



**VPP Suite User Group Webcast**  
**July 15, 2015**

**Participants:**

<b>VPPII Webcast Attendees:</b>	
Ed Stylc, Victor Henry	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Jesse Buerk, Zoe Neaderland	DVRPC
Andrew Meese	MWCOG/NCRTPB
Sudhir Joshi, Ira Levinton, Simon Nwachukwu, Jim Hadden	New Jersey DOT
Sutapa Bhattacharjee, Solomon Caviness, Keith Miller	North Jersey TPA
Kelly Wells, Brad Robinson, Eric Thomas, Mike Bruff	North Carolina DOT
Scott Benedict, Mark Kopko, Mike Crowley, Bob Davis (Pennoni), Ted Lucas (KMJ)	Pennsylvania DOT
Tiffany Dubinsky, Greta Ryan	Richmond Regional MPO
Dan Herstine (Jacobs), Deanna Peabody (TranInfo)	Rhode Island DOT
Dipak Patel, Paul Thebo	South Carolina DOT
William Schiavi, Andrew Tracy	South Jersey TPO
Sanhita Lahiri, Mena Lockwood, Paul Szatkowski, Ram Venkatanarayana	Virginia DOT
Stan Young	NREL
George Schoener, Marygrace Parker	I-95 Corridor Coalition
Michael Pack, John Allen, Masoud Hamedi	UMD CATT Lab & UMD CATT
Karen Jehanian, Joanna Reagle	KMJ Consulting (Coalition Support)

**Agenda:**

<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
1	Introductions Welcome	George Schoener, I-95 Corridor Coalition
2	Purpose of this Meeting	Jesse Buerk (DVRPC) & Kelly Wells (NCDOT), VPP Suite User Group co-chairs
3	VPP Suite Features – New & Upcoming	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
4	Use of the VPP Suite by User Group members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DVRPC – I-95 Reconstruction through Philadelphia</li> <li>• NCDOT - Using VPP Suite Massive RDD for TTs</li> </ul>	Jesse Buerk (DVRPC) & Brad Robinson (NCDOT)
5	User Group Forum on Coalition website User Focus Group	John Allen, UMD CATT Lab
6	Agency Input Session to learn about what is working & what needs some attention	All
7	VPP Suite Funding Status	Michael Pack, UMD CATT Lab
8	Next Steps and Meeting Wrap Up	George Schoener, I-95 Corridor Coalition



## VPP Suite User Group Webcast July 15, 2015

### Next Meeting:

The next VPP II Agency Project Team webcast is scheduled for **September 22, 2015 (from 10:30am – noon)**.

### Important Notes:

- The VPP Suite User Group Forum should be available for use on the Coalition website within the next couple of weeks.
- Slides will be available following the webcast on the Coalition website.
- For all of the issues/requests – John will respond to all not just the person raising the issue.
- VPP Suite Funding – Michael noted that most all of the agencies using the VPP Suite have committed to paying for it. He expressed his sincere thanks.

### Questions:

1. Mena Lockwood, VDOT: Will the NPMRDS freight data also be available?
  - a. Yes, freight data will be available as part of the NPMRDS in the suite
2. Ira Levinton, NJDOT: Do agencies have access to data from multiple vendors?
  - a. In the suite, for your state, you only have access to the data purchased by your state.
  - b. Ira had questions regarding selecting by county/selecting by partial roadway. John is following up with Ira offline.
3. Jim Hadden, NJDOT: How far back does the NPMRDS go?
  - a. VPP Suite has entire data set.
  - b. Per Mike Bruff (NCDOT): NPMRDS data on the FHWA/HERE website is available in archive form dating back to 2011 for Interstates, and the full data set has been available since July 2013. New monthly data sets are released two weeks after the end of the previous month.
4. Mike Bruff, NCDOT: For the NPMRDS data, can the date and time stamp field be disaggregated into two separate fields or split with a comma delineation?
  - a. Yes
5. Ram Venkatanarayana, VCTIR/VDOT: For NPMRDS data, when data is not available, how is backfilling done for measures like Reliability?
  - a. There are several different options but there has not been consensus on how this should be done; looking for additional guidance from USDOT/FHWA when a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) is issued.

### Requests/Issues:

1. Saving/Showing Parameters
  - a. Kelly Wells, NCDOT: Requested other parameters be saved, similar to TMC sets.
  - b. Ram Venkatanarayana, VCTIR/VDOT: When using the congestion scan, Time of Day is not clear on some Congestion Scans. This becomes especially difficult when running multiple scans. In ongoing discussions, John noted that this may be part of a larger issue/request for having a full summary of query information clearly indicated on any output.
  - c. Ram Venkatanarayana, VCTIR/VDOT: Requested that input variables be provided with output.
  - d. Kelly Wells, NCDOT: Requested having the choice to use military or regular time.



## VPP Suite User Group Webcast July 15, 2015

### 2. Reliability Thresholds

- a. Paul Szatkowski, VDOT: They are using reliability for prioritizing projects. He has been asked to provide data for various thresholds and wanted to know if that would be available. Michael noted that they are working to allow users to select thresholds however, the policy implications need to be considered.
- b. Kelly Wells, NCDOT: They are also looking to prioritize projects similarly but they do not have VPP data for secondary roads. Paul noted VDOT has a similar issue and they are looking at comparing with roads (with similar characteristics) where VPP data is available. Stan Young (NREL) mentioned that data was not purchased for secondary roads. It was noted that they could prepare performance reports through the INRIX site using the XD data. Michael noted that the VPP Suite could take in the vendors' sub-segment data if a state was willing to pay for the storage. He also noted that each vendor segments this level of data differently. With some development, it should also be possible to use both the sub-segmented data and the TMC data in the Suite assuming an agency is willing to pay for it.

### 3. MAP-21

- a. Zoe Neaderland, DVRPC: Would be interested in coordinating on a response when MAP-21 NPRM comes out. It was mentioned that the User Group Forum thread could be used to collect comments from agencies. Zoe noted that there are two levels to be considered – policy and technical. She suggested a joint webinar. George Schoener agreed that the Coalition would work with the agencies and the Partners Using Archived Data on a coordinated response.
- b. Michael Pack noted that they plan to have a version of the VPP Suite with the MAP-21 measures operational during the comment period so that agencies can see how the measures work with their data and develop comments.

### 4. XD User Focus Group

- a. Consideration was being given to forming an XD User Focus Group, addressing such issues as how to start/end your selection (related to intersections), how do users want to see the data in the interface, etc. Kelly Wells was to consider leading that group.