



Western States

Rural Transportation

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Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)

Steering Committee Meeting

August 31, 2011

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Meeting Minutes

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held August 31, 2011, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting

August 31, 2011

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

In conjunction with the National Rural ITS Conference

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by

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Welcome and Introductions

David Veneziano called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the Coeur d'Alene Resort, after the conclusion of the NRITS Conference on August 31, 2011. He welcomed the group and introductions were made around the room. An overview of the agenda was given. The slides being presented were posted at <http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/WSRTC2011-08-31-presentation.pdf> for those calling in. Topics for discussion included a roundtable of current ITS activities, an update on the Clarus One Stop Shop project, discussion of One Stop Shop Phase 2, a brief update on the COATS Phase 5 project and its Year 1 incubator projects, discussion of incubator concept papers, Western States Forum wrap-up, and additional discussion as needed.

The PowerPoint presentation from the meeting is available on the Consortium website via the address above.

Roundtable of Recent ITS Activities

Oregon – Galen McGill

- This summer, ODOT implemented a rural variable speed limit project on OR 26 near an intersection with another road from a new state park to address weekend and summer traffic congestion. The system measures congestion on the main road and reduces speed on the mainline when congestion reaches a particular threshold. So far the system appears to be effective.
- A pilot project using automatic vehicle location has been launched for incident management that includes features such as the ability to send incident scene photos back to an operations center. The project idea originated in the motor carrier branch as a smart phone application used by the commercial trucking industry for collecting and charging the weight mile tax.
- Work is being done with traveler information to make better use of HAR systems by trying to automate programming and use speech recognition from the traveler information system.
- ODOT is researching ways to address traffic backup onto I-84 from a left exit to a parking area, including ways to automate advanced notice and monitoring parking availability. Sean Campbell mentioned work done on the San Francisco peninsula. The group commented that space by space monitoring is effective but expensive.

- ODOT has finished the design phase for a two-way CAD system with state police and 911 centers to improve real-time sharing especially in remote and rural areas.

Caltrans District 2 – Ian Turnbull

- Many of the activities discussed at the June meeting are ongoing. (Refer to the meeting minutes available at http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/Minutes_6-14-11_Final.pdf for specific project information)
- The 18 miles of fiber backbone expansion project is ongoing along with the 34 field element expansion.
- The IRIS ATMS system will be used through the winter season.
- Implemented a new CAD system for the TMC.

Washington DOT – Ron Vessey, Becky Spangle, Tom Stidham

- After receiving bids and contract negotiations, the WSDOT third party data contract was awarded to INRIX for a statewide one year agreement with data provided on a region by region basis, based on whichever Districts wish to have the data.
 - Galen would be interested in the pricing package and comments were exchanged regarding cost per mile comparisons and overall package value comparisons.
 - Sean asked if the data was going to be redistributed so that others could use it. Galen commented that ODOT's vendor was flexible and that data can be redistributed to any other agency, but the company naturally did not want competitors to be able to view or use it. Ron said he would check into this for Washington and report back to the group.
- Minor updates have been completed on the 511 phone system (menu changes, option to select traffic incidents versus planned events).
- Planning and work on replacing the large waterfront viaduct is commencing. In addition to the ITS devices already in place, the segment will be a toll facility with congestion pricing and license plate tolling systems.
- Cameras, fiber, and flow metering devices have been installed in the Spokane area to improve operations on Interstate 90. Construction continues on the North Spokane Corridor.
- Travel time monitoring signs have been deployed on Snoqualmie Pass.

Caltrans DRI – Sean Campbell

- California has deployed its own traveler information website, although it is still incomplete with some district information not showing up due to different levels of district data preparation, presentation, and sharing. The site has thus far received a large number of visits. Address: www.ca511.dot.ca.gov.
- Work continues on traveler information such as geo-encoding mileposts with the correct latitude and longitude.
- COATS Phase 5's contract has been delayed at Caltrans Legal. An expected execution date is not known.
- The hand-held controller for ITS field elements project is close to completion.
- WeatherShare Phase 3 will augment and help replace the current Vaisala weather system that is no longer being supported. The Responder system was successfully field tested in all districts. Both WeatherShare Phase 3 and Responder Phase 3 have been in the contracting process for approximately two years and are undergoing IT project review. The Integration of AWOS/ASOS/RWIS project contract is also being reviewed as an IT project. June 30, 2012, is the estimated execution date for these three contracts.

- To begin One Stop Shop Phase 2, it is only a matter of setting up the task order and moving forward.

WTI – Doug Galarus

- Commented that the Responder system and related research were using tablet computers before they became more mainstream and it would have been nice to “ride the wave” or precede it.
- In addition to the application, one of the useful byproducts of the Integration of AWOS/ASOS/RWIS project will be a gap analysis that shows gaps in available weather information.
- Work is ongoing on a project dubbed “Smart Cones” (Augmented Speed Enforcement). The traffic cones can detect speeds in work zones and initiate some form of lighted warning system for drivers in addition to alerting nearby workers. The project is interesting from a technology perspective and a good prototype of the system will be the product of this first phase.

Clarus One Stop Shop Project

Doug Galarus provided an overview and project update on the Clarus One Stop Shop website that is under development.

Ian Turnbull commented that performance issues have definitely improved over Phase 1 and that the system has certainly come a long way. The next phase can get back to the idea of “political borderlessness.”

Sean Campbell reminded the group of the number of different websites needed to get all of the different OSS information along a particular route.

Galen McGill indicated the challenge would be in how to use this in conjunction with everything else that is available (i.e., where does OSS fit in the toolbox?). Their Intranet, for example, contains much non-published data that wouldn't be available to the public through traveler information systems.

Doug has been asked to sit on a panel to discuss presentation of multi-state information to the traveler at an upcoming Clarus meeting. It is a start to at least have the data in place. It is being discussed how a mobile application for the site might be developed.

Ian suggested that the start size be keyed to where the user is entering the system with the whole region displayed on the side.

Galen asked whether the project team had load tested the system. Doug replied that it would be done in the next phase and that he estimates the system could possibly support 200 users.

Galen further inquired about the level of Google usage needed to get a paid license as there are benefits to the guarantees from paid services. Sean added to the discussion by stating that Caltrans recently purchased a Google Earth license.

One Stop Shop Phase 2

Funds have been transferred to WSDOT through the pooled fund and a proposal has been received from WTI. WSDOT will issue a task order for OSS Phase 2 soon. The project is funded by Caltrans.

Ron Vessey asked how it was determined which improvements are done on the system and Doug answered that there will be group discussion with improvements made within reason (i.e., formality versus making decisions that just make sense.) Sean indicated that in the past the group has been given the high points. There is a "road map" for the project, but since it is a research activity, steps are not specific in the proposal. The project team will be transparent about what is being done in the project.

Ron also asked about speed data. Doug replied that it will be based on availability and how states feel about the quality and accuracy of the data. If provided on the website, it will be accompanied by qualifications.

Incubator Concept Paper

Sean Campbell introduced the idea of incubator concept papers as a way to organize Consortium project work and having an idea ready to go in case funds happen to be available on short notice. This would consist of a draft one page paper outlining the project idea. It would be approved through the WSRTC and be ready to develop into a full proposal if an opportunity arises.

- The Consortium has the ability to do two incubator projects per year.
- ODOT did a contract with WTI for a weather based variable speed limit project. Maybe there is an opportunity to do more work on this through the Consortium.
- One tenet of the WSRTC is to leverage ideas and funds between the states.
- Galen commented that brainstorming ideas at the Consortium meetings is beneficial and should be continued.
- Ian Turnbull stated that the concept papers need to appear on the website.
- Becky Spangle confirmed that having a ready-made idea was beneficial.
- Sean indicated that Caltrans has a form that the Consortium can use as a starting point.
- The group agreed that one page idea papers should be pursued, while also retaining the informal brainstorming discussions at Consortium meetings.

Task Order 1 (Travel Support)

Sean reviewed the travel task order and its status. Funds have been forwarded by all states except Nevada, which is still working on the details for the transfer.

Task Order 3

The group agreed that it was premature to discuss task order 3 (Consortium Year 2 travel). This will be discussed at the next Consortium meeting.

Western States Forum

Leann Koon presented a summary and wrap-up of the 2011 Western States Forum.

Western States safety device survey

David Veneziano opened discussion on this incubator project by asking what information the group is interested in.

- Is it more useful to conduct the survey from an application perspective versus a device perspective? The intent is to learn about applications.
- Collect and record what the constituent components of each application/deployment are and relevant contact information.
- Examples of systems of interest:
 - Variable speed limits pertaining to rural safety
 - Variable speed limits in work zones
 - Work zone safety systems in general
 - Automated chain control (automated safety systems, worker and motorist safety)
- The intent here is to provide a starting point/document where someone can see what has been done elsewhere in the Western States region and find out who best to contact for more information.

The project team will put together a script for the group to review. The group consensus was that questions would need to be worded such that devices or applications that might not come to mind immediately or thought to be related would indeed come up during the survey conversation.

Other Discussions

Other discussions centered around the next Consortium meeting.

- Are two meetings a year enough?
- It was proposed to move the next meeting to sometime in February. November 1st will not work for the group. In general, this meeting would be too soon after the most recent two meetings, yet there would then be a gap between November and June meetings.
- Galen indicated that he was on the planning committee for the Northwest Transportation Conference to be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis, February 7-9, 2012. He mentioned that the conference has an operations track and might be a good fit for this group. Galen could coordinate a meeting room. The conference attracts a broad audience with some other state participation, but the majority come from Oregon, including several local organizations.
- The group asked about task order specifics and end dates.
- The group agreed that February would be preferable over November for the next meeting.
- Galen will verify the dates and availability of a meeting room.
- **Based on the discussion, the next Consortium meeting is tentatively planned for the February 7-9, 2012 range in Corvallis, Oregon.** More details on this meeting will be provided as they are worked out.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Action Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
1. Ron Vessey will forward pricing information concerning their third party data contract to Galen McGill.	As soon as possible.
2. Ron Vessey will check into redistribution of third party data.	As soon as possible.
3. Galen McGill will verify dates and reserve a meeting room for the next WSRTC meeting to be held at the 2012 Northwest Transportation Conference.	As soon as possible.
4. Sean Campbell will share a draft incubator concept paper form with the group.	As soon as possible.
5. The Western States safety device survey project team will draft a script and distribute it to the group for review.	Upon contract execution for COATS Phase 5.
6. Provide Nevada with an invoice so they can put funds into the WSRTC.	As soon as possible.

Meeting Participants

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