



TIM News

for Regional Transportation
Operations

16th Annual Traffic Incident Management Partnering Workshop – May. 24, 2022



US Representative Debbie Dingell



Nearly 100 participants attended the Partnering Workshop for Traffic Incident Management held at the Michigan Union on the campus of the University of Michigan on May 24. The workshop was presented by the Center for Connected and Automated Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Beaubien Engineering in conjunction with the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan. Sponsors included Carrier & Gable, Econolite, HNTB, Integral Blue, Trafficalm, Opticom, and MDI Worldwide.

The program started with a welcome from US Representative Debbie Dingell and Gary Plotrowicz, Deputy Managing Director for the Road Commission for Oakland County and ITS Michigan President,

The Partnering Workshop is intended to convey information about how to clear traffic incidents quickly. It is also intended to develop relationships among first responders so there is an understanding about the roles of the various responders. It answers the question of who is in charge of what. These goals were achieved on May 24 in the ballroom of the Michigan Union.

Workshop attendees came from Washtenaw County, Macomb County, Oakland County, and the City of Detroit. Among the first responders appearing were those from Michigan State Police, Canton Township Fire Service, Canton Township Emergency Management, Detroit Emergency Management, Detroit Fire Service, and Detroit Traffic Operations. Road agencies represented included the Michigan Department of Transportation, Washtenaw County Road Commission, Macomb County Roads, and the Road Commission for Oakland County.



Tony Kratofil
(MDOT)



Tony Kratofil, chief operations officer, and chief engineer for the Michigan Department of Transportation, outlined the Department's new emphasis on Transportation Systems Management and Operations. It encompasses both intelligent transportation systems and traffic incident management. MDOT is using the safe systems approach—seeking safety through roadway design and operational changes. It fully integrates the needs of all road users. Artificial intelligence applications for roadway safety include jay walking violations, red light violation warnings, crashes and near misses. The installation of an active traffic management system of I-96 from Kent Lake Road to I-275 will include lane control signs, message boards, cameras and detection to allow part-time median shoulder use, queue warning, and variable speed advisories, and facilitate incident management. Arterial operational improvements will include signal performance measures and signal optimization.



Calvin Tuttle (CCAT),
Debby Bezzina (CCAT),
and Belinda Beard (ITS
Michigan)
welcome workshop
registrants and recognize
the workshop sponsors



Phil Wagner, retired former Fire Chief for Ypsilanti Township, outlined the variety of organization arrangements for local fire departments. Some firefights are paid full time employees and others are volunteers. The ambulance service that accompanies fire service responses may be contracted, so fire and ambulance service relationships can vary widely from one local jurisdiction to another. One of the greatest challenges facing a vast number of fire departments in the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel.

Dennis Richards, General Manager at the Michigan branch of Incident Clear, described the operation of the freeway courtesy patrol in Metro Detroit. In Metro Detroit the service vehicles are on the freeways 24/7 every day of the year. Their service gets disabled vehicles off the road quickly for the safety of the vehicle operators and the other travelers on the freeway.



Matt Smith from the Brighton Area Fire Authority and Kimley Horn chaired a panel discussion on special event traffic planning for Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor. The panel included City of Ann Arbor Fire Chief Mike Kennedy and Andy Burchfield from the UM Department of Public Safety. Football game traffic starts arriving 4 hours before the game, and MDOT dynamic message signs help direct the inbound traffic. The City of Ann Arbor, the State Police, the University, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff coordinate their efforts to move traffic to and from the game and respond to medical emergencies that may occur during a game. An event operations center helps to coordinate the bus transportation to and from the stadium.

Stan Richard, Associate Vice President at Integral Blue, showed how the Washtenaw County Road Commission and the Washtenaw County Sheriff share video images to improve the responsiveness of both public agencies. The video images help to improve traffic signal operations. Washtenaw County undertook a network modernization project for the county-wide Traffic/ITS network to reduce traffic congestion, increase stability of the network, improve cybersecurity, and provide a foundation for future growth. The project included a video management system and network redundancy. Central command is co-located with 911 dispatch.

Henry Liu, Director of the Center for Connected and Automated Transportation at MCity, described the Smart Infrastructure Project. The project will develop and infrastructure assisted cooperative driving automation testbed to accelerate CAV deployment. A network of smart intersections in Ann Arbor will install roadside perception sensors, generate and broadcast proxy basic safety messages or data sharing messages, validate message information to establish trust with CAVs, and deploy signal priority and green-wave speed advisory. The anticipated benefits to first responders are earlier notification of traffic crashes and traffic signal priority or preemption to arrive at the crash site earlier. This project demonstrates how a variety of vehicle sensing technologies can improve traffic signal operations and the safety of travelers.



Dawn Miller (MDOT)

Dawn Miller, Incident Operations Engineer with the Michigan Department of Transportation, provided a status report on Michigan's incident management training. Approximately half of the first responders in Michigan have received the training, and another training session was held in Ann Arbor immediately after the Partnering Workshop for 18 of the workshop attendees.