



The Eastern Transportation Coalition TSMO Happenings

May 2021 – November 2021

Catch up on The Eastern Transportation Coalition - TSMO News!

The Coalition has been very busy providing members with training, information exchanges, and engagement! Our members and distinguished speakers shared a lot of valuable information, and we are sharing it with you!

This newsletter provides information on events focusing on the following areas: **Traveler Information, Data, and Cross-cutting.**

Traveler Information

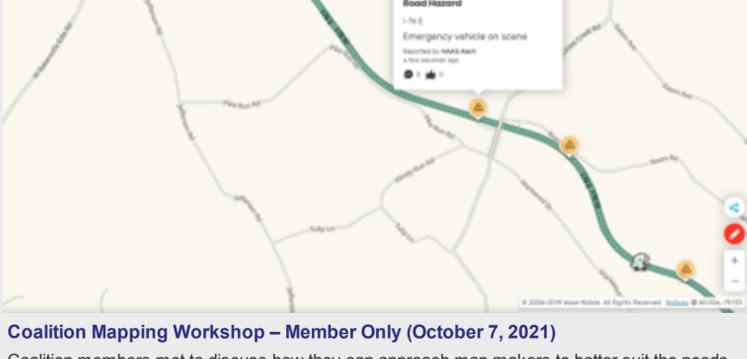
Bi-Annual Waze Technical Working Group Web Meetings - Member Only (November 18 & June 15, 2021)

During these member-only events, the **Waze Product Team** provided updates on the recent developments and provided an opportunity for Working group members to ask questions and give feedback.

During the meeting on November 18, 2021, the team discussed many updates including permanent and real-time hazard alerts. They also provided information on a predictive flood alert. **Brendan Kaplan, representing the Eastern Transportation Coalition**, provided a summary on the Coalition's "Alternate Routing Whitepaper" which is designed to give readers a high-level view into how to build software that uses Waze's tools to understand when and where traffic is routed off of mainline routes onto local roads by navigation applications. This document is available [here](#) on the Coalition's website.

During the meeting on June 15, 2021, the **Waze Product Team** provided an update on real-time hazard alerts for Waze users and integrated lane closure data. Members discussed how their agency currently handles hazard alerts. In addition, **John Parker of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)** described how they integrated the HAAS Alert system with Waze to reduce crashes involving emergency service providers and their vehicles. Over 1.8 million alerts have been dispatched since inception. The PTC can also close roads, set speed limits, plan detours, and provide safety messages within the Waze platform.

For information on this working group, please contact Denise Markow (dmarkow@tetcoalition.org).



Coalition Mapping Workshop – Member Only (October 7, 2021)

Coalition members met to discuss how they can approach map makers to better suit the needs of public agencies. **Brendan Kaplan representing the Eastern Transportation Coalition** provided an overview of how tech companies think and operate in an attempt to bridge the gap between agency wants and private sector motivations.

Denise Markow and Stan Young of the Eastern Transportation Coalition joined Brendan to help agencies discuss which mapping companies they use for operations and planning and what features they might like to see from those vendors in the future.

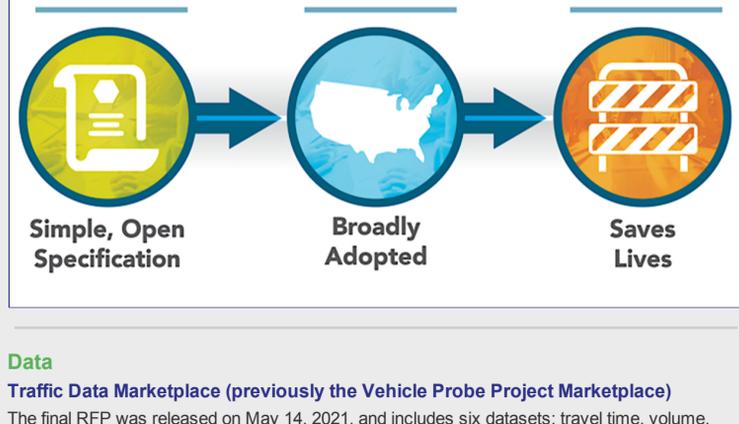
Meet the Work Zone Data Exchange Project (September 9, 2021)

The Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx) Project is an effort led by the FHWA to build an open and extensible standardized format for sharing work zone information. This has major benefits to agencies, vendors, and public sector entities nationwide that operate in the work zone.

Stan Young of The Eastern Transportation Coalition provided an overview of current practices and limitations to proprietary work zone data feed specifications – namely the need to convert feeds from one format to another for almost every application. **David Craig of General Motors** and **Nate Deshmukh Towery of USDOT Volpe Center** spoke about a variety of topics, including USDOT grants awarded to 13 states for WZDx Demonstration, a pilot in Arizona that sends work zone information to commercial trucks, and how General Motors has developed an autonomous vehicle platform, SuperCruise, that has mapped over 200,000 miles in the US and Canada.

Members then met for a member-only roundtable discussion to talk about their own WZDx experiences and how they share their work zone data. For more information on WZDx, you can sign up for the mailing list by emailing AVDX@dot.gov, joining a subgroup, or checking out the [WZDx GitHub](#).

- [Presentation with Audio](#)
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- [Q&A Summary](#)



Data

Traffic Data Marketplace (previously the Vehicle Probe Project Marketplace)

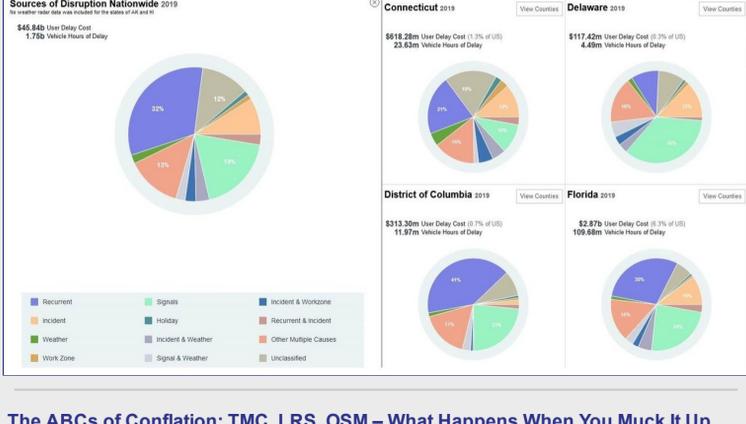
The final RFP was released on May 14, 2021, and includes six datasets: travel time, volume, conflation services, waypoint, origin-destination, and freight data. From August 2021 through November 2021, multiple evaluation meetings were held. The new contract is anticipated to start in July 2022.

For information on the evaluation efforts, please contact Denise Markow (dmarkow@tetcoalition.org).

Rebuilding the Causes of Congestion Pie Chart with Real-World Data Webinar (November 10, 2021)

Mark Franz of the University of Maryland CATT Lab showcased the updated Causes of Congestion Pie Chart, which now contains data from 2019. Sponsored by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Mark and his team developed methods to automate the process of identifying and quantifying seven causes of congestion: (1) Recurrent (2) Weather, (3) Work Zones, (4) Incidents, (5) Signals, (6) Holiday Travel, and (7) Reclassified as well as combinations of the above. Mark discussed the data needs, challenges, and results from the development of a data fusion methodology, and featured a live demonstration of the online tool.

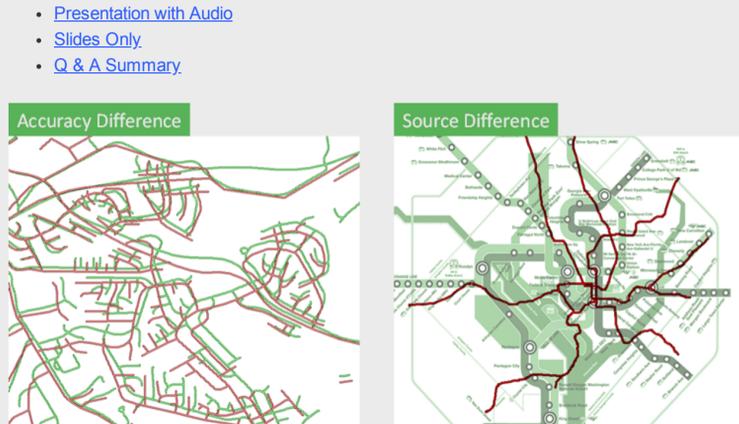
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The ABCs of Conflation: TMC, LRS, OSM – What Happens When You Muck It Up (August 19, 2021)

Four presentations were given by public and private sector organizations giving light to the current practices of map conflation from different perspectives. **Stan Young of The Eastern Transportation Coalition** gave an overview of current conflation issues, the case for standardization, and how agencies and the private sector may coordinate in the future for more consistent data sharing. **Steve Gault of PennDOT** showed how PennDOT conflated their own LRS with NPMRDS shapefiles to increase accuracy over default NPMRDS values for annual federal PM3 reporting. **Bill Welch of Ohio DOT** described Ohio DOT's internally-developed tools in Python to conflate the Ohio LRS with INRIX's XD base map to help coordinate operations within the agency. **Fred Hejazi of Citygate GIS** gave a detailed overview of the growth of GIS techniques over the last decade and some of the common pitfalls in off-the-shelf GIS solutions on base maps that have different levels of detail, granularity, and accuracy.

- [Presentation with Audio](#)
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Cross-Cutting Events

New Signal Technology, New Maintenance Needs (November 4, 2021)

Stan Young of the Eastern Transportation Coalition provided an overview of how agencies can create a common data format to enhance signal technologies. The webinar also featured three agency member presentations on their experiences and strategies for the maintenance and management of these technologies.

Michael Clements of Virginia DOT discussed VDOT's current and future signal maintenance processes. **Andrew Heath of Georgia DOT** presented how GDOT was able to scale up and transition from regional traffic operations to a central and remote traffic monitoring process. Finally, **Brett Sellers of Alabama DOT** showcased ALDOT's Regional Transportation Operations Program and the success of their Tuscaloosa pilot.

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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:
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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