

MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Incident Management Group and Interested Parties

From: Julia Dawson, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: August 28, 2008

RE: Meeting Notes from Traffic Incident Management Group on August 22, 2008

Those in attendance included: Bob Bohlman, York County Emergency Management Agency; Julia Dawson, SMRPC; Gil Emery, Portsmouth PD; Mark Kirouac, NHDOT – Bureau of Highway Maintenance; R.J. Leger, Sanford PD; Pam L'Heureux, York County EMA/Communications; Arthur Murdock, Maine State Police; Ron Rochefort, Saco PD; Greg Stone, Maine Turnpike Authority.

The meeting was held at the York Public Library.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Updates

Maine Turnpike Updates: Greg Stone mentioned that the Turnpike would have a weather station, located on the Saco River Bridge, up and running by next month. The Turnpike will have access to the data over the internet, which will be updated every five minutes. Data will be in real time and have the ability to tell if the road is wet, dry or icy. Mark Kirouac, NHDOT noted that there have been glitches and false data reported i.e. false ice indicators.

New Hampshire DOT Updates: Mark Kirouac explained that New Hampshire is still in the process of updating their 1-93 TIM Plan. The SWIM Response Manual update is near completion, and WebEOC for New Hampshire is being updated from version 6.5 to 7.0, training will be on September 9. It was noted that this date conflicts with the I-95 New England HOGS meeting in Concord, and the Hurricane Response Evaluation meeting. Uploading road closure information will be an extensive part of the new WebEOC process. In 2007, 850 roads were closed in one event. Mark pointed out that the NHEOC was activated during the July 24 tornado and that over the course of an hour the tornado impacted 5 counties. He wrapped up by saying NHDOT is adding nine more weather stations to the three already in operation.

Gil Emery asked if and when NHDOT would share access to the cameras on the High Level Bridge. Mark said the NHDOT is in the process of developing access through Citrix to local government and limited private enterprises (bus providers). Access would be limited to viewing only

Routing Maps: Julia explained to the group that she had met with most the towns collectively to discuss the implications of each town's detour plans. Areas of concern included the implications of directing truck traffic into down town Dover, and the consequences of adding traffic to an already over loaded Route 1. Staff hopes to schedule a second meeting with the towns not in attendance once the summer break is over.

Call Tree: Julia informed the group that they had run two tests of the system back in May. The first test highlighted the need for better communication between supervisors and dispatch operators. Some operators were not aware of the call tree at all, while others new about it but were not sure who they were responsible for calling. After a second round of information sharing, the second test went very well however. As a follow up Julia Dawson also met with the York, Gray and Sanford dispatch supervisors to discuss what changes needed to be made to improve on the system. It was agreed that the PSAP receiving initial E911 call would initiate a TELETYPE as part of their procedures.

Communications: Julia explained that Tom had submitted a grant application for Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Program funding. The funds will be used to program radio equipment for 12 towns (includes Sheriff's Office) with CONOPS frequencies. Funds will also be used to reimburse municipal staff for costs incurred for attending CONOPS training sponsored by MEMA or YCEMA. Julia thanked Bob Bohlman and YCEMA, for giving the authorization to operate radios on the ultra high band frequency 159.7800 during emergency management activities.

Maine Statewide TIM Group: The group has completed a Self-Assessment, Bill Thompson and Dale Peabody will be working on the next steps. This will include creating an action plan, identifying the low hanging fruit to have the group work on, and developing grant ideas for I-95 Corridor Coalition funding

3. I-95 Corridor Coalition

Project Ideas: Julia explained that the application deadline for I-95 Corridor Coalition funding is September 1 and that if the group had any ideas to let her or Tom know ASAP. Tom will probable submit two applications. The first is for funds to hire a consultant to assist in getting the "quick clearance" legislation put through the Maine House. The second is to purchase a couple of mobile tactical units to park in the field in the event of a major traffic incident in or around Southern Maine and the Sea Coast region.

4. Web EOC for Locals

Julia explained that Bob Bohlman and York County Emergency Management Agency has given local municipalities the opportunity to use WebEOC in a limited capacity if they are interested. There was a brief discussion on who, what and when WebEOC should be used, software versions, sharing information across state lines, and available training. Julia handed out a WebEOC Local EMA Manual and gave the group a short demonstration on how to use WebEOC. She explained how to log in, enter data into the incident log, what the Duty Officer Board was for, and browsed significant events, press release, and weather links.

5. Other Business

Julia informed the group that she attended the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) Quarterly Meeting the previous day where she gave a presentation on the work the Maine/New Hampshire Traffic Incident Management Group has been doing. Other highlights of the meeting were a presentation by Christopher Pope, Director of the New Hampshire Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency, on the July 24, 2008 tornado that touched down in New Hampshire, and a presentation given by Daniel Currie on Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS). Julia explained that GETS provides priority call service for both local and long distance calls during disasters and other emergencies when telephone networks become congested. She urged the group that if they didn't already have a GETS card they should sign up for one. The card is available to all emergency response personnel at the federal, state and local level. It is even available to hospitals and other non-governmental agencies. She also noted that calls made with the GETS card are free. Please see attached informational material (posted separately).

The next meeting was scheduled for November 7 at noon at the York Library.