

THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION

CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS



TIS Web Summit:

Emerging Technologies in Traveler Information to Improve Safety for Passenger and Commercial Vehicles

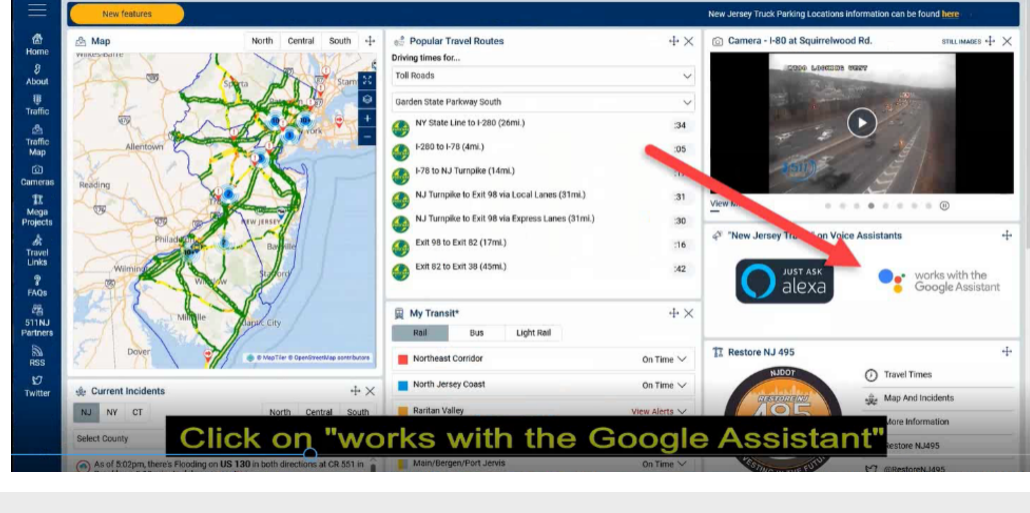
Follow-Up - June 2020

Thanks to those who participated in the TIS Web Summit: Emerging Technologies in Traveler Information to Improve Safety for Passenger and Commercial Vehicles held on June 17, 2020. Please click on the links below for more information about the event or visit the TSMO Section of the new website (<https://tetcoalition.org/transportation-systems-management-and-operations/>) on the Webinars tab.

- [Presentation with Audio](#)
- [Slides Only](#)
- [Question & Answer Summary](#)

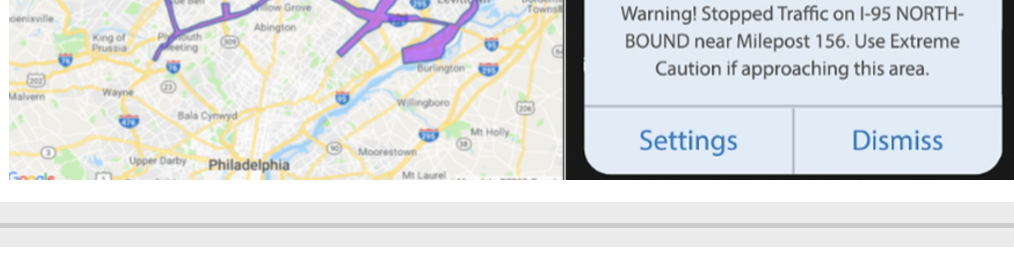
Presentation #1 – NJDOT - Use of Voice Assistance in 511 System

Jim Hadden of Jim Hadden Consulting for New Jersey DOT introduced the most recent project for New Jersey's 511 program which is the deployment of voice assistants to access travel information. Jim described the evolution of 511, voice assistants, and how this union was developed. In the future, voice assistants such as Alexa and Siri will be built into many car models. The 511NJ Voice Assistants provide incidents and travel times similar to the IVR Systems and can include floodgate messages. Demonstrations of voice assistants in both Alexa and Google gave participants a good understanding of their abilities. During this project, some of the lessons learned include the need to follow the IVR model, standardizing the data used as much as possible, and learning the different syntaxes for each brand of voice assistant. Plenty of time for a review of the code was stressed along with a lot of testing and a soft launch.



Presentation #2 - Emergency Ops: The HELP System State Updates

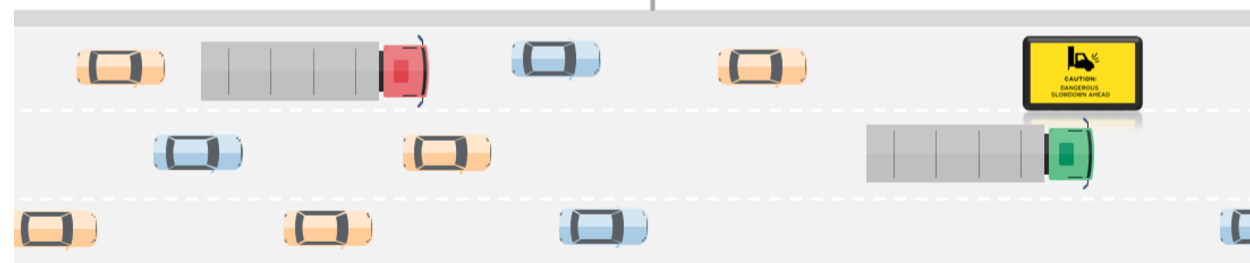
Mary and John Farrell of Information Logistics Inc updated participants on the features added to the HELP System. The HELP System is an alert that appears on a traveler's phone to advise them of incidents that are anticipated to cause major delays. This system uses one-way and two-way alerts. One-way alerts are sent via the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system to mobile devices within a specified geofenced area and do not require advance registration. When paired with a voice assistant, the alert is read to the passenger, which can reduce instances of distracted driving. All alerts are geotargeted within 0.1 miles of a driver. This reduces some spillover of the alerts into areas that do not need it. The states currently using or preparing to activate are Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Georgia. Coordinating with EMA is critical and is often the longest part of the project. Deciding on who can approve the alerts, early activation, flexibility, and practice were also noted as important in the development/activation process. New features coming to HELP include predefined alert areas, an adaptive layout for mobile devices, a Spanish version of WEAs, and integrated UAV systems.



Presentation #3 - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alerts

Rick Schuman of INRIX and Eugene Conti of the Conti Group for Drivewyze described how their organizations are collaborating to provide traffic congestion information to commercial vehicle operators to reduce secondary crashes. A PennDOT secondary crash study showed over 1,200 crashes on the core network in 2018. Since trucks need more time to brake, providing commercial vehicle drivers with advanced warning is not only helpful to them but also to the vehicles around them. INRIX includes real-time monitoring of the nationwide road network. This includes closures, queues, and slowdowns. It also includes a weigh station bypass network and rest area notifications. The platform is predicted to have two million users opt-in to their service. Similar to HELP, each alert is geofenced and will be shown on the driver's in-cab device. Stage one of Drivewyze is available for licensing now.

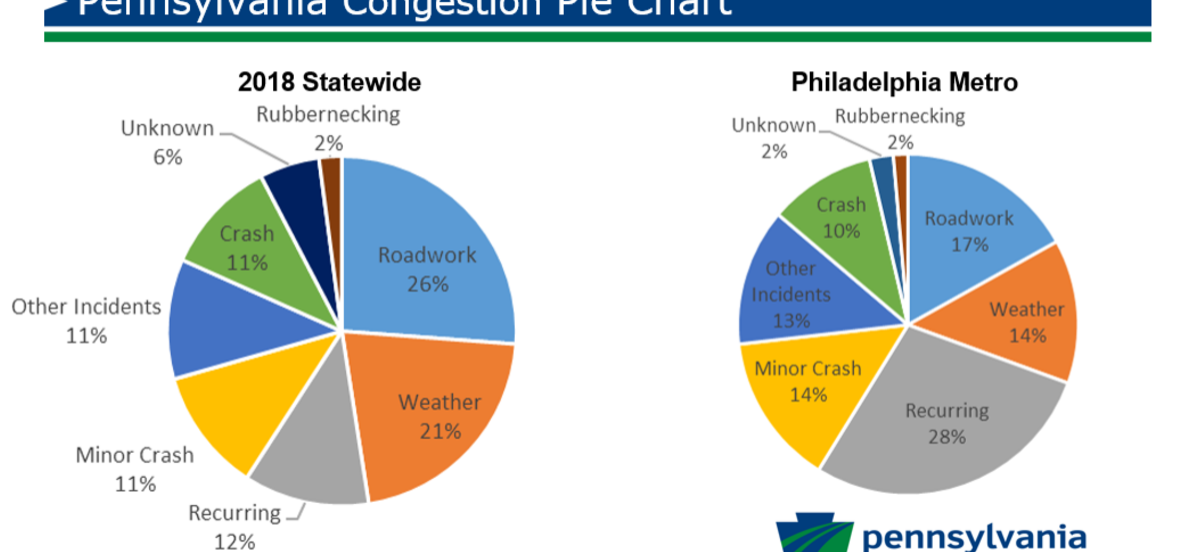
The Value of a Timely Alert



Presentation #4 – PennDOT's TSMO Performance Program

Ryan McNary of PennDOT spoke about how they are using crowdsourcing to help identify incidents on their highways. He noted that INRIX and Waze combined detected nearly 87% of all reportable crashes on PennDOT's core network. Ryan presented a pie chart depicting congestion causes in Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia area. This information will help PennDOT in better understanding congestion and ultimately to finding solutions to the congestion.

Pennsylvania Congestion Pie Chart



Ryan also spoke about COVID-19's impact on traffic. There was a significant drop in recurring congestion, passenger volume, and traffic volume. This allowed the TSMO team to have a clearer idea of what causes crashes (as reported by WAZE) on various highways. Additionally, PennDOT is designing a mobile roadwork app that allows in-field entry and activation of roadwork by field personnel. This would allow the TMC to focus on the other issues and be more proactive when indicating where the slowdowns are. Geofenced push notifications would also have a "read-aloud" option for drivers about slowdowns as well.

Presentation #5 – New and Traditional Media in Traveler Information

Kevin Loftus of iHeartMedia introduced Total Traffic & Weather Network (TTWN) to the participants. TTWN is a division of iHeartRadio providing local coverage of traffic in 300+ markets and producing 120,000 traffic reports each week. Part of these reports includes mobility trends. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have reported a 12% increase in severe incidents during normal peak hours. In light of COVID-19, they have also been tracking the traffic conditions surrounding testing sites and food banks.

The Florida Turnpike Enterprise is currently piloting its own TTWN channel which will provide real-time traffic data and content to the South and East Regions of Florida. In the future, there are opportunities for different types of traffic alerts including severe weather updates, Amber Alerts, and location-based alerts.

Highway Advisory Radio
1640 AM

-- OR --

Turnpike Traffic Channel
on iHeartRadio

URGENT MESSAGE WHEN FLASHING

Upcoming Coalition Sponsored Meetings

- TSMO Performance Measures Webinar on August 27, 2020 (10:30am – 12:00pm) – look for an invitation soon!
- RITIS User Group Web Meeting on October 1, 2020 (10:30am – 12:00pm) – save the date!

FLIPPED THE SWITCH:

On July 1, 2020, the I-95 Corridor Coalition officially became The Eastern Transportation Coalition.

The Coalition is pleased to announce that Tennessee and Alabama are the newest members of the Coalition!



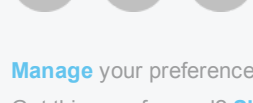
Follow the Coalition on YouTube and subscribe to be informed!

The Coalition has a YouTube channel. Recordings from many of the Coalition's webinars are available [here - take a look!](#)

Questions or Comments:

General Coalition: Denise Markow at 301.789.9088 or dmarkow@tetcoalition.org
Logistics: Joanna Reagle at 610.228.0760 or jreagle@kmjinc.com

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