



To: Members of the Delaware Valley HOGs
Jude Depko – New Jersey Turnpike Authority - Parkway Division
Capt. Henry de Vries – New York State Police
Marygrace Parker – I-95 Corridor Coalition

From: Jim Hogan – New Jersey Department of Transportation

Date: March 16, 2004

Subject: Minutes of Delaware Valley HOGs Meeting of
February 5, 2004

The following are the minutes of Delaware Valley HOGs meeting held February 5, 2004 in NJ DOT's offices in Cherry Hill, NJ The meeting was chaired by Jim Hogan of NJ DOT.

If you have any questions, please contact Bernie Wagenblast via e-mail at i95berniew@aol.com.

Attendance:

Name	Organization
Manny Anastasiadis	PennDOT
Jude Depko	NJ Turnpike Authority – Parkway Division
Frank DiJospheh	PennDOT
Bob Glantzberg	TRANSCOM
Keith Hartington	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Jim Hogan	NJ DOT
Lt. Brian Kelly	Delaware River Port Authority Police
David Macinnes	NJ DOT
Marygrace Parker	I-95 Corridor Coalition
Stan Platt	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Sgt. Anthony Sivo	Pennsylvania State Police
Mark J. Smith	NJ DOT
Bernie Wagenblast	Northeast Consultants
Karl Ziemer	Delaware River Port Authority

1. Agency Updates

NJDOT – Jim Hogan reported the Cherry Hill TOC is now 24/7. The patrol area for the service patrols will be doubled this spring and will operate seven days a week. In two weeks NJDOT's Central Dispatch Unit will be moving to its new home in Hamilton. They'll be co-housed with NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the State Police.

Delaware River Port Authority – Karl Ziemer said E-ZPass has been revamped at the DRPA facilities with most discounts eliminated. They are in the process of creating a baseline system for the new TOC being planned. An RFP is expected to be issued soon. Ideas for Year 12 projects from the Potomac HOGs were passed out.

I-95 Corridor Coalition – Marygrace Parker said the Coalition Growth and Change report is out. The report looks at how the Coalition is changing due to geographic growth of the corridor. All members were asked to share their thoughts for the report. She also stressed the need to

establish a calendar a year ahead for all track meetings to avoid conflicts and facilitate travel approval.

Pennsylvania DOT – Manny Anastasiadis noted the District 6-0 TOC is adding five new cameras to the Routes 202/402/76 interchange. PennDOT's expressway service patrol recently reached 25,000 assists. He also noted that PennDOT traffic cameras were recently used to arrest kids who were throwing snowballs at traffic from an overpass.

TRANSCOM - Trips123 will have a soft launch in March to test the system and an official launch will follow in the spring.

NJ Turnpike – Parkway Division – Jude Depko provided an update on the consolidation of the NJ Turnpike Authority and the NJ Highway Authority which took place last year. They are changing their towing policy and rather than having only one authorized tower for a particular stretch of highway they will have multiple contractors per zone and use a rotation system to assign responders. The Garden State Parkway will again handle dispatch of towing along their roadway. Preliminary plans are being developed to build a joint operations center for the Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. Property near the junction of the highways in Woodbridge is being scouted as a potential location.

Express E-ZPass lanes were opened in January at the Pascack Valley plaza on the northern end of the Parkway and at Interchange 18W on the Turnpike. Vehicles with E-ZPass can pass through the lanes at highway speed. Express lanes are planned for the Toms River, Asbury Park and Raritan toll plazas in May 2005.

In track business, Jude said Lt. Joe Wolff of the New York City Police Department is the new co-chair for the New York Metro HOGs and Paul Jodoin of MassHighway is the new co-chair for the New England HOGs. He also noted the Information Exchange Network is being upgraded to a Web-based system. Jim Hogan said the IEN should be integrated with current systems agencies are deploying so multiple entries are not needed.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission – Stan Platt said an information exchange network may be developed in the Delaware Valley. An RFQ was issued and there were ten responses. They want the system to be compatible with the Coalition's IEN so multiple entries will not be needed.

The DVRPC is working with Montgomery County, Pennsylvania to get live feeds from PennDOT's traffic cameras. They also plan feeds to Chester County. If these are successful they will add other counties. The system will allow the counties to control the cameras when PennDOT's TOC is closed.

Delaware River Port Authority Police – Lt. Brian Kelly said police officers have been stationed at toll plazas to cut down toll evaders. Toll cheats are now charged with theft of service and subject to a minimum \$250 fine. Gates at the toll plazas will not open if a vehicle doesn't have a working toll tag. DRPA police and maintenance have switched to an 800 MHz radio system. This allows interconnection with NJ State Police and Philadelphia Police.

An incident management task force has been setup for the interchange of Routes 295/76 and 42. Brian is serving as co-chair of the group with the chair coming from the Camden County Communications Center. Two meetings have been held with fire departments which respond to incidents at the interchange. Four subcommittees have been formed. The group would like police, fire, EMS and towers to develop training on how coordination can take place among the agencies and how incidents can be cleared as quickly as possible. Karl Ziemer suggested that the coroner's office also be involved in the task force. Two meetings are scheduled with fire departments for April 6. The meeting will allow agencies on the task force to explain their roles and responsibilities. The fire services have volunteered to be actively involved in the task force.

2. Coalition Update

There was discussion about how the HOGs might be changed with the addition of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina to the Coalition. Possibilities include combining or adding regions. Increased participation needs to be looked at with the regions.

As a result of the Growth and Change Task Force report, the Coalition has done an assessment of staffing needs and will establish an additional staff position. The Incident Management activities will be separated from CVO and Freight to better support these areas. A notice advertising the Operations Management position is expected to go out within the next month. Marygrace's role will transition to focus on the Freight and CVO issues once the new staff person has transitioned.

3. Year 12 Projects

Some rough ideas were discussed.

The group discussed whether there should be a project to reach out to other groups involved in incident management within the corridor. This would include police chiefs, county engineers, fire chiefs and county and statewide emergency communications groups. It was stated that outreach material is needed to tell these types of groups about meetings. It was noted that fire and EMS operate in a much different way than transportation and law enforcement in that many of the areas have volunteer staff or agency staff have many more limitations on attending meetings. There was discussion that the outreach to these groups is more likely to happen at the MPO regional or statewide level more so than at a multi-state level and the focus might be to work at these levels and try to cultivate a handful of leaders who could convene at the regional HOGs level.

It was suggested that one Year 12 project to consider could be an update of the regional alternate route plans developed several years ago for the Delaware Valley. Among material that should be updated are contacts and VMS messages.

The group discussed developing a project on best practices in use of mile markers and ramp designation signs including which types provide the best driver recognition/understanding. This issue has importance to incident notification (particularly will cell phone reports) and incident response.

The group was provided information on the simulation project idea for Year 12 and expressed interest in supporting it in the work plan.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place April 1 at 10 a.m. at the new Hamilton Communications facility in Mercer County. This meeting will be held jointly with the New York Metro HOGs. The June 3 meeting will be hosted by PennDOT.