THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION
CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS

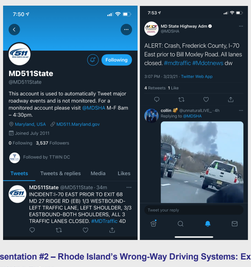
TIS Web Summit: Innovative Capture and Dissemination of Data Used for Traveler Information - April 2021

Thanks to those who participated in the Web Summit: Innovative Capture and Dissemination of Data Used for Traveler Information on April 1, 2021. Please click on the links below for more information about the event or visit the TSMO section of the website (https://tetcoalition.org/projects/tsmo-events-webinars/) on the Travel Info Events tab.

- Presentation with Audio
- Slides Only
- Question & Answer Summary

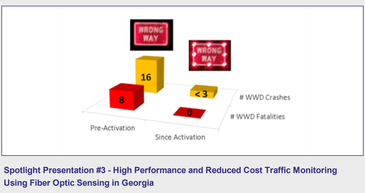
Spotlight Presentation #1 – Automating Social Media Notifications in Maryland

Rick Dye of Maryland DOT-SHA discussed how Maryland DOT-SHA's CHART office provides automated event updates via the MD511 Twitter page. This page works in conjunction with the monitored MDSHA Twitter page. Business rules were created to establish which events would be included in the automatic feed. By specifying criteria within their ATMS software, an incident will automatically be tweeted out if it meets those requirements. Additional tweets will automatically be sent throughout the event until it is cleared. For major ongoing events, a communications agency member will expand on the event via Maryland DOT-SHA's monitored account (an example is shown below).



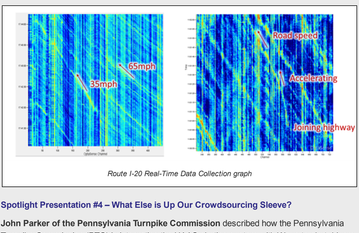
Spotlight Presentation #2 – Rhode Island's Wrong-Way Driving Systems: Experiences to Date & A Promising Future

Russell Holt of Rhode Island DOT explained how the agency is working to decrease the number of accidents caused by wrong-way driving using intelligent wrong-way alert systems. Rhode Island currently uses TAPCO's BlinkLink® Web-Based Device Manager, which can integrate with their existing ATMS and other applications. The TAPCO system is set up to use radar or thermal sensing to detect wrong-way drivers, based on the ramp geometry. The system sends notifications to staff to alert them of the issue so they can take the appropriate action. Through their efforts, RIDOT has seen a decrease in the number of wrong-way crashes (shown below). Rhode Island DOT will continue to develop this system and monitor its effectiveness.



Spotlight Presentation #3 - High Performance and Reduced Cost Traffic Monitoring Using Fiber Optic Sensing in Georgia

Paul Cooper of OptaSense presented how their product uses fiber optic sensing to help agencies monitor traffic. The OptaSense device uses vibrations from passing vehicles to calculate congestion, travel time, and traffic counts. Georgia DOT began a pilot project which tested the ease of installation, the accuracy of detection, and the ability to retire existing legacy detection devices. Fiber optic sensing has operational and cost advantages for Georgia DOT over alternative point sensor technology as noted in an article written by Andrew Heath. Georgia DOT plans to continue using the OptaSense device and intends to integrate the data into its existing traffic management center systems.



Route I-20 Real-Time Data Collection graph

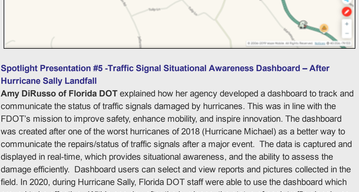
Spotlight Presentation #4 – What Else is Up Our Crowdsourcing Sleeve?

John Parker of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission described how the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) is integrating the HAAS alerting system with Waze to alert drivers when they are approaching an emergency vehicle, incident response vehicle, tow truck, maintenance vehicle, arrow board or work zone, in an effort to reduce crashes. Specifically, a HAAS transponder, when activated, sends digital alerts to nearby Waze users to warn them of the nearby emergency or work zone vehicle. Over 1.8 million alerts have been dispatched so far. The PTC can also close roads, set speed limits, plan detours, and provide safety messages within the Waze platform.

In addition, during his presentation, John demonstrated the following dashboards and tools used by the PTC staff for situational awareness:

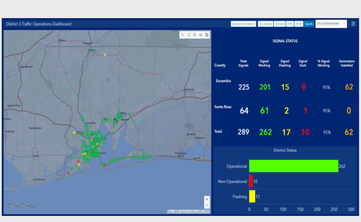
- Real-Time Traffic Dashboard
- Early Warning Detection Tool
- Incident Time Dashboard
- DataCapable – Live Video Monitoring for Incidents
- HAAS Alerts

In the future, The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will work with Apple Maps to deliver the same kinds of messages and alerts.



Spotlight Presentation #5 -Traffic Signal Situational Awareness Dashboard – After Hurricane Sally Landfall

Amy DiRusso of Florida DOT explained how her agency developed a dashboard to track and communicate the status of traffic signals damaged by hurricanes. This was in line with the FDOT's mission to improve safety, enhance mobility, and inspire innovation. The dashboard was created after one of the worst hurricanes of 2018 (Hurricane Michael) as a better way to communicate the repairs/status of traffic signals after a major event. The data is captured and displayed in real-time, which provides situational awareness, and the ability to assess the damage efficiently. Dashboard users can select and view reports and pictures collected in the field. In 2020, during Hurricane Sally, Florida DOT staff were able to use the dashboard which proved to be effective. Within one day after the hurricane, the status of each traffic signal was identified and recorded. Within a week, all the damaged traffic signals were repaired. As a result of this efficiency, the Florida DOT was able to successfully implement an emergency detour route.



Snapshot of traffic signal statuses after Hurricane Sally

Upcoming Coalition Meetings

- RITIS User Group Web Meeting – May 20, 2021 - more information coming soon!

Follow the Coalition on YouTube and subscribe to be informed!

Recordings from many of the Coalition's webinars are available here - take a look!

Questions or Comments:
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