STRCC Meeting
Friday, March 16, 2007
NJDOT Foran Building

Participants: Bill Beans, Karen Yunk, Lisa Kaye, Al Tindall, Sarah Weissman, Pat Ott, Debbie Johnson, Bill Schiavi, Gary Poedubicky, Bob Parlow, Dana Ioseb, Tim Seplaki, Don Roberts,

1. The Turnpike and Garden State Parkway folks were invited to this meeting.
2. The Traffic Records Assessment comes in and analyzes the various systems for efficiency, data systems, what is missing, and what can be improved…once every 5 years. ← From that assessment, this committee puts together a strategic plan. A status report will also be prepared to determine where all the projects are, if they are complete, if they have not yet been started, etc.
3. BAC (Blood Alcohol Count = $25,000)
    a. Many agencies rely of BAC for statistics (DMV, FARS, State Police)
    b. The problem has been timeliness of the data
    c. The counties (9) are now paying private labs to conduct the BACs; 12 are using the state.
    d. There is no central system to catalog the results
    e. It may take weeks and months to obtain the data which halts agencies from using this data to properly 'punish' wrong-doers.
    f. The subcommittee is trying to link all 21 counties
    g. There is a problem with turf battles between each county's ME
    h. Q: Are all of these private labs accredited? How are they accredited?
    i. Debbie Johnson has a secure system already being tested that is secure on both ends that might work for the BAC Subcommittee. Debbie will coordinate with Bob Parlow from the State Police.
    j. The main problem is BAC related to deaths.
    k. We need to work with local police to ensure that they are obtaining the BAC reports and putting the pertinent information into their crash reports; BUT, the county prosecutors may want to hold back the entire report for reasons of wanting to possibly pursue criminal charges.
    l. This might be a good reason why we should have a representative from the prosecutors association to help us work through these issues. (John and Jessica from the association → they have been extended an invitation)
4. EMS Pilot Program
    a. The met on the 23rd down in Pennington.
    b. OEMS is the regulatory oversight for the state
    c. They have started to use EMSCharts to better their data collection system. They mandated that all paid EMS be 'gold' level. Don Roberts shared that volunteers are largely compliant with "gold" level data capturing.
    d. They are rolling this out to their volunteer squads.
    e. Tim is the administrator of the new system.
    f. The software has the ability to incorporate different data sets into a single database.
    g. They are going to survey the squads to determine the relative interest.
    h. DOH accounting is requesting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DHTS for the 408 grant package. Bill mentioned that DOT's accounting group said that going forward they would also like a MOU.
    i. Bill attended and gave a talk at the EMS safety Council quarterly meeting for the first time this week and received very positive feedback.

5. EMS Data Integration
    a. The team is working on warehousing the different data sets (EMS, Crash)
    b. We're at the point of approaching the various departments and asking them what data/reports they would like to see generated if they had these two types of data available to them?
    c. During the first week in April (3rd) the data integration team will be holding a meeting with the various stakeholders in order to discuss the matter of data/report generation.
    d. The intent is to add to the integrated warehouse system to eventually include many data systems into a single repository.
    e. The Turnpike and GSP are looking into data capturing crash data. BSP, will meet with the Turnpike, and GSP to discuss DOT crash database efforts and determine if the Turnpike and GSP can use that data. This will eliminate any duplicate efforts.
    f. We want to know what types of reports that other states are doing who already integrate their EMS and Crash data.* (We will be asking Karen Yunk)
6. Fatal Co-Location
    a. How is the status on bringing all the applicable groups under one roof? Monies have been located that will be used to provide fiber optic lines for NJDOT's survey office. This office will be re-located from Thiokol building 6&8 in order to make room for the agencies co-locating.
    b. The monies need to be transferred into another account and the contractor scheduled.
7. GPS
    a. Gary Zayas mentioned that the committee was unable to locate existing GPS units and their data. Bill Beans mentioned that Washington Twp, Gloucester County, was given a unit.   Bill explained that the unit will be in one police vehicle that may not respond to a call. This would explain the low number of reports submitted with Long/Lats from Washington Twp.
    b. There was discussion on the need to develop protocols and directions on how to distribute and use the units.
    c. DOT 'IT' office purchased a new unit and have had a staff member test the old and new units to determine if these new units are actually better. (Handouts where handed out). The new units were not necessarily more accurate but they used more satellites which can help in many situations.
    d. The new unit will also be tested for accuracy.
    e. The next step needs to be a pilot program?
    f. They need to work with DHTS on a procedure on tracking the units.
    g. They need to sort the municipalities from the top number of crashes to the least and choose the MCD who has the most and is willing to cooperate with the program.
    h. The concern is that no matter how good the units are, there will be accuracy issues in transcribing the data onto the NJTR-1.
8. VIN Validation
    a. There are programs available…but,
    b. 20-45 minutes to validate a single VIN using the program that FARS uses → Problem!
    c. Who wants this data? They couldn't find anyone who was interested in this data…
    d. They are moving in the direction of scanning the barcode to populate various fields like the VIN, license plate, registration information.
    e. Eventually, the crash data may be exported to MVC to validate the VIN before exporting back to the crash database, where their VIN validation becomes authoritative.
    f. For now, this project will be cancelled…

9. Electronic Data Transfer
   a. They are working on getting the local police crash records to DOT via Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) versus by mail.
   b. Three vendors have developed software and are testing their systems with DOT…2 others have requested information to begin developing their software.
   c. EDT will be using the secure lines of the State Police.
   d. Once the vendor is certified, they can go to any police department and hook them up to the system.
   e. DHTS surveyed NJ police departments: 300 capture some of the form (200 capture the whole form) out of 600…that was a few years ago (computerized).
   f. NJDOT/State Police are ready to accept electronic forms.
   g. The question was raised as to what are the incentives for PDs to go electronic?
   h. There was discussion about police having the ability in the field to swipe a person's driver's license and scan the VIN. It was stated that this is something that the vendors would have to design into their systems.
   i. We should recommend to the vendors what we want to see this ability in their software.
   j. E-ticket is in motion → eventually we may want to marry the E-Ticket system with the needs of EDT. AOC recommended waiting until we see how the E-ticket process goes.

10. FY08 grant funding package preparation.
    a. Due to the Feds by June 15; DHTS needs the package by the end of May
    b. They obligated about 400k for FY07 so far…
    c. Funding is on the federal cycle of October 1 to September 30: Any monies that have not been expended (actually spent) must be returned and justified for carry over into the following year.
    d. Any money not spent is considered un-obligated
    e. This carry-over does not penalize the next year's funds allocations
    f. We are allowed to create new projects to use the money available…
    g. **All Subcommittees owe a status report by mid May**
    h. **Any change in any system that shows improvement should be reported to Bill to help qualify for additional funding (in the last year).**
    i. *If you use numbers to show progress, you must tell NHTSA where you got the numbers from whether it's your own system, etc.*
11. What projects are we going to submit for next year's funding?
    a. Hit and Run program from State Police to MVC, other?
12. Bill will email everyone the slides and ask people to add any other projects that they can think of.
13. Al Tindall handed out the schedule for the TRCC coming up on the 26 – 30th of March. He would like everyone to send along the names of those that may be sent to this function.