



I-95 CORRIDOR
COALITION

MINUTES

Electronic Payment Services (EPS) Program Track Committee Meeting

November 17, 1998

1) Self-Introductions

Dennis Keck led the group in self-introductions (attendance list is attached)

2) Chairperson Selection – Dennis Keck

Dennis Keck had solicited nominations and announced that David Moretti had agreed to serve as chairman.

Dave was unanimously elected and began serving as interim (pending approval by the Steering Committee) chair. He conducted the rest of this meeting.

3) DSRC/Blue Ribbon Panel Update – Lawrence Yermack

DSRC

The status of the 3 the approval of the three levels is:

- ASTM 7-Level 1 will be in rebaloting after some changes have been made
- ASTM 7-Level 2 is in balloting now
- IEEE-Level 3 will be in balloting shortly

There are some problems:

- There are no new major deployments to deploy this standard, so there is no market to drive the manufacturers to produce a new tag
- There is still a CVO problem. While the standard defines both active and backscatter technologies it cannot operate on the open road. The tag cannot be read quickly enough to ascertain if the tag is active or backscatter and process the transaction.. Therefore, this cannot be used for such functions as CVO pre clearance.

The process is still going forward but it may not produce a useful product.

Blue Ribbon Panel

To address this and other issues ITS America established a Blue Ribbon Panel chaired by Larry with Hal Worrell as vice chair. Membership is made up of high-level decision-makers from USDOT, the tag manufacturers, toll authorities and system integrators.

There are 4 issues to be addressed:

- Can there be a hybrid that allows interoperability for the IAG tag, the Hughes CVO tag and the Title 21 tag?
- Implementing national interoperability for CVO
- Implementing a national (or at the most 2 or 3 regional) clearinghouses
- Deciding on the tag data format

Larry was asked to attend the next Committee Meeting to give the Committee an update on the next Panel meeting.

4) Year 6 Projects – Al Karoly

EPS Framework

Since several people were not familiar with the final description of the project Al and Dave Moretti described the project. *A copy of the final project proposal is attached to these minutes.*

Dennis Keck announced that \$250,000 has been approved for year 1 of this project. Al informed the Committee that the next step is to submit a Scope of Services to John Baniak. In order to write this Scope of Services Al asked the Committee to more narrowly define the project and outline the tasks that it wishes to accomplish.

The Committee felt that the project should be limited to toll collection, transit, CVO and parking. It also felt that the focus should be on the financial end as opposed to the actual payment media or vehicle.

The Committee proposed the following tasks:

- Conduct an inventory of the electronic payment services being offered or proposed within the Corridor
- Survey the national efforts
- Conduct market research; find out what the customers want and need
- Develop a regional vision
- Analyze and evaluate the information that has been collected and develop the next steps to be taken
- Develop and propose a “Corridor-wide” financial, back office operation
- Develop market packages across the Corridor

There is concern that \$250,000 will not be enough to accomplish all of these tasks. Al reminded the Committee that if more money is needed they can always apply for some of the unallocated funds of the Coalition or apply to continue the project in the year 7 budget. Dennis cautioned that the mere collection of information does not constitute a valuable project. This information has to be analyzed with conclusions drawn and next steps proposed.

Action Item: *Al Karoly will take the lead on writing the Scope of Services for this project.*

ETC Violation Processing

Al explained that the violation enforcement project, which we referred to the Project management Committee, has now been returned to us. The Project Management Committee asked that the EPS Program Track address this problem with existing staff.

Rena Barta explained the nature of the problem:

When a vehicle goes through an ETC lane on a toll plaza without a tag, they are a toll violator. The toll authorities get a video image of the vehicle's license plate and then request a "look up" from the appropriate DMV, in order to identify the violator. Some DMVs are charging very high rates for this service while others are not even willing to help the toll authorities. Rena, on behalf of the IAG was asking the Corridor's help in trying to get the DMVs to be more cooperative.

Two potential solutions were presented:

- The CVO Program Track has a high representation of DMVs. Coalition staff has developed a good relationship with these agencies and would be willing to address this problem with them. Yet, this may only be a short-term solution. As more toll agencies deploy ETC cooperation from more DMVs will be required – some of these will be beyond the Coalition's borders.
- A more long-term solution is using the AAMVA (the national association of DMVs). Al has had discussions with AAMVA who has expressed some interest in pursuing a solution where they can act as a central clearinghouse for DMV requests. They already have a national database (although whether it contains all of the necessary information is unknown).

The Committee agreed to pursue both approaches but they felt that they needed a document that they can present to the DMVs that will explain the problem.

Action Item: *Rena Barta will write a white paper that explains the nature of this problem.*

5) Year 7 Project Proposals – Dave Moretti

Project proposals for Year 7 funding are due to John Baniak by 12/15. Dave asked for possible proposals. Two proposals were agreed upon:

- The Committee realized that the Year 6 EPS Framework project would have to be continued into year 7. Yet, an exact proposal cannot be put together until the scope and schedule is developed so that it can be determined what will be done in each year.
- Larry Yermack stated that the Coalition is in a perfect position to act as a test bed for resolving 3 out of the 4 issues of the Blue Ribbon Panel. Since all of the toll agencies within the Corridor (with the exclusion of Maine) have compatible ETC technologies and since that technology is compatible with the Hughes transponder used for preclearance in Advantage 75 a test on regional interoperability can be performed. As stated above this test would be able to address interoperability with CVO functions, the creation of a regional clearinghouse and the issue of the tag format would already be decided but what is already deployed.

The Committee enthusiastically adopted this proposal. They felt that this proposal:

- Helps to advance the Federal effort of adoption of a national standard
- Helps to promote commerce within the Corridor
- Encompasses several of the member states and authorities
- Also involves the CVO Program Track

***Action Item:** Phil Leshinsky should prepare the Project Proposal Form for the second item.*

6) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be during TRB in Washington. The exact time and place will be determined.

Another meeting during the ITS America EPS Workshop is also possible.

ATTACHMENTS:

Agenda

Attendance List

Announcement of the ITS America EPS Workshop

October 30 Memo from John Baniak on Year 7 Work Plan Development

November 2 Memo from John Baniak on Year 6 Implementation

November 3 Memo from John Baniak on Project Ideas