**MEETING MINUTES**

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS**

**COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Date: October 23, 2015

Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Held: Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center (SEMTOC), Detroit, Michigan

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Freeway Operations

Michigan Department of Transportation participated in the Federal Highway Administration Traffic Incident Management Self -Assessment Exercise along with other members of the Transportation Operations Planning Committee. In addition, MDOT sponsored a workshop on traffic control room operations September 1. The workshop featured a team from the Federal Highway Administration. These exercises have encouraged MDOT to further develop partnerships with other agencies in the region.

Freeway Courtesy Patrol guidelines are scheduled for an update. One of the Freeway Courtesy Patrol vehicles was recently hit. Other recent serious incidents included a tow driver being killed while changing a tire on the freeway and a construction worker being killed at I-94/Livernois. MDOT will be researching how to get more motorist awareness of the move over law. MDOT will be pursuing an active traffic management project on I-96 with a part-time use of a hard shoulder. Another advanced traffic management project is planned for I-75 with the possible use of a high occupancy vehicle lane. The new International Bridge is scheduled to open in 2020.

Detroit Auto Show

Carl Berry from the Detroit Auto show explained that he is developing a new traffic plan for the 2016 Detroit Auto Show, and he would like Coordinating Committee members to be involved in formulating this plan. Conditions for the 2016 Auto Show will be somewhat different from those at the 2015 show. The new traffic plan is expected to accommodate traffic circulation for 800,000 show attendees, including 100,000 to 125,000 on weekends. Downtown parking adjacent to Cobo Center is now more limited because of the greater employment population in the downtown area. A shuttle system that allows use of the parking at Ford Field may be part of the new traffic plan.

A second traffic plan will be needed to address the unique issues associated with the Charity Preview night at the show. The Charity Preview event is expected to attract 17,000 people. Atwater and Congress Streets may be closed to facilitate traffic movement. Shuttle bus service from the Port Authority and the UAW should help traffic circulation. Finding a location for cabs is a new problem. Press day is expected to draw 8000 people. The people mover system serving the area carries 40,000 people per day during the show.

Update on Regional Transportation Operations Goals and Objectives

Tom Bruff from SEMCOG reviewed the results of the Traffic Incident Management Self-Assessment Tool completed by the region in the summer of 2015. The areas where the Metro Detroit responders identified need for improvement were:

* TIM Training and After-Action Reviews
* TIM Performance Measures
* TIM Performance Targets
* Measurement of Secondary Crashes
* Data Collection on Secondary Crashes
* Performance Targets for Reducing Secondary Crashes
* Use of Performance Data to Improve Operations
* Outreach Activities to Educate the Public and Elected Officials
* Policies and Procedures for Incident Response and Clearance
* Procedures for Deploying Recovery Resources
* Policies for Towing and Recovery Operator Qualifications, Equipment, and Training
* Towing and Recovery Policies that Include Penalties for Non-Compliance of Response Criteria
* Procedures for Lighting Emergency Vehicles and Response Scenes
* Procedures for Traffic Signal Timing Changes to Support Traffic Management During Incident Response

One area we identified as needing improvement was agreement on roles and responsibilities. There are very few written agreements between agencies covering the respective roles. Our efforts at continuous dialog, after action reviews, and TIM training have helped to define the roles.

Another area for improvement was the implementation of the recently approved “hold harmless” law. Although an understanding of this law is catching on, more information on this law needs to be distributed. Other areas for potential improvement include vehicle and equipment placement, clearance of hazardous material spills, and medical examiner involvement.

Tom Bruff will lead the effort to develop action items to address the areas needing improvement identified by the TIM Self-Assessment activity. Federal officials will be in Detroit in early March of 2016 to evaluate the SEMCOG transportation planning process, and they may elect to attend the Traffic Incident Management Workshop scheduled for March 1 at Comerica Park.

City of Detroit Homeland Security Operations

City of Detroit Homeland Security Deputy Director Hilton Kincaid noted that the City of Detroit will be hosting the 2016 Traffic Incident Management Partnering Workshop on March 1 at the Comerica Park Tiger Club. The Club facilities will be available after the workshop until 5 pm for additional traffic incident management training. Detroit’s Emergency Management Plan envisions a roll out in phases. A recent FEMA review of Detroit’s operations complimented the City on bringing the different disciplines together to work as a team. Transit police are being brought under the supervision of the Homeland Security Department.

Statewide Traffic Incident Management Report

Angie Kremer from MDOT reported on statewide traffic incident management Training for Traffic Incident Management continues. There were 3 training sessions last year, and one more is scheduled in August. Over 2300 trainers have been trained so far. The goal for training 1500 by the end of 2015 has already been exceeded. MSP has supported the program, and over 90% of officers have been trained.

The Michigan experience is that 50% of the trainers go out and conduct the TIM training. This exceeds the national average of 20%. The updated TIM Action Plan has been posted on the website. A public safety announcement video has been prepared advising pedestrians to stay in the vehicle after an incident. An October launch is expected for this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYf3T60YvmY>,

IACP is preparing a video to assist traffic reporters who are reporting on traffic incidents.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the Southeast Michigan Regional Transportations Operations Coordinating Committee is scheduled for January 15, 2016 at the Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center. These minutes are intended to be a summary of those items discussed. Any corrections and/or comments should be noted to the writer as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

BEAUBIEN ENGINEERING.



Richard F. Beaubien, P.E., PTOE

Chair-Southeast Michigan Regional Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee

pc: All present