



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

**Steering Committee Meeting  
August 28, 2013  
St. Cloud, Minnesota**

## **Meeting Minutes**

This document is the official meeting minutes for the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held August 28, 2013, in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

## **WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting**

**August 28, 2013**

**Meeting/Teleconference**

**St. Cloud, Minnesota**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Prepared by

David Veneziano and Doug Galarus

Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

David Veneziano called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Central Time. Introductions were made by everyone at the meeting site in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and by those calling in. David 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/Default.html>.*

Doug Galarus indicated that the meeting discussions would be briefer than other meetings given the last Consortium meeting was held approximately 2 months earlier.

#### **Western States Forum**

Doug provided a review of the 2013 Western States Forum and the presentations that were made. The Forum had 45 attendees, which is the largest attendance to date. Six states and three universities were represented, along with the California Highway Patrol.

Ted Bailey asked if anything of interest had been identified in the evaluations completed by attendees. In general, responses were positive.

In general, it was good to see attendance rise again. However, there is a need to keep attendance capped at about 50. Most of the states have been sending their practitioners as attendees, which is what the goal has been.

#### **WSRTC Pooled Fund Discussions**

Doug Galarus, Sean Campbell and Ron Vessey led a discussion of the pooled fund status and updates.

In general, remaining funds are where they need to be following the expenses charged for the Western States Forum and NRITS (2013).

There will be a need to keep an eye on remaining funds as the 2014 NRITS Conference approaches.

Regarding the WSRTC website, it was asked whether there were any stats on visits to the site. Visits are generally light and they come from a variety of locations.

Ian Turnbull stressed that the website has been a good resource for guiding people he has talked to in learning more about the Consortium, and the information presented on the site has been good marketing. Sean seconded this, stating that at Caltrans' Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information (DRISI) the website is pointed to as an example of how a project-related site should be done.

Sean followed up the earlier discussion on remaining budget by citing his records showing \$4,000 had been spent on the Travel Task Order to date, with a balance of \$76,000 remaining. On the One Stop Shop Task Order, \$11,000 has been spent to date, with \$139,000 remaining.

Sean also indicated that the Pooled Fund website needs to be updated with the current balance sheets and there is also a need to add Nevada to the table since they have provided their commitment for the year.

The Pooled Fund ends during Fiscal Year 14-15, so there is a need to start thinking about whether the group wants a second phase of the fund or a time extension.

### **Incubator Project Updates**

David Veneziano provided the group with an update on the current Incubator Projects.

The review of western safety warning devices is wrapping up with a few more contacts remaining. The preliminary findings from the work were presented at NRITS, and those slides will be provided on the Consortium website in conjunction with the next update. The draft report should be out for review in September.

On the ICM Planning project, two candidate corridors were identified for use in the demonstration. These included US 395 (in California and Nevada) and Rt 299-US 395 (in California and Oregon). Caltrans District 9 and Nevada DOT have done some things with the US 395 route for routing that will be reviewed. Also, there was a request to extend the corridor further south from Bishop to end in Mojave, which will be done.

Doug Galarus briefly discussed the Technology-focused incubator project. The intent has shifted slightly to examining the use of Bluetooth to estimate wait times at chain up areas. It was stressed that the intent is not to develop the technology (readers), but to identify which technologies to use, develop the algorithms to estimate wait times and to evaluate data. Sean, Ian and Doug will discuss the project to flesh out the details and report back to the group.

### **Current Projects**

Doug Galarus discussed completed, current and upcoming research projects of interest to the group. These included Automated Safety Warning Controller, Professional Capacity Building (PCB) for Communications, OSS Phase 2, WeatherShare Phase 3, Integration of Aviation AWOS with RWIS Phase 2, and WeatherShare Integration with Caltrans QuickMap.

### **Roundtable Discussion of Projects**

Ron Vessey, Ted Bailey and Jim Mahugh – Washington State Department of Transportation

- Ron – no new items to add since last meeting.
- Ted – Completing a side by side evaluation of INRIX data, license plate readers, Sensys Networks and Bluetooth devices from TrafficCast and Blip Systems. The report is about two months away. Phase 2 of the project will add Wavetronix units to the test bed.
- LED research on dimming and time of day on/off operation (Adaptive Lighting) is ongoing., There has been a 74 percent reduction in power use observed so far.
- Self-certification of ITS proprietary equipment procurement has been negotiated.
- Jim – the travel time system over Snoqualmie pass has been extended using INRIX data.
  - Sidefire radar and Wavetronix units are being installed to replace INRIX data in these sections in the future.
- A smart chain up system on I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass is going to be installed to direct truck drivers to a specific area in order to prevent backups on the mainline.

Luci Moore – Oregon Department of Transportation

- A consensus within the department on variable speed limit protocols has been reached and an algorithm for manual changes to be made in the field has been developed.
- A weather-based variable speed limit system will be deployed on OR 26 in the near future.
- New Variable Message Sign software has been acquired for use statewide from Daktronics.
- TripCheck TV has been rolled out on the web.
- A handsfree mobile app is being developed to display conditions on the road ahead.
- Internal notification systems for incidents and events have been redone.

Ian Turnbull - Caltrans District 2

- The ATMS system has been deployed at the Redding TMC.
- There is interest in deploying the CCTV information relay throughout California. The same would be done with RWIS data as well.
- A camera was added at a new mountaintop site on the backbone that interfered with one of CHP's receivers. It was found that the problem was being caused by serious emissions that were coming off the camera.
- About 50 new element or element upgrades remain ongoing.

Sean Campbell – Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information

- After working with Nevada DOT's folks, new datasets have been added to One Stop Shop.
- CWWP2 has chain control dataset designs underway and they should be up in September.
- A conversation with the I-15 mobility corridor project to determine their interest in joining OSS was held. It looks like a lot of consultants are looking to do work for the project and we're still working around how to negotiate a contract, if possible.

### **Other Discussions**

The 2014 Northwest Transportation Conference will be held March 11-13, 2014. There is interest on the part of the group in holding a meeting in conjunction with the event. Ted thought that a meeting the morning the conference started might be better, and that will be considered when planning for the meeting gets underway.

Ron raised the topic of the frequency of meetings. There needs to be more spacing between them. This is something that everyone has recognized. The next meeting (at the NWTC) isn't an issue being 7 months away, but a meeting held in June at the Forum would be closely spaced. While no detailed discussion on this topic was held, the group agreed that this is a point that requires further consideration and conversations in the future.

**Next Meeting**

The next WSRTC Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to occur in conjunction with the Northwest Transportation Conference in March, 2014. Specific dates and times will be arranged as the event approaches.

**Action Items**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
1. Sean, Ian and Doug will flesh out the details on the technology incubator project	As soon as possible

### Meeting Participants

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