

MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Incident Management Group and Interested Parties

From: Julia Dawson, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: October 27, 2009

RE: Meeting Notes from Traffic Incident Management Group on October 23, 2009

Those in attendance included: Beth Barton – MEMA; Sara Behr – MaineDOT; Robert Bohlmann – YCEMA; Chief Bracy – York Police Department; John Cannell – MaineDOT; Owen Davis – York PD; Julia Dawson – SMRPC; Ruth Farnsworth – Wells Police Department; Tim Hamilton – Gray Dispatch Center; Mark Kirouac – NH DOT; Pam L’Heureux – YCEMA; Denis Markow – NHDOT, Traffic Management Center; David Parenteau – NH State Police; Dale Peabody – MaineDOT; Tom Reinauer – SMRPC; Charles Szeniawski, York PD

Guests: Michael Lampert – Al’s Automotive & Truck; Ron Clemons and Richard Brooks – National Wrecker Service

The meeting was held at the York Public Library.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Recent incident review

Tom gave the group a brief update of the recent traffic incidents that occurred on the region’s highways since the last meeting. They included two on the Turnpike (8/14 and 8/24) and one on Route 111. There was no follow up discussion. Bob Bohlmann also mentioned that there was a non vehicle related incident in Kennebunk over the Labor Day weekend involving someone trapped under a boulder. National Wrecker Service was called out to remove the obstruction and the TIM call tree was used to notify surrounding communities.

Pre-planned road closures

Tom informed the group that the Memorial Bridge connecting Kittery and Portsmouth would be closed to vehicle traffic for the next four to six weeks, while repairs are being done. When it reopens it will be posted at three tons.

3. Updates

MaineDOT: Dale Peabody informed the group that Cliff Curtis, MaineDOT, is partnering with incident response agencies to develop a traffic incident reporting system using common operational applications. A draft concept of operations describing the feasibility of the reporting system is under review.

Maine Turnpike Updates: Not present

New Hampshire DOT Updates: Denise Markow.

- ❖ Denise handed out a copy of the NHDOT Incident Management Detour Routes Study completed by TransCore. It covers I-95 and Rte 16, the Spaulding Turnpike. It includes a permanent signing package that will be installed along the highways
- ❖ NHDOT is implementing an ITS system on I-93 between Salem and Manchester. It will include CCTV, dynamic message signs, and variable speed signs. All the information will lead back to the Transportation Management Center (TMC) (see attached map)
- ❖ Open road tolling at the I-95 toll booth in Hampton is scheduled to be fully operational by Memorial Day 2010. Final testing will be conducted in February and April 2010.
- ❖ NHDOT is working with State Police on how crash data is reported. Currently reports are only submitted to DOT when damage is in excess of \$1,000. This will change so DOT will receive all crash reports. They (DOT) are also starting to collect and compile statistical data on accidents that occur through out the state. A copy of the report was made available in CD format.
- ❖ Similar work is being done on Smart Work Zones. Travel times through zones are being measured to establish what impacts (delays) are being incurred. Similarly, recovery times are being looked as are performance measures. Separate summer and winter reports are available on CD upon request.

Action Plan Updates:

- ❖ **Training:** Tom referred the group to the radio protocol training handout and asked the group if there was still support for this effort. It appears there is some feeling that we should drop the existing idea due to the lack of support. There was no push back from the committee on dropping this idea. Bob suggested we think about putting something together on “narrow banding” due to the upcoming mandatory conversion. Tom will send the group an electronic copy of a brochure produced by the International Fire Chiefs Association explaining the process.
- ❖ **Mutual Aid:** Tom, Bob and Pete Coughlan met in September to look into setting up a more local-level public works mutual aid agreement, including updating the existing equipment inventory list that is currently housed at YCEMA.
- ❖ **Call Tree:** Julia explained that the call tree and detour mapping policy & guidelines document is now complete and with the help of Chief Bracy will be presented at the next Police Chiefs meeting in November. She is working with Bob Bohlmann on scheduling a formal presentation of the document for the region’s Town Managers and Public Works Directors.
- ❖ **State Wide Incident Management:** The next meeting will be on October 29. The group is currently working on developing a multi agency training guide based on similar work being done in MA and NH. They are also looking into “quick clearance” legislation for the state of Maine. A brief discussion followed regarding liability issues. Dale asked if NH (has quick clearance legislation) and if they had any liability issues or problems. They have not.

4. Presentation of Spaulding Turnpike Little Bay Bridge projects was tabled.

5. Presentation and review of August 27 incident on I-95.

Michael Lampert of Al's Automotive & Truck gave a post incident review of an event that occurred on I-95 (NH) involving a tractor trailer that left the highway, entered a wooded area and became trapped by a severed tree. The presentation highlighted the benefits of using a modern, state of the art towing company, to assist with quick clearance operations. Some of the advantages include: minimizing lane blockages, decreasing secondary accidents, reducing environmental impacts, reducing on scene time, and maximizing salvage value. He went on to explain that towing companies today can not only take care of the towing, recovery and clean up but can deal directly with insurance companies. A copy of the presentation is available on the SMRPC website.

6. Other Business

Ron Clemons of National Wrecker Service gave a brief presentation about an upcoming Heavy Vehicle Incident Management Workshop (November 14 & 15). It will be a two day program on scene management and vehicle recovery. There will be classroom demonstrations and lectures, followed up with field exercises. Participants include local fire, police and industry experts. Application forms can be found on our website at www.smrpc.org

Next Meeting – December 18th at 12:00pm