



Intermodal Passenger Travel Information System

Phase 2A – Market Assessment and Operating Framework And Phase 2B – Operating Prototypes and Business Model

Project Status Report (January 1 – February 28, 2003)

Summary of work progress during January and February:

- Added representatives from FTA, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), SEPTA, and WMATA to the Project Review Team
- Continued work on Phase 2A Draft Report (report completion expected in March)
- Held quarterly meeting of Project Review Team on January 17, 2003
 - Attendees included Amtrak, Greyhound, Peter Pan Bus, TRANSCOM, APTA, NJT, SEPTA, WMATA, FTA, FHWA, Volpe Center, and Mitretek
 - Reviewed findings and recommendations of Phase 2A
 - Discussed related work by FTA and Volpe Center
 - Discussed work/task ideas for completing Phase 2B and initiating Phase 3
- Continued consultant support and coordination for Stage 1 Pilot Program linking Greyhound web site to transit trip itinerary web sites (scheduled completion is extended to a later date to be determined in coordination with Greyhound)
 - WMATA and MdTA sent logo and URL information to Greyhound
 - NJT and Greyhound continued monitoring usage
- Provided technical support to FTA and Mitretek as requested regarding TCIP and XML schema
 - Reviewed TCIP database and documentation
 - Assessed transit agency Web sites with trip itinerary planning per FTA/Mitretek request and developed a matrix showing TCIP data element names, definitions, valid value lists and TCIP messages to similar fields in the on-line agency transit itinerary systems
- Began work on developing a standard banner or transition page
- Set April date and location for next meeting of Project Review Team (April 30th in Jersey City, NJ at TRANSCOM)
- Prepared detailed scope of work and costs for completing Phase 2B and initiating Phase 3; reviewed drafts with Coalition staff, project chair, and representatives of Project Review Team and incorporated comments
- Began initial research task on non-metropolitan / rural access module
- Coordinated development of project ideas for Year 11

Project Status Report - continued
(As of February 28, 2003)

Phase 2A Activity	% Complete	Target Completion Date
Conduct Phase 2A Work Tasks:		
1. Conduct Initial Coordination Activities – including review of “Traveler Information” page in Coalition web site	100%	July 31, 2002
2. Assess Interest and Resources of Private Sector Market	100%	Aug. 31, 2002
3. Assess Customer Market	100%	Aug. 31, 2002
4. Identify Operating Framework and Potential Roles – project review team instructed consultants to accelerate this task and conduct prior to completing Tasks 1-3	100%	June 20, 2002
5. Determine Next Steps and Phase 2B Work Plan	90%	Oct. 31, 2002
Finalize outline of Phase 2A Report	100%	Aug. 31, 2002
Prepare draft annotative outline of Phase 2A Report	100%	Sept., 2002 (completed Oct. 16, 2002)
Submit annotative outline to Project Review Team for review and approval	100%	Oct. 2002
Complete draft of Phase 2A Report and submit to Project Review Team for comments	85%	March 14, 2003
Finalize Phase 2A Report	0%	March 31, 2003

Project Status Report - continued
(As of February 28, 2003)

Phase 2B Activity	% Complete	Target Completion Date
Conduct Phase 2B Work Tasks:		
1. Support Stage 1 Web Link Pilot Program and Document Lessons Learned	50%	TBD
2. Develop and Implement Standard Banner or Transition Page	15%	May 31, 2003
3. Refine Concept of Operations and Develop Functional Requirements for Three Key Elements: 1) long leg intercity operator to transit agency; 2) major transit agency to major transit agency; and 3) "fill in the gaps" for areas outside major metro areas	0%	Aug. 31, 2003
4. Develop Module for Use by Areas Outside Major Metropolitan Areas	0%	Aug. 31, 2003
5. Provide Technical Support to Member Agencies Wanting to Respond to Potential FTA RFP	0%	TBD
6. Continue Project Outreach and Coordination	0%	Aug. 31, 2003
Receive budget approval and notice to proceed for Stage 1	100%	July, 2002
Assist with Stage 1 pilot program	50%	Aug. 2002 – Completion date TBD
Meet with NJTransit, SEPTA, MdMTA, and WMATA to discuss project and solicit participation in Stage 1	100%	July – Dec. 2002
Coordinate with FTA and APTA regarding TCIP	50%	Aug. 31, 2003
Document and discuss lessons learned from Stage 1 (see notes below)	0%	TBD

Notes: Products from Stage 1 will include a report that summarizes the results, reviews the technical and institutional issues from perspectives of all participants (public agencies and transit officials; marketing and IT representatives), and recommends where we go from here. Continue efforts to broaden project participation to other agencies/organizations.

COMMENTS / MILESTONES

General:

- John Conlow of Amtrak agreed to serve as project chair for Phase 2.
- Project Review Team and Coalition approved the scope of work and schedule for Phase 2.
- Project Review Team met on December 12, 2001, April 3, May 13, June 19, and Oct. 25, 2002; meeting minutes and presentations are available on Coalition web site.
- Project Review Team held conference calls to review work progress on January 23, February 21, March 14, and April 24, 2002.
- Project chair John Conlow and Passenger Subcommittee Chair, John Bennett of Amtrak, reported on project progress and plans to the IMPTC at committee meetings in May, August, and October. Passenger Subcommittee accepted recommendations to proceed.

Phase 2A Status Summary:

- Project Review Team accelerated the project schedule and requested consultants to proceed with Task 4 before completing Tasks 1-3.
- Project Review Team reached agreement of the operating framework, initial role of Coalition, and plans for Stage 1.
- Project Review Team recommended that the Coalition sponsor and coordinate Stage 1 Web Link Pilot Program and instructed consultants to proceed quickly with Stage 1 as the first priority and to complete Phase 2A tasks and report as the second priority.
- Consultants developed work plan and schedule for Stage 1. Coalition staff, the Project Review Team, and the Intermodal Passenger Subcommittee approved.
- Consultants completed Tasks 1-4 of scope of work and prepared annotative outline of Phase 2A report.
- Project Review Team discussed and approved annotative outline with minor modifications on Oct. 25, 2002.
- Consultants worked on draft report for Phase 2A in accordance with directions and comments from Project Review Team. Draft report will be forwarded to Project Review Team in March.
- Consultants and Al Karoly met with the Coalition's web site administrator, University of Maryland, to discuss suggestions for improving the "Traveler Information" page. University of Maryland will design modifications for Coalition staff approval.

Phase 2B Status Summary:

- Project Review Team decided to conduct Stage 1 Web Link Pilot Program in May 2002 and Greyhound agreed to participate in Stage 1.
 - ⇒ Stage 1 involves a direct web link from the trip itinerary portion of Greyhound site to the trip itinerary planning page of transit providers in the Coalition Region: NJ Transit, SEPTA, WMATA, and MdTA
 - ⇒ The initial phase will provide “simple links” to trip itinerary planning pages:
 - It will not actively communicate information between sites
 - It will not set standards for data exchange, communications, and user interface (look and feel).
- Project Review Team instructed consultants to arrange and conduct meetings with NJT, SEPTA, MdMTA, WMATA, and FTA to discuss project and Stage 1.
- Project team representatives met with NJT’s IT and marketing managers in July 2002; NJT is on-board with project and forwarded URL and logo information to Greyhound.
- Project consultants reviewed the FTA/FHWA report *Trip Planning State of the Practice* (Draft April 2002) and Maryland MTA’s draft white paper on concept of a regional trip planner for the DC/Baltimore region.
- Greyhound launched the link to NJT’s page in early October.
- Greyhound and NJ Transit agreed to track use for several months and forward information to project consultants.
- Amtrak declined to participate in Stage 1:
 - ⇒ Amtrak supports concept, but is fully committed to other projects in FY 02 and FY 03, including enhancements to on-line booking capabilities.
 - ⇒ Suggestions offered by Amtrak:
 - Need for common standards on “look and feel” of linked interface
 - Need services of a technical consultant with industry experience in linking web sites.
- John Conlow and project team representatives met with SEPTA in October and WMATA and Maryland MTA in November to present and discuss information on the project and to solicit the agencies’ participation in Stage 1. The three transit agencies agreed to join the project team, participate in Stage 1, and send their URL and logo info to Greyhound.
- SEPTA forwarded URL and logo information to Greyhound. Greyhound is working on setting up the link to SEPTA’s page. Links to WMATA and MdMTA are anticipated next.
- WMATA recommended consideration of developing a banner or project icon that would provide a standard transition across Stage 1 web links.

Project consultants held initial discussions with WMATA and MdMTA to explore idea.

- Project team representatives contacted FTA, and Brian Cronin accepted invitation to join the project team.
- Project Team began coordination efforts with FTA to support development of standards and tools. Project representatives attended meeting of FTA, WMATA, and Mitretek in December to discuss interest in multimodal trip itinerary planning and the development of an XML schema for exchanging information between itinerary planning systems.
- Project consultants are providing assistance to Mitretek to facilitate development of an XML schema and coordination between projects.
- NJT and Greyhound continued monitoring the use of the Stage 1 link.
- Project Team instructed consultants to proceed with developing a mock-up of a common banner or transition page.
- WMATA and MdTA sent logo and URL information to Greyhound with approval to establish direct link to trip itinerary Web page.
- Project consultants submitted draft scope of work and costs for completing Phase 2B and initiating Phase 3. Members of Project Review Team and Coalition staff reviewed draft and provided comments. Consultants are finalizing detail scope and budget for approval.
- Project Review Team and Coalition staff agreed to include a non-metropolitan component (a.k.a. rural access module).

Subsequent Tasks for Phase 2B:

- Project team will continue to coordinate with intercity operators and public transportation agencies and encourage linking of systems.
- Project team will continue to coordinate with FTA.
- Project team will continue to coordinate with Coalition's ATIS Committee and 511 activities.
- Subsequent tasks will focus on developing standards and tools for intermodal trip itinerary planning systems in coordination with FTA:
 - ⇒ Data definitions and coding requirements (e.g., station and terminal codes)
 - ⇒ Standards for communicating / passing information between web sites
 - ⇒ Standards for "look and feel" of the user interface, including a standard transition or banner for the link
 - ⇒ Digital mapping standards for display of transit routes
- Subsequent tasks will include consideration of an airport component.