



**The Eastern Transportation
RITIS User Group Web Meeting – February 24, 2022
Question and Answer Summary**

NOTE: Results from the polling questions asked during the web meeting are provided at the end of this document.

Spotlight Presentation: Automating RITIS Travel Time Reporting on Specific Corridors

Q1: Zohora Sultana (Oregon DOT): Is it possible to share a link to this weekly traffic report?

A: Corey O'Connor (Massachusetts DOT): Here is the link: <https://mobility-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

Q2: Keith Miller (NJTPA): How did you pick the 75th percentile as representative of "typical" travel times?

A: Corey O'Connor (Massachusetts DOT): We didn't want to go with the average or the 50th percentile because there would be a good number of times where the public would experience a travel time that's greater than the travel time that was reported on the tool. We wanted to go with the 75th percentile because it is more likely that you're going to complete the trip in the time that we're reporting or less. We'd prefer that people complete the trip in less time as opposed to greater than the time we're reporting. We didn't want to give the 95th percentile travel time because that's representative of the worst of the worst travel times, such as when there are incidents or something similar. We saw the 75th percentile as a safe number to go with since most people will complete their trip in less than the travel time that we display on the dashboard.

Q3: Sooraz Patro (Capital Region Planning Commission): Are the MassDOT APIs proprietary or could they be shared?

A: Corey O'Connor (Massachusetts DOT): No, the MassDOT APIs are not proprietary. More information on the RITIS Probe Data API feed that MassDOT uses is available here: <https://ritis.org/tools/developer>. Once the API feed was set up, MassDOT staff and consultants wrote custom scripts to take the data and present it in data visualization platforms, such as Power BI, Tableau, or Esri tools.

Q4: Alexander Finch (Connecticut DOT): How do RITIS users access the Probe Data API?

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): There are several different APIs. There's an API to help you ask questions that you would normally ask through the Probe Data Analytics Suite, but you want to ask them programmatically as Corey did. If you're funding RITIS and the Probe Data Analytics Suite, we can get you a copy of that API. Tom Jones is our program manager who typically trains people on the basics of how to use it.

We also have a RITIS API that handles non-probe data like incidents, events, and other data that exists in RITIS. That's useful if you're trying to see what's going on in the neighboring state or if there's another agency's data set that you want to have access to.



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Just write to support@ritis.org and we can put you in touch with the right folks to give you access.

Spotlight Presentation: Strategies for Assessing the Effectiveness of Law Enforcement Measures in Battling Excessive Speeds

Q5: Todd Schmidt (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning): How did the data change over time of day, more speeding records at night vs day?

A: Chi Mai (Oregon DOT): We did not look at the data at this level, but what you've listed are ways we can expand on this to inform the project team and law enforcement agencies.

Q6: Simona Babiceanu (Virginia DOT): What is your speed limit on these corridors and did you try to determine speeders based on the posted speed limit?

A: Chi Mai (Oregon DOT): The posted speed for both facilities is 55 mph. We only analyzed with speed bins starting at greater than 55 mph to represent the limit to which speeders would get fined.

Q7: Jay Jackson (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority): Were you able to look at the before and after of these corridors based on similar months or weather conditions? My curiosity would be doing you see a statistically significant number of speeder reduction when factoring in weather, time of day, holidays, seasonality, etc. It looked like speeding was less prevalent in winter months which makes sense as roads are probably slicker. Also, was enforcement consistent across this period?

A: Chi Mai (Oregon DOT): We started at the higher-level analysis (monthly comparison) and have not gone more in-depth. Part of my interest in presenting to different safety working groups is that they will take this on and expand on the analysis to the details recommended. We don't have the log of law enforcement, so I don't know how consistent it has been across the analysis period.

RITIS Product Enhancement Working Group Update

Note: Jay Jackson (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority): My suggestion would be to focus on more active transportation, walking, bike, and transit to the research and the analytics as that's the best way to reduce traffic and improve overall safety, plus all of the other benefits.

New RITIS Tools and Recent Enhancements

Q8: Ishtiak Ahmed (North Carolina State University): How can a RITIS user access the Trips Analytics portal?

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): Your agency has to be buying Trips data from one of the vendors first such as INRIX, Wejo, Geotab, etc. If you buy data from them, we can take your data and put it in the tool. There are maybe 10 or 15 states



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around the country that are using it right now. If you send me an email, I can try to figure out what region you're from and see if anyone's bought data in that region.

Q9: Han Zheng (Georgia DOT (Arcadis)): For Segment Analysis in Trip Analytics, is it possible in the future to filter the trips by the time the when trip passes through the selected segment? It seems like right now the time filter chooses trips based on starting and ending times of the entire trip.

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): I think the answer to that is yes. That's something that we're working to add on here in the coming month. I will have to check in on that. Greg Jordan is the one who's managing that product.

Q10: George Yang (Grand Valley MPO): In addition to states and counties, can we have MPO boundaries? For example, our region has one and a half counties.

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): That is possible and you're not the first person to ask for that. I think that is being built into the MAP-21 tools now and may already be functional. The next step is to transfer that over to all of the Probe Data Analytics Suite and some of the other tools as well. Please send me an email I'll send you the designs that we have now and we'll make sure that's what you're looking for.

Q11: Mohamed Kaddoumi (City of Charlotte, NC): It would be nice to interact with the map in Trips Analytics to define origins and destinations.

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): What you're getting at is in the Trips Analytics tool you have a drop-down list and you have to select the state and particular county or this particular TAZ or zip code and type those out. Then the map updates and shows you what you selected. It seems you are asking if instead of doing that, you want to click on the map and select by TAZ. This is on the wish list but I don't think we've started doing it. We can get you in touch with Greg Jordan and include you in our design group that tests out new features for map selections.

Q12: Mohamed Kaddoumi (City of Charlotte, NC): Does the "Don't average" option in the RITIS Data Downloader also produce raw data for HERE as it does for INRIX, or is it one-minute averages?

A: Michael Pack (University of Maryland CATT Lab): It depends on what type of query you're running. The way to get to raw data is to select "don't average which will give you the lowest temporal resolution of that particular data set. Whether that's one minute in the case of you know real-time INRIX, HERE, and TomTom data or five minutes in the case for any NPMRDS data. There are certain types of queries you could run. You could do a congestion scan for an entire month and say don't average. The congestion scan is still going to put all of the one-minute together on the screen for you, so it's technically going to average all of the one-minute segments together. You just have to be careful with what other things you select in the query. If you send us a support email message saying exactly what you're looking for, we can tell you how to write the query.



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