



Western States

**Rural Transportation**

Consortium

[Western States Rural Transportation Consortium](#)

# **Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC)**

**Steering Committee Meeting  
June 18, 2013  
Meeting/Teleconference**

## **Meeting Minutes**

This document is the official record of the WSRTC Steering Committee meeting held June 18, 2013 via meeting/teleconference.

## **WSRTC Steering Committee Meeting**

**June 18, 2013**

**Meeting/Teleconference**

**Yreka, California**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Prepared by

David Veneziano, Leann Koon, and Doug Galarus  
Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

David Veneziano called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Pacific Time. Introductions were made by everyone at the meeting site in Yreka, California, and by those calling in. David reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the planned agenda.

*The meeting agenda, slide presentation, and minutes are posted on the Consortium website at: <http://www.westernstates.org/Documents/Default.html>.*

#### **Western States Forum**

Doug Galarus provided an overview of the upcoming Western States Forum. A total of nine speakers were scheduled covering a variety of topics. A preview of presentations was made available to those registered for the Forum.

Sean Campbell added that the Western States Forum had been selected as a winner of a Best of Rural ITS award in 2012.

#### **WSRTC Pooled Fund Discussions**

Doug Galarus, Sean Campbell and Ron Vessey led a discussion of the pooled fund status and updates.

Task Order 4 has now begun and has an end date of October 31, 2014.

Sean reminded the group that with the changes to the University Transportation Centers' (UTC) approach to funding, the Consortium and Task Orders will be key elements in keeping the Western States Forum going.

Leann Koon mentioned that the "Impact" page has been added to the WSRTC website to highlight how the results of Consortium research have been implemented and are benefitting WSRTC members.

The One Stop Shop Task Order has been extended through the end of September, 2014.

Funds for all outstanding Task Orders remain sufficient to complete the work as it was scoped.

Other Pooled Fund discussions included current funding commitments and status. California and Nevada have obligated their funds for 2014, while Oregon and Washington have committed their funds but have not obligated them to date.

Sean discussed a Multi-state Corridor Operations Management (MCOM) collaboration opportunity. The I-15 coalition has expressed interest in participating in the One Stop Shop project to meet their development needs for an information website. Their original MCOM proposal included funding to build their own OSS-type website, but they realized it doesn't make any sense to build something that has already been built. The Nevada DOT project manager is working with the I-15 coalition to see if a Task Order can be developed for WTI to add Arizona and Utah to the OSS website to cover the corridor.

The I-80 coalition has also contacted Sean on a Transportation Management Center (TMC) to TMC OSS website and asked about the existing OSS website. Their focus is more on operations than on traveler information.

Ed Lamkin indicated he was in favor of continuing discussions to add I-15 (and the I-80 coalition) states and corridors to OSS.

- One mechanism might be for the corridor state to set up a Task Order to cover the work via the WSRTC Pooled Fund.

Sean stressed that we're not trying to take over a state's traveler information website, we're just using the information they provide on their existing website to cover multi-state traveler information needs.

The group indicated they were in favor of pursuing further discussions with the I-15 and I-80 groups. OSS is poised well for developing a true One-Stop Shop for the Western States Region. WTI is preparing to add additional states.

Jon Dickinson said that Nevada has new feeds for Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), weather stations, etc. on their ftp site and will soon have these feeds on their TMDD (data warehouse). Doug Galarus asked if Jon could point WTI to these feeds (which Nevada did during the course of the Western States Forum). Doug Galarus will also discuss the RWIS feeds from Clarus with Ron Vessey. (Ron subsequently found the appropriate feeds and pointed WTI to these.)

OSS was nominated for an NRITS' Best of Rural ITS award for 2013. The group will be notified of the results when NRITS has made their selection.

Finally, it was confirmed that the 2014 Northwest Transportation Conference will be at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.

### **Incubator Project Updates**

David Veneziano provided the group with an update on the current Incubator Projects.

The review of western safety warning devices is moving forward. Contacts have been made with all states, although they have slowed given the summer construction season being in progress. Utah has been difficult to identify contacts for. Ian said that Jeremiah Pearce (Caltrans District 2) had a contact with someone in the Utah DOT. [David has since coordinated with Jeremiah and obtained this contact.]

Sean also had a prospective contact in Utah via Mike Jenkinson. Information for this contact has also been obtained.

A tentative date for the draft report is mid-August. The report will be sent out to the Steering Committee for review and comment at that time. The project has also been selected for presentation at the 2013 NRITS conference at the end of August.

A white paper was developed for the ICM Planning project which outlined the proposed process. Sean asked if the Donner Pass and Siskiyou Pass plans had been reviewed as part of the documentation effort. David indicated that they had been.

Nathaniel Price said that the USDOT held an ICM workshop in Oregon for the TRIP 97. David will follow-up with Galen and Nathaniel for information related to this workshop.

At this point, candidate corridors are needed to serve as a demonstration of this process. One prospective route cited was US 395 from Bishop, California to Carson City, Nevada. This would be a different route to examine and is impacted by construction activities.

Because the scope and budget of the incubator projects are limited, only one or two corridors can be used in the demonstration. The thought of the group was that David could send an email to the Steering Committee explaining what we're looking for in prospective corridors and solicit feedback and ideas on routes to examine. This email will be sent during the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>, and the Steering Committee will be given time to identify and consider routes to nominate. All recommended routes will be summarized and sent out to the group for a vote to select the candidate corridor(s) to use in the demonstration.

It was stressed that the intent of the demonstration is to develop something that we can point to as a success.

Ian asked about the end date of the project. The target date for the draft report for review and comment is mid to late September.

### **Current Projects**

Doug Galarus discussed completed, current and upcoming research projects of interest to the group. These included Automated Safety Warning Controller, Professional Capacity Building (PCB) for Communications, OSS Phase 2, WeatherShare Phase 3, Integration of Aviation AWOS with RWIS Phase 2, and WeatherShare Integration with Caltrans QuickMap.

### **Roundtable Discussion of Projects**

Doug Spencer – Oregon Department of Transportation

- The US 395 Overlength Truck Detection system is now active.
- A Variable Speed Limit (VSL) and congestion management system based on weather conditions is under development for use in two ODOT regions.
- Multnomah Falls parking lot management system is being built. This system is automating the process of closing the parking area entrance when the lot is full. A parking management system is being used to activate the gate closures. A question was posed on how occupancy in the lot is

being monitored. An in and out counter will be used by the system. The system will not look at parking types (vehicles). It will close the gates to the parking area when 90 percent occupancy is reached.

- The system is currently under construction and will be active in 2 to 3 months.
- Video management software that is all IP based is being implemented statewide.
- DMS software in the Traffic Operations Centers is being upgraded.

Sean Campbell – Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information

- The COATS Phase 5 no cost time extension is in progress. The new end date would be September, 2014 if approved.
- COATS Phase 6 is approved for a start date of January, 2014.
- QuickMap is adding STAA routes to better serve the trucking industry.
- Geographic Information Systems just implemented a public-facing Linear Referencing System that can provide latitude-longitude if given a county, route and postmile. The same can be done in reverse.
- CCTV is being provided for third party use.

Ian Turnbull - Caltrans District 2

- IRIS Project – The deployment of IRIS (Intelligent Roadway Information System) ATMS in the Redding Rural TMC has been completed. Software development issues were resolved. The TMC operator acceptance of the system has been good.
- CCTV Information Relay - A system to more fully modularize, automate, error check and provide system availability statistics has been developed and deployed in D2. The system gives us much tighter control of timing and other critical aspects of field element image collection. It also automatically evaluates the retrieved images and determines their integrity, taking appropriate action if a bad image is received. In addition, it provides a detailed "dashboard" that allows real-time monitoring of measured availability, both system wide or site by site, as well as other useful performance statistics.
- Microwave Backbone - Our microwave communication system backbone between the Redding TMC, Bass Mountain and Sugarloaf above the I-5 Sacramento River Canyon has been upgraded. It now consists of licensed 11 GHz radios with a 150Mbps transport payload. This significantly expands our ability to gather higher bandwidth video feeds from this critical segment of I-5.
- Roadside ITS Element Deployment – Still working through the construction and deployment of 35 new ITS field elements and 15 major element upgrades throughout our district. For CCTV alone this effort will add 15 new sites to our network. Completion and turn-up will likely continue through summer 2014.
- Redding Responder Research Project – Phase III of the project is beginning. It will take the systems and technology developed in the prior two phases and migrate the user interface to a Smartphone and tablet. This phase will also move towards using a more reliable satellite service for better back country coverage. Two prototypes will be produced: a truck mounted system and a "suitcase" version.

Jon Dickinson – Nevada Department of Transportation

- Variable speed limit systems tied to a wind warning system are being implemented. These will be regulatory speed limits.

- Wind warning systems with portable signs are being progressed to more permanent installations.
- Fiber along I-80 is being upgraded.
- The TMDD (data warehouse) will be combining data from all Districts in one location.
- The Carlin tunnels are getting new LED lights and cameras.

Ron Vessey and Tony Leingang – Washington State Department of Transportation

- There is a proposal to evaluate traffic data collection technologies on test corridors, including Snoqualmie Pass.
- I-5 between Olympia and Tacoma is being instrumented with ramp meters, a fiber backbone, cameras, etc. Detection will be done via Wavetronix sensors to avoid having loops in the ground.
- LED lighting is being tested, with lights being dimmed at night via control from the TMC.

John Carson – Caltrans District 1

- Existing equipment is being maintained. The district is trying to add funds into contracts to handle future maintenance.

Erin Harrington – Federal Highway Administration

- Erin thanked the group for inviting her to participate and said she looks forward to working with the WSRTC and rural projects in the future.

### **Other Discussions**

The 2013 NRITS Conference will be held August 25 – 28 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Those from the Consortium interested in attending should coordinate with Leann regarding travel, etc.

### **Next Meeting**

The next WSRTC Steering Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2013, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, following NRITS. An exact time will be set closer to the meeting date and will depend on attendees travel arrangements. At this time, the start is anticipated to be 12:30 or 1:00 P.M. Central Time (12:00 P.M Mountain and 11:00 A.M. Pacific).

### **Action Items**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
1. TRIP 97 follow-up with Galen and Nathaniel.	As soon as possible
2. Email to Steering Committee for candidate corridors for ICM planning demonstration.	Week of June 24 <sup>th</sup>
3. Secure room at NRITS for next Consortium meeting.	As soon as possible

### Meeting Participants

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