



Western States

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Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)

Steering Committee Annual Meeting

June 14, 2022

Yreka, California

Meeting Minutes

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee annual meeting held June 14, 2022, in Yreka, California, just prior to the 17th Annual Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum.

WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting

June 14, 2022

Meeting/WebEx

**Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum
Yreka, California**

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by

Leann Koon

Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

Leann Koon and Sean Campbell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM Pacific Time. Introductions were made by those at the meeting site in Yreka, California, and by those joining via WebEx. Leann reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the planned agenda.

The meeting agenda, presentation, and minutes are posted on the Consortium website at:

<http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/Default.html>.

Western States Forum

Leann Koon gave an overview of the 17th annual Western States Forum. Eight presentations are on the technical agenda with speakers representing six different states. Speakers and representatives at the meeting shared some background and a quick synopsis of their presentation. We are anticipating a full house and a diverse audience from eight different states representing five DOTs, three universities, and a research group. Registration starts later this afternoon, followed by a reception and dinner. The technical program will be full tomorrow and the day ends with dinner and networking at a local park. Technical presentations continue Thursday morning, and the event will conclude with final remarks and lunch.

WSRTC Pooled Fund Updates and Discussions

Sean Campbell spoke briefly about the history of the WSRTC and how it has evolved from its beginnings with the COATS project. He noted that the current phase of the California Oregon Advanced Transportation Systems project (COATS Phase 8) will be the last from California. The WSRTC has received good feedback and met its goals.

Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) 5-(241) will end on March 31, 2023. TPF-5(494), Western States Rural Transportation Consortium Phase 2 is open and accepting commitments. The new TPF will run for four years through March 2027. It is imperative that commitments are made because COATS will be ending. TPF-5(494) will cover travel, the Western States Forum, and time and effort for staff. When TPF-5(241)

ends, any remaining balance will be divided equally and returned to the member states. Often, states have committed those returns to the new TPF.

Nevada asked what had been sent to the member states' research divisions and whether they should inquire. Generally, information is shared with the state representatives and taken back to the respective agency offices. Sean will send relevant information on the new TPF to Seth Daniels and Jim Whalen.

There are two active Task Orders in TPF-5(241). Task Order Montana Tech 1 is covering maintenance for the One-Stop-Shop, Automated Safety Warning System Controller, and the WeatherShare system.

WTI Task Order 14 provides funding to coordinate and run the Western States Forum, as well as providing travel support for Consortium members to participate in meetings such as the National Rural ITS Conference, the Northwest Transportation Conference, ITE, ITS America, etc. It also supports the maintenance of the WSRTC and Western States Forum websites. Leann Koon reported that a little over \$96,000 remained as of the beginning of June. However, the Western States Forum, ITE and NRITS meetings, and ITS World Congress, are all coming up in the next several months.

WSRTC Documents

Sean Campbell will add information about the lead state in the membership section of the updated Charter document. It will then be finalized and sent for signatures.

WSRTC Projects

Doug Galarus reviewed Montana Tech WSRTC Task Order 1 and some of the project's progress highlights. Data feeds have been added and fixed and a number of bug fixes completed. Doug conducted some public outreach for OSS with a press release at Montana Tech. Subsequent TV interviews were conducted with local news affiliates from FOX, ABC, CBS, and NBC. Sean Campbell and Keith Koeppen (Caltrans District 2) also participated in an interview and the news piece aired statewide. The publicity increased traffic and usage for OSS.

The WeatherShare system will soon be maintained at Montana Tech instead of Caltrans IT. A new project funded directly by Caltrans will tentatively start in January of 2023 and run for two years. It will provide on-going support for WeatherShare including establishing a lab development environment at Montana Tech.

The Western States Forum Handbook is a practical, how-to guide for planning and executing the Western States Forum. It has been updated annually and will include information from this year's Forum.

Leann Koon, Sean Campbell, and Jeremiah Pearce discussed Phase 5 of the Professional Capacity Building for Communications project. In addition to developing a curriculum for ITS communications training, the project has developed and procured a number of training courses covering several topics. A sixth course was just procured and will address Radio Frequency Systems Fundamentals later this year. Jeremiah commented that the original RF engineering course was the pilot for the PCB project and while it was generally well-received by students, it failed to meet the project's delivery expectations and objectives. After the Telecom Wireless courses delivered through the project, the PTAP saw an evident need for RF training. The needs assessment conducted in 2020 also identified RF fundamentals as an important topic for training.

Three, five-day hands-on optical fiber courses were just conducted – two with networking staff and one with maintenance staff. Some of the lessons included putting together a fiber network, fusion splicing, OTDR testing, and diagnosing network problems. The courses were adapted to meet the needs of the audience, and all were very well-received. An additional course is scheduled for October of this year. These courses were taught by the same instructor who delivered the original fiber optics course in 2012. On the networking side, Caltrans is working to procure additional IP Fundamentals and Advanced Network Troubleshooting courses, also to be delivered by the original instructor for the IP Fundamentals course in 2013. Both Sean and Jeremiah stressed the importance of training for staff development, noting that these types of training courses are a relative bargain compared to some of the past mistakes.

WSRTC Website, Forum Website

Leann Koon briefly updated the group on the efforts to ensure the Consortium and Forum websites are accessible, including the documents posted on the sites.

Upcoming Meetings

- ITE Annual Meeting, NRITS Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 31-August 3, 2022
- ITS World Congress, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 18-22, 2022

There is a Western Region ITE meeting coming up. Jeremiah Pearce is attending and asked if the group knew of other participants. The agenda indicates that there are some speakers from Washington and Oregon. Nevada and Utah are in the Mountain Region.

Roundtable of Recent ITS Activities

Jim Whalen, Seth Daniels – Nevada DOT

- Working on TSMO initiatives. LaShonn Ford will be presenting on NDOT's activities at the Forum tomorrow.
 - Developing an infrastructure sharing document for fiber throughout the state including all of the necessary components to operate a successful program; similar to what Utah is doing. Released an RFA and selected a contractor to align the program and complete the documentation; to be completed within a year or two.
 - The document will include a complete inventory of the fiber assets in Nevada.
- NDOT is working on processes for maintenance of ITS systems throughout the state, including ITS, radio systems, and signs.
 - NDOT is automating the processes to ensure that preventive maintenance is scheduled and completed on time.
 - They are formalizing the maintenance and inventory processes with the goal of 100 percent inventory of all ITS systems.
- NDOT has partnered with IT consultants Gartner on a Smart Mobility Initiative.
 - Some of the programs, topics and technologies to be included and addressed include: electrification, EV charging and heavy charging, alternative fuels, shared mobility, mobility as a service, smart cities, road maps, data transformation and management, resilience, asset management, security strategy, safety, cloud strategy, edge devices, AI

applications to transportation, block chains, department wide telematics with advanced features such as dynamic routing and video sharing.

- Includes funding for staffing to accomplish the tasks with 14 new positions in their division coming available.
- Jim is retiring in December of 2022. Everyone thanked him for his contributions and wished him well!!

Kevin Maxwell, Eric MacGill – Nevada DOT

- Working on adaptive lighting projects in the Washoe and Reno areas.
 - They are asking for five vendors to do trials in rural and urban environments. The trials will examine hardware, software, and asset management, and adhere to FHWA criteria.
- They have had success with wrong-way driver projects and are about to administer two contracts covering four intersections - Carson Bypass, US 95 near Las Vegas, and the I-15 and Starr Avenue interchange in Las Vegas.
- Wrapping up an award for alternative energy studies looking at becoming greener in powering remote sites that are expensive to get power to. The studies include solar and hydrogen power source needs.
- RTC Southern Nevada won a grant for Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment for a corridor along US 95 in Las Vegas. A wide variety of technologies are part of the grant, along with several different partners.

Troy Torgersen, Utah DOT

- Close to procuring new ATMS software to replace the current TransSuite software.
- Continuing to replace old analog CCTVs statewide with new digital CCTVs. Also, taking over LiveView cameras and systems. Challenge finding contractors to do the work – there is more work than people available to do the work.
- Increased emphasis on wrong way driving in recent months due to some serious crashes within the span of a few days. Investigating technologies already deployed as well as other systems.
- Investigating new ITSS and Management System to track deployed equipment.
- Updating solar sites and CCTVs in rural areas.
- Bringing fiber and broadband to some of the rural areas in the southeastern part of the state.

Doug Spencer – Oregon DOT

- Considering option of charging for road use as an alternative to state gas tax. Doug's division partnered with that effort and put funds toward developing the Connected Vehicle Ecosystem which includes same software vendors, automobile manufacturers, OEMs, etc.
- Standing up the Broadband initiative program within the agency and have hired a Broadband coordinator.
- Several ATM projects are in progress statewide. Large gantries with variable speed limits based on congestion and weather conditions. Siskiyou Pass road work includes paving and an operations project to install advanced traffic management systems; the work will be completed and the system operational within 6 months or so.
- ITS Division inherited Commerce and Compliance Division (Motor Carrier) for engineering and maintenance of weigh stations and Point of Entries. ITS engineering team is working with an electrical contractor to get weigh stations / scales up to state and national electric code.
- Rose Quarter, Portland – highway going into a tunnel so that apartments, parks, businesses, etc. can be built on top; include ventilation system, fire suppression system, lane management,

other active traffic management features, dark fiber. ODOT does not do this work so they are working to leverage and balance existing staff and contractors.

- Working on tolling management so that it can be maintained by contractors and not the ITS section.
- No new operations assets directive for 2024-2027.
- Broadband grant proposals (see notes from previous meetings).
- The Traffic Signal Software systems may possibly move to the cloud and back to the ITS section to manage.
- Galen McGill is also the acting state maintenance engineer as well.
- Working on a project with Oregon State University on smart work zones.
- Construction contracts / costs are through the roof with supply issues, etc. Have long-term pricing contracts in place, but what used to take 6 weeks to come in is now taking 6 months or more. ODOT is subsequently stockpiling all equipment.

Tony Leingang – Washington State DOT

- Virtual Coordination Center (VCC) – his office is taking on the project for the long-term to grow it into a statewide project. The topic may be good for a future Western States Forum presentation. Integrating all systems relative to incident management. GIS Detour System is being built independently of the VCC but it will be used in the VCC.
- Automated Speed Enforcement – especially in work zones, working towards tickets being issued from the Department of Transportation. High priority for the department's leadership. Many safety implications.
- They are working to deactivate their 511 system and move it to the private sector. Nevada asked how they came to that decision? Just started working through it. Usage is way down, technology is archaic compared to what's available, launched a new traveler information website, etc.

Jeremiah Pearce, Caltrans District 2

- Initiating a research project investigating travel time delays induced by chain-on areas.
- Upgrading field element core network. Updating communications systems; phasing out ISDN and end of life equipment.
- Remodeling the District 2 Transportation Management Center.
- Kicking off design for a satellite dispatch TMC center at Red Bluff.

Sean Campbell, Caltrans DRISI

- After devastating California wildfires, power utility company has implemented public safety power shutdowns when red flag conditions occur. To investigate alternative options to mitigate the effects of the shutdowns, Caltrans has a project going with UC Davis and a company called Alteryx that is investigating the use of hydrogen fuel cells for backup power. The fuel cell systems are being installed at four sites, two each in Districts 2 and 3; each district will put a system at a signalized intersection and an ITS element. District 2 is considering a CCTV site and District 3 will connect a Model 600 CMS.
- Working on a project analyzing the use of Space-X Starlink communications in rural areas. Identifying areas not provided maximum coverage according to Starlink coverage maps. Reviewing the three Starlink offerings / set-ups – residential (static), business (static), and RV. Sean noted that the constellation is constantly being updated and that there was a new version

of the satellite about to come online. Jim Whalen said he was also looking at Starlink for mobile sites.

- The research tasks for the Solar in the Right of Way project have been completed. DRISI is working with District 7 on a pilot project. Response to mandate for using more renewable energy sources. Considering leasing the right-of-way space to utilities to build utility grade solar to power the grid and then Caltrans would have the option to buy power at a reduced rate. There have been issues with unsheltered people in the right-of-way. Also have a program going to remove debris from the rights of way (California Clean).
- Finalizing the CAV program to institutionalize and deploy it.
- Sean announced that this would be his last Forum – he is retiring next year. Everyone thanked him for his long-standing commitments and contributions and wished him well!!

Announcements

There is a good program for the Forum over the next few days. Forum presentations will be posted after the event.

With thanks, the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
1. Sean Campbell will send relevant information on the new TPF to Seth Daniels and Jim Whalen.	After the meeting
2. Sean Campbell will add information about the lead state in the membership section of the updated Charter document. It will then be finalized and sent for signatures.	2022
3. State leads should send names and contact information to Leann for individuals attending ITS World Congress.	As soon as possible
4. Nevada DOT attendees of the NRITS / ITE Annual Meeting should check with the travel agent regarding airline reservations.	As soon as possible

Meeting Participants

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