



Western States

**Rural Transportation**

Consortium

[Western States Rural Transportation Consortium](#)

# **Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)**

**Steering Committee Meeting**

**June 14, 2011**

**Yreka, California**

**Meeting Minutes**

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held June 14, 2011, in Yreka, California.

## **WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting**

**June 14, 2011**

**Holiday Inn Express  
Yreka, California**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Prepared by

David Veneziano, Leann Koon and Doug Galarus, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Doug Galarus called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Express in Yreka, California on June 14, 2011. He welcomed the group and introductions were made around the room and via telephone. An overview of the agenda was given. The slides being presented were posted on the Consortium website for those calling in. Topics for discussion included a roundtable of current ITS activities, an update on the general status of the WSRTC, an update on the Clarus One Stop Shop project, an update of the Year 1 incubator projects, presentation of results from COATS Phase 4 projects, and additional discussion as needed.

*The presentation from the meeting is available in the Documents section on the Consortium website.*

#### **Roundtable of Recent ITS Activities**

Oregon – Galen McGill

- Implemented variable speed limit (VSL) project to address weekend/summer traffic on OR 26
- Investigating a weather VSL system with WTI at an interchange near Portland
  - Roemer Alfelor indicated that Wyoming DOT has done similar work on this.
- Work is being done on snow zone drum signs to indicate current status to motorists.
- Work is being done on incident management and clearance performance measures.
- A state radio system upgrade is ongoing.

Nevada – Jon Dickinson

- \$15 million design build ITS project going on from Las Vegas through the California state line on I-15. Also a design build project going on in Reno.
- Ipads being acquired to put in maintenance vehicles to direct crews in the field.
- \$10 million is being used to upgrade fiber network throughout the state.
- Smaller projects include RWIS and HAR upgrades.
- Rural hotspot sites are starting to be developed.
- Systems are being set up to allow TMC's to control cameras, etc. remotely.

Washington – Ted Bailey

- Implementing LPR's at weigh stations to monitor trucks without transponders.
- Installing junction boxes with infrared cameras in the pavement at one weigh station to look for hot/defective brakes.
- Putting together an RFP for 3<sup>rd</sup> party data to be used for different purposes throughout WSDOT.
- Bluetooth has been used over Snoqualmie Pass.
- Evaluating in-house developed Bluetooth readers on an urban corridor to look at the tradeoffs of data quality, etc.
- HAR and RWIS contracts are expiring and are in the process of renegotiation.
- Wavetronix data collection units have been evaluated; the G4 unit is not acceptable, but the SmartSensor 125 unit performed adequately.
  - ODOT tests confirmed this as well.
  - Ian Turnbull asked whether the results of these tests (white papers, reports) could be sent to him.

Caltrans District 2 – Ian Turnbull

- Field element expansion continues. Installing 5 CMS, 15 CCTV, 2 new RWIS, 4 HAR and 3 RWIS upgrades in the next year.
  - Key aspect of RWIS is that they are capable of being field calibrated.
- 18 Miles of fiber backbone are being added and microwave backbone is being upgraded.
- 7 roadside sites are being upgraded to licensed microwave spectrum.
- Cameras and battery backups are being upgraded at existing sites.
- The Automated Safety Warning Controller (ASWC) has been integrated into the Spring Garden ice warning system/site.
- Chain control notification systems are being examined.
- The IRIS ATMS system will be deployed this summer (Clint Burkenpas).
- Dispatchers are switching to an automated CAD system tied in to the TMC (Clint Burkenpas).
- ITS elements are being tied in to construction projects – travel times, etc. (Clint Burkenpas). Ed Lamkin asked Galen about ODOT's planned weather adjustable VSL and whether the speed limit would be regulatory or advisory. Galen indicated that the intent is for it to be regulatory, with the caveat being that law enforcement isn't likely to be writing tickets during a storm.

Caltrans DRI – Sean Campbell

- DRI is working to collect CCTV, CMS and other ITS data and where the sites are geospatially located in order to present this data to the public in one place.
  - In December, a video page was launched which displays available video feeds for the public. The site is unadvertised, but has received over 5 million views.
- Professional Capacity building Phase 1 was completed, providing instruction on wireless communications.
- COATS Phase 4 has been completed and Phase 5 has been contracted in the past couple of weeks.

WTI – Doug Galarus

- Clarus One Stop Shop making progress (discussed later).
  - Roemer Alfelor provided a background to the group on the Clarus program.
- Professional Capacity building Phase 2 will begin soon.
- One Stop Shop (OSS) Phase 2 will begin soon to enhance the system for eventual deployment.

- COATS Phase 5 is starting up.
- The Automated Safety Warning Controller project is continuing.
- WTI is working on Augmented Speed Enforcement with Caltrans (FHWA funded) to develop intelligent traffic cones to provide speed feedback to motorists via flashing lights.
- WSRTC and Western States Forum facilitation are continuing.
- A roadkill observation system has been developed.
- The Roadwatch reporting system for reporting wildlife sightings on I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass has been launched online.

Caltrans District 1 – John Carson

- District 1 is using a newly available set of radio frequencies for communications and they look promising.

### **WSRTC Status and Updates**

Sean Campbell and Ted Bailey provided updates on the WSRTC.

The latest on the Consortium is that Caltrans approved their portion of funding (\$50,000) and has transferred that to WSDOT.

OSS Phase 2 is using WSRTC pooled funds to implement Task Order 2 (the OSS project).

Amendment 2 has been approved and is awaiting transfer by the FHWA to WSDOT.

WTI and WSDOT has a master agreement in place (Ted Bailey emailed these documents to those who called in).

Task Order #1 allows for Consortium meetings to occur using the pooled fund to cover travel expenses. The details of this have been worked out by WSDOT and WTI. This establishes the relationship between WTI and WSDOT, with specific activities defined in the task orders that are developed. This is a broad agreement, and Ted believed that it would cover any research ideas/projects the group comes up with in the future. The agreement is in place until 2016, and allows for \$3 million to go through to support task orders. This will provide for other project work to go through as the group gains momentum.

The OSS project will begin when the Caltrans money is transferred from FHWA to WSDOT.

Commitments have been received from all states except Nevada. Nevada needs an invoice in order to process and transfer funds to the WSRTC.

Right now, Washington and California have put money into the pooled fund. ODOT's research office is still transferring funds. Ted asked Galen to forward the contact to him so he could follow up on the status of this.

Travel reimbursement information has been provided in the packet of information provided to the group by Ted. Travel to the Western States forum, National Rural ITS conference and the annual meeting of the Consortium in Yreka are all covered. Leann Koon has put together a reimbursement sheet.

A 100% Federal funds waiver is in place to contribute to the pooled fund.

### **Clarus One Stop Shop Project**

Doug Galarus provided an overview of the Clarus One Stop Shop website that is under development.

Once completed, the trick will be to get the site out for people to look at and comment on.

Roemer asked whether OSS used the quality control flags that Clarus has set. Doug indicated that it does not.

Jon Dickinson asked about how dedicated travel time signs could be handled? Doug indicated that these could be added, but would need context.

Ted Bailey mentioned that WSDOT's contracted with a meteorologist to do microclimate forecast.

Clint Burkenpas said that last year, NWS forecast data seemed poor. Microclimate are known in some places, maybe camera image associated with these spots could be used.

Vista point data is still needed (GIS info still needed from WSDOT, Nevada).

Sean Campbell indicated that a recent division chief meeting, OSS was shown and people were very interested in its possibilities.

Jon Dickinson asked how OSS was obtaining camera images? Since NDOT is working on getting images to web, it would be good to get these to OSS at same time. Jon will discuss this with Sean and Ted will send an email on how WSDOT does it.

### **WSRTC Year 1 Project Discussions**

David Veneziano provided a brief update on the Year 1 incubator projects, the Survey of Western State Safety Warning Devices and Regional Integrated Corridor Management Planning. The COATS Phase 5 contract has recently been executed, allowing for work to commence on the incubators. Since there was not a contract until last week, there was no progress to report on either project.

### **COATS Project Updates**

Doug Galarus provided a summary of the findings of the Rural Deployment Assistance project.

David Veneziano provided a summary of the findings of the Fredonyer Summit Icy Curve Warning System Evaluation.

- Ted Bailey asked whether crashes had been compared to whether the signage was turned on versus off. That will be added to the final report.
- Based on feedback, the wording related to the effectiveness of the ICWS during clear cold and not dry conditions will read as follows: a speed change of less than or equal to 5 mph was observed when the ICWS signage was on during clear, cold and not dry conditions.

**Other Discussions**

The next gathering of the Consortium will be at NRITS in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on Wednesday, August 31st from 1:00 – 4:00 PDT.

Interim conference calls can be arranged if needed.

Future annual Steering Committee meetings will be scheduled on the second Tuesday of November. Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2011.

**Action Items**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
1. WSDOT and ODOT send Ian Turnbull results (reports, white papers)of Wavetronix unit tests	As needed
2. Galen McGill will forward the ODOT contact regarding the transfer of funds to the pooled fund account for follow-up.	As soon as possible.
3. Nevada needs an invoice so they can put funds into the WSRTC	As soon as possible.

**Meeting Participants**

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