Activities for 2007**

Tennessee DOT would host the next annual meeting in Nashville. Lee would work with Ali Farhangi for meeting arrangements. The meeting would likely be held in July or August.

Group also discussed the possibility of having an annual meeting in Hawaii in 2009. Ideas discussed include: having a session to talk about completed projects; and having presentations from the group. It was also mentioned that the group may consider providing sponsorship to the event.

The next quarterly conference call would be in November. Lee would send a notice to the group.

Travel expense report forms were distributed to participants. Lee provided instructions on how to complete the form.

## **Review Day 2 Agenda, Tour & Logistics**

The group departed for the Caltrans District 12 TMC for a tour.

## **Tour of Caltrans District 12 (Orange County) TMC**

Morteza Fahrtash (Caltrans) gave a background and overview of the TMC. Unique features and functions were presented. At the conclusion of the presentation, the group toured the TMC facility and observed the control room operation.

## **Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

The group toured the Caltrans TMC Training Facility located at the University of California Irvine and the City of Anaheim TMC in the morning. In the afternoon, the group visited the new Caltrans Los Angeles Regional TMC located in Glendale.

**Transportation Management Center Pooled Fund Study  
2007 Annual Meeting – August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
Attendees**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
Scott Nodes	Arizona Department of Transportation
Marie Schelling	California Highway Patrol
Allen Kirst	Caltrans
Antoinette Moon	Caltrans
Barry Pavan	Caltrans
Cyrin Kwong	Caltrans
Jacques Van Zeventer	Caltrans
Kane Wong	Caltrans
Mike Jenkinson	Caltrans
Peter Anderson	Caltrans
Sergio Venegas	Caltrans
Jessie Yung	Federal Highway Administration
Raj Ghaman	Federal Highway Administration
Roemer Alfelor	Federal Highway Administration
Tom Granda	Federal Highway Administration
Ed Coffman	I-95 Corridor Coalition
Bob Koeberlein	Idaho Transportation Department
Jeff Galas	Illinois Department of Transportation
Suzette Peplinski	Michigan Department of Transportation
Todd Kramasz	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Troy Pinkerton	Missouri Department of Transportation
Jim McGee	Nebraska Department of Roads
John Bassett	New York State Department of Transportation
Farooq Jan	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Ali Farhangi	Tennessee Department of Transportation
David Kinnecom	Utah Department of Transportation
Vinh Dang	Washington State Department of Transportation
Doug Dembowski	Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Ming-Shiun Lee	URS Corporation

**Via Teleconference**

Cathy McGhee	Virginia Department of Transportation
Shari Hilliard	Kansas Department of Transportation