



**Probe Data Analytics User Group Web Meeting
May 11, 2017**

Agenda:

#	Topic	Speaker
1	Welcome & Coalition Update	Marygrace Parker, I-95 Corridor Coalition John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
2	Volume and Turning Movement project update	Kaveh Sadabadi, UMD CATT
3	Feb/March 2017 Survey Results	John Allen
4	CY 2017 Deployment - Schedule Update & Summary Table	
5	Agency Spotlight Presentation: Managing the Delaware River Bridge Closure - PennDOT	Ted Lucas, Pennsylvania DOT
6	Video Tutorials	
7	O-D Data Suite Focus Group Status	John Allen
8	Quick-demo: My History	
9	Agency Input Session	All Agencies
10	Wrap Up - Next Meeting & Thank You	Marygrace Parker

Next User Group Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2017 - 10:30a.m. - 12:00p.m. (EDT)

Meeting Highlights:

- **Instant Polls:**
 - Polls were taken throughout the meeting
 - Results are provided at the end of these notes and separately

- **Welcome & Coalition Update:**
 - Marygrace Parker welcomed the group and thanked them for their participation.
 - John Allen reviewed some of the recent TSMO related activities within the Coalition including a Volume and Turning Movement Steering Committee meeting in April and well attended webinar on May 4th on Using Performance Measures to Justify Signal Systems on Arterials Webinar with presentations from PennDOT and Georgia DOT. He reminded agencies to use the PDA Suite Trend Map and Congestion Scan tools to help travelers in their region better plan for holiday travel.

- **Volume & Turning Movement (VTM) Steering Committee Update**
 - Kaveh Sadabadi of the UMD CATT Lab gave an update of the Volume & Turning Movement Project and specifically an update based on the meeting held on April 13, 2017. Kaveh reviewed the goals and status of the effort. He spoke about the VTM work being conducted by UMD with the INRIX data and noted that NREL is currently beginning their work with the TomTom data. He noted that they are



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planning to use the FHWA's TMAS for calibration. Kaveh described how UMD is using the INRIX trace data as an input to their model to develop volumes. Next Steps for this project include testing time granularities, grouping ATR locations based on factors such as proximity, highway type and geometry to calibrate group-specific models and identifying two additional regions to analyze.

- **RITIS User Group Reminder**

- The next RITIS User Group meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2017 from 10:30AM to 2:00PM. This meeting will be held so that members can participate either in-person or via web. The first part of the meeting (10:30am – Noon) will be held as a regular user group meeting. The in-person portion will be extended (Noon – 2:00pm) to provide hands-on training to participants. Contact John Allen with any questions.

- **PDA Suite User Group Meeting Follow-up Survey Summary**

- The Survey was conducted on-line; available from February through March 2017
- 43% of respondents attended the last meeting; 100% found the meeting useful and/or informative; 92% said quarterly meetings work for them; 73% would consider making a presentation;
- 54% considered themselves an intermediate-skilled user
- 25% use the tools on a weekly or by-task basis
- The most popular tools are the Congestion Scan and Trend Maps.
- Focus areas of importance:
 - Planning and PMs – 100%
 - TMSO – 50%
 - Travel Info – 50%
 - Research – 25%
- John noted that the way the tools are being used are generally more planning-oriented (than operations-oriented)

AN INSTANT POLL was conducted to get a better understanding of the what would help users to become more skilled with the PDA tools (see the results at the end of this document

- **CY 2017 Deployment - Schedule Update & Summary Table**

- John reviewed the schedule of the deployments that have taken place noting that all Q1 tasks have been completed except the MAP-21 Final Rule Widgets as the CATT Lab was awaiting release of the Final Rule
- **(POST MEETING NOTES:**
 - MAP-21 has been released as the final rule (effective May 20, 2017), with the exception of the green-house gas measures – follow the link for more details: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/rule.cfm>.
 - As of May 22nd, the MAP-21 Dashboard widgets were updated to support the measures in the **final** MAP-21 ruling, allowing users to track progress toward the federally-mandated reporting requirements that went into effect on May 20th. (NOTE: As the **draft** measures are no longer applicable, all draft measure widgets were removed from users' dashboards.)
- Due to the effort needed for the Flash migration and Hadoop (backend architecture) some of the deliveries have been pushed out. John reviewed the updated Q2 and Q3 schedule.



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- John reviewed the results of the PDA User survey from July 2016 noting that five of the 25 user group ranked improvements are in the pipeline for CY 2017 (Q1 – Q3).
- Updated Deploy Table is available - [Link to the 2017 Q1 Deploy Summary Table](#)

AN INSTANT POLL was conducted to determine the value of the Deploy Table to the users (see the results at the end of this document)

• **NPMRDS v2 Status Update**

- New contract was awarded in April 2017, a webinar will be scheduled around July 10th to explain the new process. The presentation from the initial webinar held on May 4th is available here: (<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/p91q0m3l8u2/>)
- The main highlights for the new NPMRDS were noted and include: conflation services, sample size indicator, epochs filled with nulls, inner/outer TMC segments provides, improved data portal, and faster availability.

• **Spotlight Presentation: Using the dashboard for the I-276 Turnpike Closure – Ted Lucas (PennDOT consultant) gave a comprehensive look on PennDOT’s use of the dashboard during the recent Delaware River Bridge Closure.**

- The Delaware River Bridge which connects Pennsylvania (Bucks County) with New Jersey (Burlington County) was closed in both directions on January 20th due to a fracture steel truss under the bridge decking. This bridge usually serves approximately 42,000 vehicles per day. Eastbound traffic was detoured off at US-1/ Exit 351 (PA Turnpike) and westbound traffic was detoured off Exit 7A/I-95 (NJ Turnpike).
- PennDOT Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC) is located in PennDOT’s District 6 (King of Prussia office). Staff at the RTMC used the PDA Dashboard (with INRIX Data) to compare historic travel times to the current travel times and monitor for any increases in travel times on detour routes and anticipated alternate routes of travel.
- Travel time was selected as the metric to display as it is quickly understood by most and it is easy to identify trends.
- The RTMC created widgets to display travel times for alternate travel routes. The dashboard was saved every 30 minutes and sent to PennDOT staff/ consultants as well as PA Turnpike staff/ consultants to keep them updated. TMC Operators monitored travel times during peak periods.
- The Dashboard visualizations showed the travel times for these peak periods and TMC operators were alerted if there was an unusually high travel time on a particular route/roadway. In a few cases crashes were identified (based on the increased travel time) on these alternate routes and emergency services were dispatched likely quicker than without this information.
- The benefits of the dashboard to PennDOT is that they were able to confirm Traffic Management Plans, mitigate effects of the PA Turnpike closure, and identify several incidents. They also identified an increase of travel time on PA-413 which prompted them to retime signals on this corridor. Visualizations of the dashboards various peak periods before and during the PA Turnpike were shown.
- The dashboard was beneficial as it provided a clear visualization of the speeds on affected roadways and it was easy for all to understand where delays were located and what roadways were being impacted.
- The Delaware River Bridge reopened on March 9, 2017.



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- PennDOT has used the Dashboard to monitor major events including the Papal visit and the DNC conference as well as construction work zones.
- It was noted that the simplicity of Dashboard information allowed sharing with a variety of non-technical audiences and those who do not regularly use PDA including the PA Secretary of Transportation.

- **Probe Data Analytics Improvements** – John Allen (CATT Lab) provided an update on each of the following:
 - There are several **free video tutorials** available for PDA Suite Tools. To access them, click on the following link - <https://vimeo.com/user55759816/videos>
 - **Basic O-D Data Analytics** (Phase I) * - currently under development and being built from a use case perspective (such as Traffic Impact Studies, Transit Routing, Detour Analysis, Evacuation Planning). The CATT Lab has formed a Focus Group to help refine development and prioritization of additional use-cases and features. This group is comprised of CATT Lab staff and agency members. The first meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2017. The results of the effort will be shared in an upcoming PDA User Group meeting.
 - John Allen explained this OD Data will be a separate database from the Probe Data and as such will need to be purchased separately from the vendors. The exact roll-out of the tools will be determined at a later time.
 - John reviewed several concepts for the O-D Analytics including input and results pages.
 - Kim Samson noted that having O-D tools would really help. John noted that having volume and O-D data in addition to the speed data provides a rich basis for traffic analysis.
 - Phase 1 roll out for the O-D Analytics (an O-D table) may be available in the third quarter of 2017. Kim offered pilot projects for the O-D data. John and Kim will discuss this opportunity offline.

AN INSTANT POLL was conducted to determine what agencies would most likely use O-D data, if they had it (see the results at the end of this document)

- A quick demonstration was provided on the **My History tool**. John noted that users can access the tool from the upper right corner of the PDA Suite landing page. “My History” will show all of the reports or queries that the user has done over time or it can be filtered to show history by tool or by favorites. Users can select a particular report to view. When opening a previously run performance summary report in “My History” users are permitted to run additional queries for the report parameters (this function is not applicable for all tools). Reports can be opened in other tools, using the same parameters. Users will only see the history for their account (not all users at their agency).

- **Agency Input Session**
 - Mike Crowley (PennDOT) mentioned the Dashboard tool is invaluable to his agency. He asked if some automation could be provided, specifically the ability to send screenshots and summary reports to a set list of persons (within their agencies and partnering agencies) for their viewing at preset intervals. John Allen noted that the CATT Lab will look into it.



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- Ed Stylc (BMC) is preparing holiday travel visibility in the region and asked the group for any Press release/ advisory ideas? Kim Samson (FDOT/AECOM) noted that Kelly Wells (NCDOT) prepared an advisory and provided a link: <https://tims.ncdot.gov/TIMS/Default.aspx>
 - John Allen asked agencies to send any travel advisory notices they have prepared to him for distribution to the group. John asked that Ed Stylc share with the group his BMC's Travel Tips prior to the Memorial Day Weekend, along with a step-by-step of his process.
- **Wrap Up** – Marygrace Parker thanked the users for participating and noted for the great work being done with the PDA Suite tools. She noted that the next Probe Data Analytics User Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2017 (10:30am – 12:00pm).

ACTION ITEMS:

#	Action Item	Whom	Status
1	Kim offered pilot projects for the O-D data analytics tools as they become available. John and Kim will discuss this opportunity offline.	John Allen Kim Samson	
2	PennDOT requested automation for the dashboard including the ability to send screenshots and summary reports to a set list of persons (within their agencies and partnering agencies) for their viewing at preset intervals.	John Allen CATT Lab	
3	Forward any travel advisory notices using the PDA Suite tools they have prepared to John for distribution to the group	All Agencies	
4	Check with Ed Stylc BMC on Memorial Day Travel Tips	John Allen	



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Participants:

User Group Participants:	
Ed Stylc, Victor Henry	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Mike Bruff	City of Durham MPO
Justin Neff, Paul Carafides	DVRPC
Wenjing Pu	FHWA
Kim Samson (AECOM)	Florida DOT/Turnpike
Patrick Zilliacus, Andrew Meese	MWCOG/NC RTPB
Simon Nwachukwu, Ira Levinton, Sudhir Joshi	NJDOT
Kitae Kim	NJIT
Tom Chase	NCSU/ITRE
Keith Miller	North Jersey TPA
Scott Benedict, Mike Crowley, Ted Lucas, Bob Davis	Pennsylvania DOT
Greta Ryan, Tiffany Dubinsky	Richmond Regional MPO
David Heller, Bill Schiavi, Andrew Tracy	South Jersey TPO
Mena Lockwood, Peng Xiao	Virginia DOT
Marygrace Parker	I-95 Corridor Coalition
John Allen, Drew Lund, Greg Jordan, Tom Jones, Kaveh Farokhi, Masoud Hamedi	UMD CATT/CATT Lab
Joanna Reagle, Emily White	KMJ Consulting (Coalition Support)

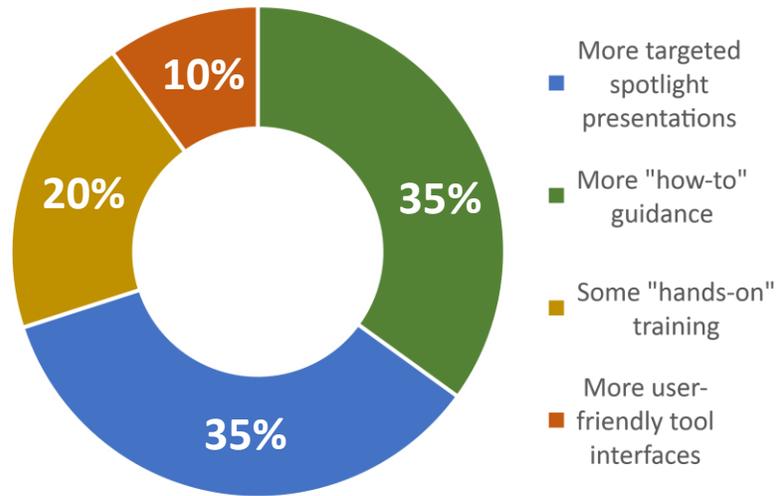
Instant Poll Summary

Poll results from Probe Data Analytics User Group members taken during the May 11, 2017 meeting.

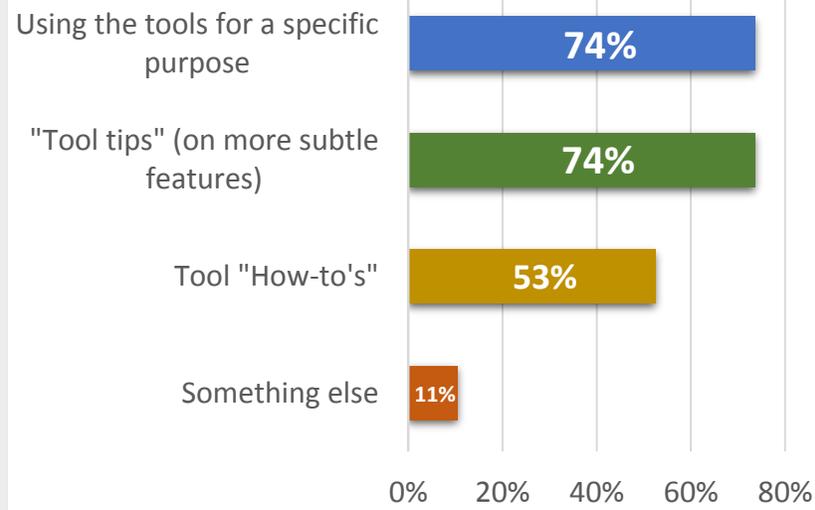
PROBE DATA ANALYTICS SUITE



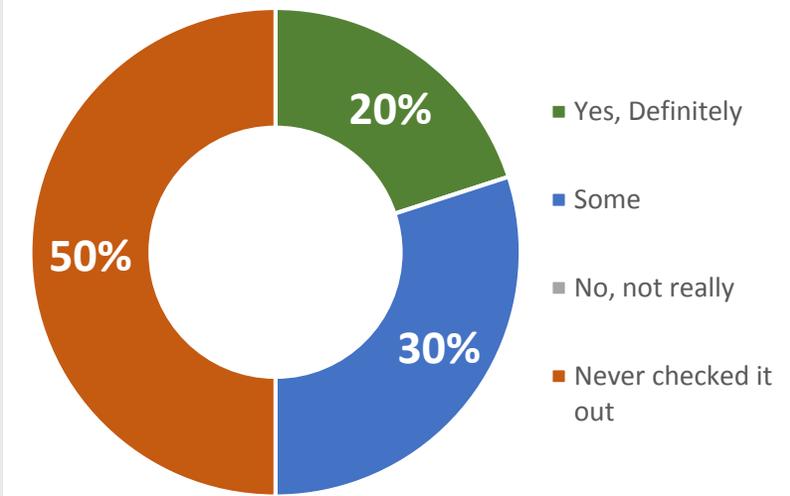
1 Becoming a more skilled user...



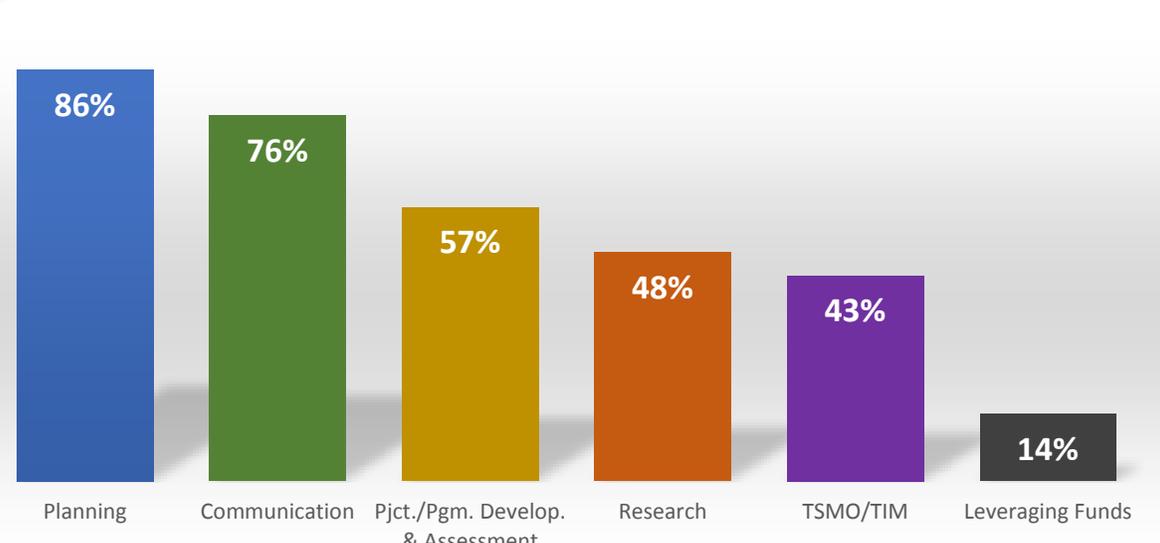
2 Desired future video tutorials... (Multiple selections allowed)



3 Value of the Deploy Summary Table...



4 Areas currently using / wanting to use PDA Suite... (Multiple selections allowed)



5 Most likely uses of O-D data... (Multiple selections allowed)

