

TRAFFIC SIGNAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 15, 2020
ONLINE

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bo Zhou welcomed everyone to the first Signal Subcommittee of FY 2021.

2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

Notes from the previous meeting on June 17, 2020 were approved without any modifications.

3. BALTIMORE CITY TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADES

The BRTB approved a Baltimore City request to amend the 2021-2024 TIP for its Citywide Traffic Signals, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Safety Improvements project. Baltimore City is requesting to shift \$4.5 million (\$3.6 million federal STBG/\$900,000 matching) in FY 2021 funds from the construction phase to the planning and engineering phases. These funds will be used for the traffic signal timing optimization project. FHWA requested this change prior to authorization of the project as the scope of work involves planning and engineering rather than construction.

Mr. Raj Sharma (BCDOT) provided an update on proposed improvements to the signal System over the next three years. The project will involve the optimization of signal timing at over 1,100 intersections throughout the city. Signal timing optimization will focus on the AM and PM peaks, mid-day, weekends, overnight, and special events such as Orioles and Ravens games. The project scope includes data collection, an inventory of assets, development of citywide simulation models to optimize signal timing, implementation of the optimized signal timing, performance monitoring and field observation, and staff training. A Notice to Proceed is anticipated in early 2021, with project completion at the end of 2023.

[PowerPoint: Baltimore City Traffic Signals]

4. COVID-19 INFLUENCES ON SIGNAL OPERATIONS

Mr. Ben Myrick (MDOT SHA) presented results of CATT lab trip data that their office has been analyzing for counties across the state to determine the impact of the ongoing pandemic. The following datasets were analyzed as part of this effort:

Statewide (pre vs. post COVID)

- Trips/person
- Miles/person
- Work trips/person
- Non-work trips/person

Statewide (2019 vs 2020)

- Number of trips
- Number of trips 50-100 Miles

Counties (weekday)

- Trips/person
- Work trips/person
- Miles/person

Data

- University of Maryland CATT Lab
- Cell phone

The presentation includes several charts that track these various parameters through the course of the past year starting with pre-pandemic figures through the statewide emergency and stay at home order through August 2020. The following are some broad conclusions from this preliminary analysis:

Work trips vs personal trips

- Personal trips have largely recovered
- Work trips are still down

Number of longer trips has increased

- Driving over flying
- Less travel to urban places

Impacts are greater in:

- More urban areas
- More white-collar/tech areas

[PowerPoint: COVID-19 Impact Analysis]

5. VENDOR SHOWCASE – TRAFFIC SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Roger Hale, VP Sales & Marketing, TS&T, presented their ThruGreen system that can connect traffic networks with traffic data and AI in real time, which allows end users to make better decisions. Several jurisdictions are looking into these applications for potential deployment.

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Bala Akundi provided information about two upcoming events that would be of interest to members. They are:

- ITSMD Annual Meeting, October 21, 2020
- FHWA Active Cycle Management Workshop – December 4,5, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Roger Hale, TST
Ben Myrick, MDOT SHA
Kevin Newton, Anne Arundel County
Robert Evans, Wallace Montgomery Associates
Jim Lampe, Control Technologies
Pete Jenior, Kittleson & Associates
Bo Zhou, Anne Arundel County
Robin Fish, Mead Hunt
Yeshitlaw Argaw, MDOT SHA
Subin George, Howard County
Raj Sharma, Baltimore City DOT
Hiwot Habtemariam, MDOT SHA
Eddie Bostic, Century Engineering
Kristen Haas, STV
Minseok Kim, MDOT SHA
Breck Jeffers, FHWA
Kris Nebre, Baltimore County
Dilip Patel, MDOT SHA
Anam Ardeshiri, Mead Hunt
Ziad Sabra, Mead Hunt
Bala Akundi, Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC)