



Western States

**Rural Transportation**

Consortium

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

**Steering Committee Meeting  
September 19, 2012  
Biloxi, Mississippi**

**Meeting Minutes**

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held September 19, 2012, in Biloxi, Mississippi.

## **WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting** **September 19, 2012**

**Biloxi, Mississippi**

*In conjunction with the National Rural ITS Conference*

### **Meeting Minutes**

Prepared by

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

Doug Galarus called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm Central Time in Biloxi, Mississippi. Introductions were made around the room and on the telephone. Doug reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the planned agenda.

The meeting agenda, slide presentation, and minutes are posted on the Consortium website at:  
<http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/Default.html>.

#### **Western States Forum**

Leann Koon presented a summary of the 2012 Western States Forum including attendance figures, speakers, and various pertinent aspects of the event. Several others added comments to the discussion as appropriate.

The Forum was the winner of the 2012 Best of Rural ITS award for Best New Innovative Product, Service or Application. The award was presented at the 2012 NRITS Conference recently concluded. Sean Campbell and Leann Koon accepted the award and gave a short presentation describing the Forum.

#### **Forum comments**

- ODOT is working with OSU on the project OSU presented at the Forum.
- CHP's presentation was good, interactions good – they were very frank in their discussions.
- The Forum was well received at NRITS. A number of Forum business cards were handed out to interested parties after the award presentation and the WSRTC presentation.
- Michael Stokes from Mississippi seemed very interested in attending the Forum next year to see its potential as a model.
- Participants appreciate the level of detail at the Forum. A high level of peer review of presentations is key.
- As always, the question of how we insure that we maintain high standards for the Forum was posed. High quality speakers and presentations, as well as travel support are key.
- It is desirable to pursue speakers that we hear at other conferences/meetings/events that have potential for presenting at a Forum. Invite them to attend and work on travel support.
- The availability of travel support should be more strongly marketed.

- No one was familiar with any other groups who conduct a review process for presentations like what is done for the Forum. This makes the Forum unique in that regard. Time required to do the review could be considered a “sticking” point, but hasn’t been a problem to date.

### **WSRTC Pooled Fund Updates/Discussions**

- Doug Galarus and David Veneziano reviewed the slides concerning the pooled fund. Task Order 3 started with \$77,000. After NRITS, there will be approximately \$63,000 remaining.
- Ted Bailey handed out a table with the status of the funding commitments for the pooled fund. He will email it to Leann for distribution to the group. Ted indicated that Nevada still has to fund their commitment and he will follow-up with them on this item. Task Order 2 still has a large portion of funds remaining. Ted suggested that since we seem to have less travel needs and an efficient website presence that we could do more with the funds.
- The project team will be pursuing a no-cost time extension for COATS Phase 5. COATS Phase 6 has been authorized for June 2013 to June 2015. Sean Campbell indicated that it would be prudent to conserve the WSRTC funds for Forum travel and expenses to mitigate the loss of the UTC funding.
- Discussion continued involving numbers, funds, and participation. It was generally agreed that we should make a greater effort to encourage and facilitate travel and travel support. One example was personal invitations to the Western States Forum. Galen McGill commented that ODOT only allows one person per event for out of state travel. In the case of NRITS, the venue (a casino resort) was the deal-breaker.

### **Incubator Project Progress**

- David Veneziano reviewed the slides.
- Ian Turnbull will forward some contacts for the Survey of Safety Warning Devices.
- Ted Bailey asked for the WSDOT individuals who have already been contacted so he can compare with who he knows and provide any additional names.
- Regarding the Rural ICM requirements, Ian indicated that Caltrans Headquarters Operations are urging ICM and are even doing some reorganizing of the office to facilitate ICM implementation. At this time, the perspective is more urban. The rural ICM work could fit in with that work.
- Ted Bailey asked if any information on emergency operations requirements had been received from WSDOT. David will follow up with Ted and Ron Vessey.

Discussion moved to the next round of incubator projects and the need for a road map for the next several years. Ted suggested that tying this road map to an agency’s strategic plan for research would be useful. Retaining flexibility would be a key. All WSRTC members will check the incubator idea list and each agency will identify relevant parts of their strategic plans. The question was asked whether the incubator project idea list had ever been prioritized. It has not, primarily because of the workload and project opportunities. However, the WSRTC has discussed the various ideas and the next round of incubator projects has been determined. WTI is fully committed for the next two to three years and it has been challenging to get new people on board. Some projects may be a better fit for WTI versus the University of Washington or vice-versa. Having a road map could help with this discussion.

*The incubator project idea list is on the Consortium website at:*

<http://www.westernstates.org/Projects/default.html>.

### **General Current and Upcoming Project Discussion**

Doug Galarus reviewed the slides and discussed related projects of interest to the group, including work that is on-going as well as upcoming.

Sean Campbell commented that discussion is beginning concerning a potential partnership between the WSRTC and the Northwest Passage group, particularly concerning the corridor operations project and the One-Stop-Shop. Interested parties will discuss with their respective agencies and bring it back to the table for discussion and decisions. The WSRTC and One-Stop-Shop will likely include Utah and the Northwest Passage could bring in several other states. The WSRTC MCOM proposal debrief will be held in October.

### **Roundtable**

- WTI discussed their various ongoing and upcoming projects in the prior segment.
- Galen McGill, Oregon DOT, indicated that they are very busy with ITS projects.
  - 51 projects are being deployed in the Portland area.
  - Funding is going towards operations related projects.
  - Automating road weather chain restriction messages sent to HAR systems.
  - Next week, ODOT's subscription based paging system will become available. Recipients can specify the type of incident and the geographic area.
  - Electronic incident data exchange system between law enforcement and ODOT.
  - 911 centers are online.
  - Variable speed limit projects – one in Portland, three others are rural and weather based.
  - Truck overlength warning system on US 395 in Eastern Oregon, a road with a narrow canyon and sharp curves.
  - Automatic vehicle location application for Android phones for use in incident command vehicles--incidents with photos, data onto a map at dispatch.
  - The automatic parking management system for Multnomah Falls is going to bid. The system automatically closes the parking lot with gates when the lot is at capacity.
- Joe Baltazar, Caltrans District 2
  - A number of larger forest fires have been burning this summer. CalFire has a mobile command center that Joe worked with through the TMC. It was suggested that this might be a good presentation/demonstration for the Forum. Joe and Ian will get contacts and relevant information to the Forum Steering Committee. This vehicle is somewhat similar to the (Highway Emergency Response Center) HERC that District 1 operates. John Carson will get some information about that vehicle to Leann.
- John Carson, Caltrans District 1
  - District 1's Rural TMC in Eureka was recently faced with the challenge of being designated outside a company's service area even though the equipment and software were purchased by Caltrans Headquarters.
- Ian Turnbull, Caltrans District 2
  - Rural Program Steering Committee Chairman – Ed Lamkin is on temporary assignment in Caltrans Headquarters as Acting Division Chief for Traffic Operations. Ian is Acting Rural PSC Chairman until Ed returns to the district.

- Automated Safety Warning Controller – The controller is Linux based and communicates with field elements via IP. It moves the warning system intelligence and decision making from a central ATMS type system to the roadside. This allows automated warning system deployment in rural areas where communications are unreliable. The remote user interface that allows TMC operators to monitor controller functions when communications exists is being completed. The project should be wrapped up by the end of the year. It has yielded several prototypes and a fully functional controller based ice detection and warning system at Spring Garden on PLU 70.
- Commercial Wholesale Web Portal 2 – A better, more uniform system for making Caltrans data available to value-added users is being developed in Headquarters. District 2 has started to make CCTV images available via this new portal and will have all images cut over by the start of winter operations. All other field element data should be cutover next summer. This capability has been needed for years and Ian is glad to see it finally come together.
- Fiber Project - Construction of 18 miles of fiber along I-5 in the Redding urban area continues. Phase I completion has been pushed back to mid-November.
- IRIS Project – The Redding Rural TMC is in the middle of deploying IRIS ATMS to improve operational effectiveness. The initial version will integrate just CMS and CCTV into the central system. Initial deployment completion is expected for early November.
- Roadside ITS Element Deployment – Still working through the construction and deployment of 35 new ITS field elements in the district through next summer.
- Ted Bailey, WSDOT
  - Discussed WSDOT’s new procurement process.
  - Explained WSDOT’s systems engineering approach for ITS, high risk projects. The process includes just seven systems engineering questions for all projects except adaptive signal control (model systems engineering) and Joint Base Fort Lewis project.
  - WSDOT has deployed 16 BlueTOAD units for traffic data collection. Four are along a mountain pass, four along an urban arterial, four along a less urban arterial, and four are around the community. Data will be available to review.
  - WSDOT and the University of Washington are starting a new project that is evaluating various traffic data collection devices. The project is titled “*Error Assessment for Emerging Traffic Data Collection Devices.*” Ted will email the final proposal for review by the group.
  - Working on developing a methodology for long-term electronic preservation considering age, repair history, replacement cost, etc. The process for replacing signs, etc., is moving towards a lowest lifecycle cost approach.
- Ron Vessey, WSDOT
  - Statewide deployments of RWIS, HAR, and CMS.
  - In the Seattle area, the TMC now has the capability to automatically remotely activate reversible traffic lanes on I-5.
  - The TMC study has concluded. It did not recommend that operations be consolidated, although it did recommend that some operations be consolidated at certain times of the year. The idea of a statewide TMC to replace the existing regional TMCs was dismissed as impractical.
  - Working on a system to rank ITS projects. Have tried a number of different options, but in the end, they developed their own system to prioritize traffic projects. Ron can email the tool to anyone that is interested.

- Tony Leingang, WSDOT Olympic Region, Freeway Operations Manager, TMC Manager
  - They received a TIGER grant for Joint Base Lewis McChord to operate the corridor between Olympia and Tacoma more efficiently. The three phase project includes ramp meters, VMS, data stations, building an auxiliary lane between two interchanges, fiber through the corridor, and additional ITS equipment.
  - Working with a number of older variable message signs to upgrade and standardize software to allow communications using WSDOT's software.
  - Olympic Region WSDOT just recently completely stripped and updated seven signs. Missing link was a requirement in the vendor contract to have the upgraded signs operate with the WSDOT central system software called NG-TMS.
- Sean Campbell, Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation
  - On behalf of the WSRTC, Sean expressed appreciation to Tony for attending and participating.
  - The Commercial Wholesale Web Portal 2 has been launched. It is a better, more uniform system for making Caltrans data available to third party users. Data sets for all 12 districts are available and the data are in several different formats.
  - WeatherShare Phase 3 is ready to start and will replace the ScanWeb application. Responder Phase 3 will begin soon as well and will look at developing the application for tablet and smart phone technologies. Satellite communications will be included as well. AWOS/RWIS Phase 2 is also ready to begin.
  - DRI is undergoing some structural changes within the organization.

### **Next Meeting**

A number of discussion points were made about the timing and number of steering committee meetings. It was generally agreed to have a conference call sometime in February or March.

### **Action Items**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
1. Ted Bailey will email to Leann the table with the status of the funding commitments for the pooled fund. Leann will distribute it to the group.	As soon as possible.
2. Ian Turnbull will email a list of Caltrans contacts for the Survey of Safety Warning Devices.	Completed.
3. Ted Bailey asked for the WSDOT individuals who have already been contacted for the safety warning system survey so he can compare with who he knows and provide any additional names.	As soon as possible.
4. David Veneziano will follow-up with Ted Bailey and Ron Vessey regarding emergency operations requirements documents from WSDOT.	As soon as possible.
5. All WSRTC members will check the	Prior to the next meeting.

incubator idea list and each agency will identify relevant parts of their strategic plans.	
6. Joe Baltazar / Ian Turnbull will collect contracts and relevant information about CalFire's mobile command center. John Carson will get the same information for District 1's HERC.	N/A
7. Ted Bailey will send the final project proposal for the traffic data collection project to Leann for distribution to the group.	When available.
8. Doug Galarus and Leann Koon will work on content for a new consortium website page presenting the impacts of consortium research.	N/A

### **Meeting Participants**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Email</u></b>
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