

**THE EASTERN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COALITION**



## **RITIS User Group Web Meeting Follow-Up July 2024**

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Thanks to those who participated in the RITIS User Group Web Meeting on July 25, 2024. The purpose of these meetings is to help our members understand the tools available in the RITIS platform and to see how other members and peer transportation agencies are using their data and the tools to answer questions and simplify their processes within their agency.

Please click on the links below for more information about the event or visit the User Group Tab on the RITIS page of the Coalition website (<https://tetcoalition.org/projects/ritis-pda-suite/>).

- [Presentation with Audio](#)
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## **Spotlight Presentation: VTrans - Use of RITIS for Operations**

**Ryan Knapp of the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans)** explained how his team prepared for the anticipated high level of traffic congestion during the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. VTrans expected 60,000 vehicles arriving for the event to cause widespread congestion in the day leading up to and after the eclipse. *Their goal was not to mitigate the anticipated slowdowns. Instead, their aim was to monitor traffic and react to arising incidents with the appropriate operational strategies.*

To prepare, TMC staff participated in planning meetings based on previous mass traffic events. The TMC became the Situation Unit, providing a Common Operating Picture (COP) and situational awareness of network status.

Using RITIS's Traffic Map and Region Explorer tools, VTrans' TMC staff intended to accomplish the following:

- Locate congestion and length of bottlenecks
- Provide data validation for real-time decision-making
- Inform stakeholders (traveling public and agency staff) of travel times and congestion

Finally, a travel time and speed dashboard was created to provide a visual representation of congestion on the interstate systems - border to border and exit to exit, at a glance.



The dashboard resulted in better traffic management, saved time and money, and improved the team's communication during the event.

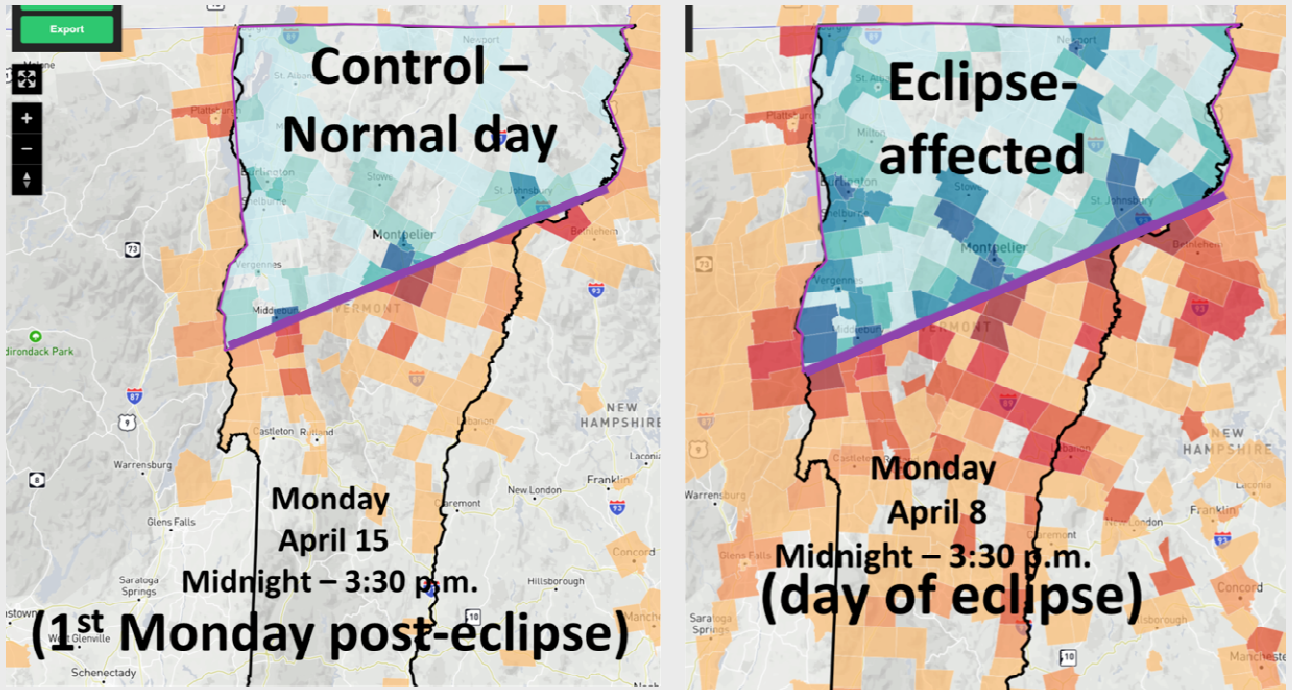
**Key Takeaway:** VTrans plans to expand their dashboard coverage to US routes and other high-volume routes and to analyze seasonal traffic. Recommendations for Traffic Incident Management (TIM) operating procedures will be made based on findings from the dashboard.

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### **Spotlight Presentation: Post Eclipse Analysis for Vermont AOT**

**Greg Jordan of the University of Maryland CATT Lab** presented how his team created an Origin-Destination (OD) matrix for the eclipse using the Open Zone Map tool to determine where local travelers came from and where they went in Vermont. They looked at trips that started/ended in Vermont during the weekend before the eclipse as well various time ranges during the Day-of-totality.

The CATT Lab team used subcounty zone geography for two sets of data for the matrix - a “control” dataset of normal traffic conditions and an “eclipse” dataset from the eclipse weekend. In the image below, red/brown geographies are the origins and blue sections are destinations. The purple line in the middle of Vermont is the path of totality.



The CATT Lab team used a similar process to determine how many cars were parked on the side of the road around the path of totality on the day of the eclipse. The team also used Trip Analytics to generate an origin-destination matrix to validate the OD travel times against Google Maps travel times. Testing one of the OD pairs, Google indicated the travel time would be 53 minutes the day of the eclipse, which was the same as the OD matrix.

**Additionally, Michael Pack of the University of Maryland CATT Lab** provided an overview of special tools and analyses developed for studying the eclipse's effects on local traffic, such as a map layer showing the path of totality and time-lapse videos of congestion nationally and locally as the eclipse passed.

### **Want to share how your agency uses the RITIS & PDA Suite tools?**

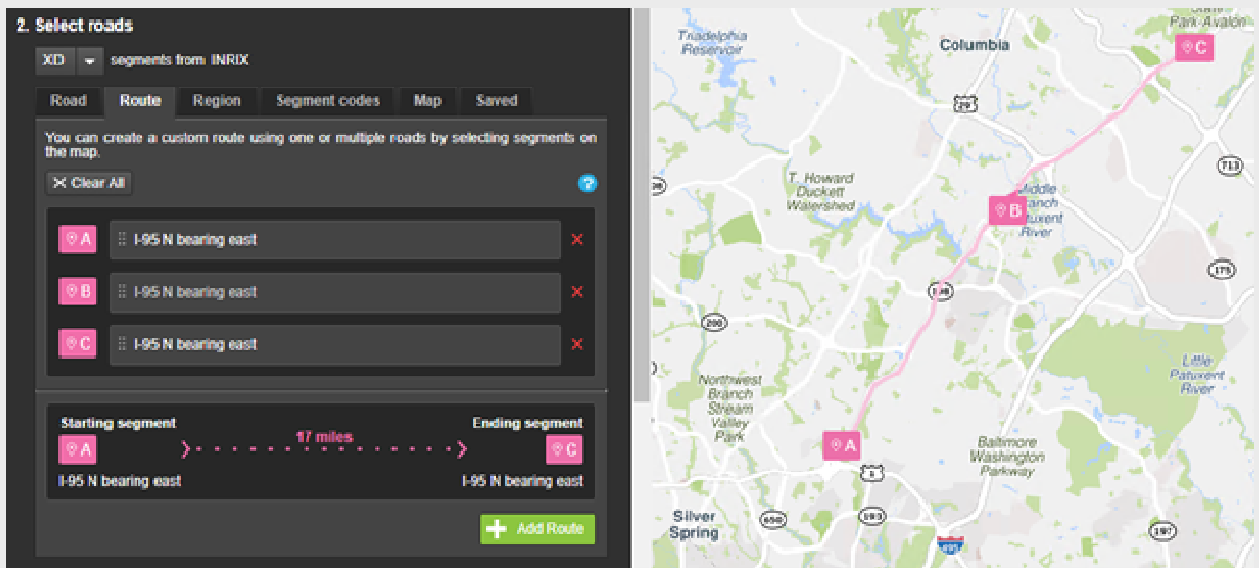
We'd like to thank Ryan and Greg for their presentations!

Does your agency have a RITIS use case to share with others? The Eastern Transportation Coalition would like to highlight how agencies use the RITIS tools. Please contact Rick Ayers ([rayers@umd.edu](mailto:rayers@umd.edu)) to discuss sharing your use case.

### **RITIS Product Enhancement Working Group Update & Recent Deployments**

**Bob Frey of Massachusetts DOT** provided an update on the progress of the RITIS Product Enhancement Group and their sponsored deployments in RITIS. Since the previous User Group Meeting on May 7, 2024, the following enhancements have been deployed:

- Safety Data/Police Crash Data Analytics (Phase I)
- Downloadable Volumes in PDA Suite
- Mirror XD Selections/TMC Routing for INRIX data (pictured below)
- Weather data in Congestion Scans



A handbook with use cases for the RITIS platform will be released in August 2024.

Future enhancements will include Automated Work Zone Reporting, Energy & Emissions Analytics, and the ability to embed dashboards on web pages.

Staff from agencies who are interested in providing funding for enhancements or joining this group should contact Bob Frey ([bob.frey@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:bob.frey@dot.state.ma.us)) or Michael Pack ([PackML@umd.edu](mailto:PackML@umd.edu)).

To find out more about what's new in the RITIS Platform, visit the "What's New" section of each major platform area (**a RITIS username and password are required to view these pages**):

- [https://www.ritis.org/release\\_notes](https://www.ritis.org/release_notes)
- <https://pda.ritis.org/suite/updates/>
- <https://trips.ritis.org/new>

## Agency Feedback

The CATT Lab team is always looking for ways to improve the RITIS platform and the PDA Suite. RITIS users can reach out at any time to the support team at [support@ritis.org](mailto:support@ritis.org).

## Upcoming Coalition Events – stay tuned for more information!

- RITIS User Group Web Meeting – October 3, 2024 – 1:00pm-2:30pm, ET – *more information to come!*

## Transportation Data Marketplace

The Transportation Data Marketplace has six data sets and 11 vendors! Visit the [TDM page of the Coalition's website](#) for more information

## Follow the Coalition on social media and subscribe to be informed!

Recordings from many of the Coalition's web events are available on [TETC's YouTube channel - take a look.](#)

Follow the Coalition on [LinkedIn](#) to hear about upcoming events, collaborations, and industry news.

### Questions or Comments:

**TSMO Program:** Sheryl Bradley at [sbradley@tetcoalition.org](mailto:sbradley@tetcoalition.org)

