

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS PARTNERS FORUM

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

1pm-2pm (CDT), Tuesday, August 8, 2006

Attendees

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email
FACILITATORS			
Teresa	Adams	MRUTC	adams@engr.wisc.edu
John	Corbin	Wisconsin DOT	john.corbin@dot.state.wi.us
Todd	Szymkowski	TOPS Laboratory	szymkowski@engr.wisc.edu
ATTENDEES			
MRUTC			
Jason	Bittner	MRUTC	bittner@engr.wisc.edu
Greg	Waidley	MRUTC	gwaidley@engr.wisc.edu
Sam	Van Hecke	MRUTC	svanhecke@wisc.edu
Minnesota			
Mark	Nelson	Minnesota DOT	mark.nelson@dot.state.mn.us
Wisconsin			
Kelly	Langer	Wisconsin DOT	kelly.langer@dot.state.wi.us
Phil	DeCabooter	Wisconsin DOT	phil.decabooter@dot.state.wi.us
Indiana			
Mike	Cline	Indiana DOT	mcline@indot.in.gov
Guy	Boruff	Indiana DOT	gboruff@indot.state.in.us
Jay	Wasson	Indiana DOT	jwasson@indot.state.in.us
Illinois			
Chuck	Sikaras	Illinois DOT	sikarasc@nt.dot.state.il.us
Private			
Dan	Shamo	URS	dan_shamo@urscorp.com
Paul	Lamb	URS	paul_lamb@urscorp.com
Mike	Fritsch	ZoomInfo Systems	mfritsch@zoominfosystems.com

MEETING SUMMARY

This was the fifth teleconference of the Traffic Operations Partners Forum, scheduled to coincide with ITE International Meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Comments or corrections on these minutes can be sent to svanhecke@wisc.edu. The teleconference was hosted by the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study, the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center, Wisconsin Traffic Operations & Safety Laboratory, and the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee ITS Priority Corridor.

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Summary of Mississippi Valley meeting**
3. **Summary of GCM meeting**
4. **Status of MOU and Update on Corridor Coalition Activities**
5. **Next Steps**

MEETING KEY POINTS

- Reviewed feedback from Mississippi Valley AASHTO CEO meeting (July 13)
 - **Executives agreed with memorandum of understanding (MOU)**, basically a commitment to move forward with the next phase of the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study (to be renamed **Mississippi Valley Freight Corridor Coalition (MVFCC)**)
 - Study region expanded to include Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky
 - Executives suggested that in addition to a technical and executive committee, a **customer committee** (geared towards private sector) be formed to emphasize need for customer-oriented services
 - Executives directed MVFCC to develop a **cost estimate** in two aspects, one involving the policy recommendations of the freight corridor group, the other involving the continued administrative costs of the program
 - Intent was that the next check-in would be in Portland (Oct. 28), coinciding with next AASHTO Mississippi Valley executive meeting
 - Executives plan to check in on routine basis (possibly quarterly) on the freight group

- Reviewed Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee ITS Priority Corridor (GCM) meeting of July 13
 - GCM Executive Board focused on freight components
 - Indiana expressed interest in having GCM focus on what they can do in the next six months and focus on one or two very specific areas
 - List has been narrowed
 - Focus areas of:
 - Advanced notice for parking,
 - Identification of existing parking facilities in the three states,
 - Recommendations for location of additional parking.
 - GCM expressed interest in making sure that the Midwest Traffic Operations Coalition (MTOC) and GCM compliment each other, GCM is out ahead testing some of the ideas of MTOC, some ideas will coordinate very well between the group
 - GCM has been working to clean up draft plan, which was approved conditional on some small edits, should have final report in another week or two
 - This quarterly program is a corridor plan
 - **GCM will make a more succinct “freight plan” available to members of the MTOC**
 - Attention was called to the fact that the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition is moving more into the arena of traffic operations as GCM is moving more into the arena of freight. Given the restrictions of all the state DOT agencies involved (staff, money), we should look at how these organizations can work together. Potentially technical committee of Freight Coalition could dovetail with the restructuring of GCM’s work groups. Could look at sharing responsibilities rather than having two groups moving in parallel directions.

- Status of MOU and what the MRUTC and the Freight Coalition are actually doing to follow-up on it

- Working on the introduction of customer committee
- Creation of a technical committee
 - Looking at pulling from **both planning/policy side and traffic operations side**
 - Working through policy representatives to get appointments for technical committee
 - Have been emailed over last several weeks
 - Sent lists of people we have worked with in freight and traffic
- Introducing three new states into process (KS, KY, MO)
- MVFCC has been asked to give more information on priority list of initiatives (cost estimates)
 - Estimates for individual initiatives (both freight and traffic operations)
 - Estimate for administrative costs
 - MVFCC hopes to **use administrative budget to facilitate meetings** (such as April MTOC meeting)
 - Envision continuing with policy group and traffic operations group working together
- MVFCC has also led a small contract to Ernie Wittwer to contact new states, draw them in, get input
 - He will be visiting customer committees in various states (shippers and carriers) in preparation of late Oct AASHTO meeting
- Thoughts on next steps
 - Do we see benefit to continuing alignment of MTOC region with MVFCC, which would mean extending a hand to MO, KS, KY?
 - General consent, adding new states makes sense, gives appropriate scale to TOC
 - From GCM perspective, gives GCM opportunities in scalability
 - UMVCC will have executive group overlapping with GCM, allows GCM projects to expand in symbiotic fashion
 - Adding states helps maintain relationship with AASHTO group
 - What opportunities do we have at October 28 Miss. Valley meeting?
 - Show **organizational structure**
 - In graphic form
 - Explain relationship between GCM and MVFCC
 - Show **proposed workplan** (more detail), sketch schedule
 - Coordinate between GCM and MVFCC plans
 - Add details (capsule statement, prioritization) to short list from April workshop
 - When should we plan to make progress?
 - **Meet in week following GCM meeting** (September 14)
 - Update from GCM
 - Build into coordinated work plan (bounce around by email)
 - Further discussion on organization process
 - To reflect addition of new states, group will now be called **Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition**