

## **TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

December 14, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Online Meeting

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Chris Letnaunchyn, chair, opened the meeting.

#### **1. COMMENTS ON MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, MEETING**

There were no comments on the minutes.

#### **2. USING WAZE TO TRACK ROADWAY SEGMENTS**

SHA participates in the public-private program with Waze, formerly called Connected Citizens Program and renamed Waze for Cities. Mr. Jason Dicembre provided a demonstration of how SHA is using Waze capabilities in the Waze for Cities portal.

SHA can use Waze to track selected road segments. Mr. Dicembre showed that users can draw a polygon around a geographic area of interest and can create a watchlist of roadway segments of interest.

SHA is participating in a Federal Highway Administration project to use Waze data and compare the detection time between traffic management center data and Waze data to evaluate whether Waze could be a detection source for incidents. SHA found 10 to 15 incidents where Waze identified the incident 20 to 30 minutes before CHART over the three month study period.

If there is congestion, the Waze portal has a capability to show how traffic is being diverted by Waze around the backup.

The Waze portal shows actual travel speed, not speed constrained by speed limit.

SHA has access to the map editor tool, allowing them to add road closures and scheduled road closures as well as selecting links to track on a watchlist.

Currently, SOC supervisors and managers can close roads in Waze. There is some tension between public sector operating agencies interest in managing traffic and private sector firms like Waze that want to minimize road closures to maximize travel options. The partnership agreement between SHA and Waze says that if SHA adds too many road closures (in the map editor), this would result in removal from the partnership agreement.

MDTA also has an agreement with Waze; they have not yet been using Waze like SHA.

### **3. UPDATE: DEVELOPMENT OF A RESOURCE GUIDE: PLANNING, DESIGNING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

The contractor for this project has been selected, the team of ICF and Nspiregreen. An internal kickoff was held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Potential Steering Committee dates were discussed, the preferred date was January 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Steering Committee members will primarily be T&PW Committee members, with a few other people included to include all critical stakeholders. Attendees provided suggestions for members; Eileen Singleton will follow up with suggested members.

### **4. GROUP DISCUSSION**

Mr. Kris Singleton said that he is investigating wastewater testing for COVID. Ms. Kim Grove said that Baltimore City DPW has been contacted about doing wastewater testing. She noted some questions related to this type of testing: how to define where the impacted population is (mapping the wastewater system) and what type of people are in the building(s)/area being tested (quarantined people or people out and about, going to work). This approach could be used as advance notice for warning of increasing virus. It is critical to identify the useful place to collect the samples. Mr. Mark Harris said that the state Department of Education had been considering this type of testing at college campuses for small areas like dorms, but he was not sure if this testing was done.

Some jurisdictions have gone back to more distanced operations due to the increase in cases and all jurisdictions have continued precautions:

- Harford County went back to the operational plan from March with field staff doing shifts week on/week off.
- Anne Arundel County is back to full time telework for office staff, with no change from existing protocols for field staff.
- Carroll County has field staff report time staggered.
- Baltimore City DPW field staff have a health check-in protocol using an app; staff that can be teleworking.
- Baltimore County is continuing having field staff use PPE. Office staff need to have PPE on unless they are in their office alone. Staff are doing staggered schedules and staggered work weeks. CountyRide drivers wear PPE and they have experimented with drivers using shields and installing more permanent shields in CountyRide buses. All 12 Towson Circulator buses will have driver shields installed over the next several months.

There was a discussion about road salt use and need for agencies to develop salt management plans and training plans within three years. New guidance on total maximum daily load (TMDL) for chlorides/road salt is expected. The question about how to balance salt use with mobility needs/expectations continues, with the added question of how increased teleworking could change salt use. It was noted that road salt management and use is coming under increased scrutiny while the use of road salt is not decreasing much.

The committee has not had a chance to hold the follow-up discussion from the evacuation workshops due to the pandemic.

## **5. UPDATES ON RELATED WORK**

### **T&PW Projects**

- Evacuation Routes in RITIS: This project was completed in October.

### **Disaster Debris Planning Task Force**

- Task Force has had presentations from all five state debris contractors. If any T&PW Committee members would like notes from these meetings, let Ms. Eileen Singleton know.

### **UAWG and Emergency Management Committee**

- Mr. Letnaunchyn and Ms. Singleton briefed the UAWG on T&PW Committee activities at its November meeting.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Upcoming Events:** The only currently scheduled event is the Presidential Inauguration.

**2021 Meetings** – March 8, June 14, September 13, December 13

## **ATTENDEES**

### **Members**

Azzam Ahmad, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works  
Alex Baquie, Anne Arundel Co Dept. of Public Works  
Bethany Brown, Maryland Department of Human Services  
John Dulina, Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
Kimberly Grove, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works  
Mark Harris, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Glen Hebel, Harford Co Dept. of Public Works  
Bill Johnson, MDOT State Highway Administration, OOM  
Shelley Kellam, MDOT Maryland Transportation Authority  
Chris Letnaunchyn, Carroll Co Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Engr.  
Keith Link, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works  
Timothy Peck, MDOT State Highway Administration  
Michel Sheffer, MDOT State Highway Administration  
Kristofer Singleton, Howard Co Dept. of Public Works  
Sam Snead, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works  
Steve Walsh, Harford Co Dept. of Public Works

### **Staff and Guests**

Jason Dicembre, MDOT State Highway Administration  
Rick Dye, MDOT State Highway Administration  
Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council