CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL ITS ARCHITECTURE UPDATE WORKSHOP MINUTES

MEETING DATE: September 24, 2013

MEETING TIME: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MEETING LOCATION: Chattanooga Development Resource Center, Chattanooga, TN

ATTENDEES:

- Mike Ailey, City of East Ridge Traffic
- Tad Bacon, Cleveland Utilities
- Wes Bailey, Champion Towing
- Steven Bearden, Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP)
- Robert Benshoof, Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
- Curt Blair, City of Lakesite Public Works
- Rozanne Brown, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency (RPA)
- Jeff Carney, Hamilton County 911
- Landon Castleberry, TDOT Region 2
- Hugh Colton, Georgia Department of Transportation
- Chris Davis, Volkert, Inc.
- Said El Said, TDOT
- Mike Flynn, City of East Ridge Fire and Rescue
- Seth Graham, Hamilton County 911
- Daniel Hague, City of Chattanooga Fire Department
- Charlie Hall, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- Phillip Hamilton, Monteagle Towing
- Randall Herron, City of Chattanooga Fire Department
- Sue Knapp, Chattanooga-Hamilton County RP

- Yuen Lee, Chattanooga-Hamilton County RPA
- Steve Mize, City of East Ridge Police Department
- Greg Morris, Federal Highway Administration – Georgia Division
- Chris Perry, Denton's/Allied Wrecker Service
- Christie Phillips, THP
- Annie Powell, Chattanooga Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)
- Tony Reavely, Hamilton County Emergency Services
- Karen Rennich, Chattanooga-Hamilton County RPA
- Cindy Shell, Volkert, Inc.
- John Stuermer, Hamilton County 911
- Don Stultz, Georgia State Patrol
- Tommy Trotter, City of Chattanooga Traffic
- Bob Van Horn, TDOT Region 2
- John Van Winkle, City of Chattanooga
- Eric Yates, Guy Yates Towing
- Shannon Yates, Doug Yates Towing
- Aleeta Zeller, Chattanooga-Hamilton County RPA
- Tom Fowler, Kimley-Horn and Associates
- Beth Ostrowski, Kimley-Horn and Associates
- Terrance Hill, Kimley-Horn and Associates

SUBJECT: Chattanooga Regional ITS Architecture Update – Project Kick-Off Workshop

Introductions

Yuen Lee of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County RPA welcomed everyone and thanked the stakeholders for their participation in the update of the Chattanooga Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture. She defined the boundaries of the planning agency as those corresponding to the Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) in addition to Marion and Sequatchie Counties. Yuen also introduced Tom Fowler, the consultant project manager, who then introduced the other Kimley-Horn team members present at the workshop. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and identified the agency or organization they were representing.

Project Overview Presentation

Tom Fowler gave a presentation on the Chattanooga Regional ITS Architecture Update project. The presentation included an overview of ITS, explanation of a Regional ITS Architecture, and a description of the steps that will be used to update the Regional ITS Architecture. The purpose of a Regional ITS

Architecture update is to provide a vision and framework for the implementation and operation of ITS in the region as technologies, infrastructure, population, and land uses evolve. The Regional ITS Architecture is also necessary in order to meet the FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ITS Architecture conformity requirements for any ITS projects in the region that use federal transportation funds. Although updating the Regional ITS Architecture does not guarantee funding for the Region, it does allow the Region to be eligible for federal funding of ITS projects.

In addition to the Kick-off Workshop, there will be a series of stakeholder interviews (planned for the weeks of October 7th and 14th) to develop a more detailed picture of what changes have been made since the last update, determine what each agency plans in the future, and identify any ITS needs. Once the interviews have been completed, a draft Regional ITS Architecture Update and Deployment Plan Report will be developed. A second workshop, tentatively scheduled for December 5, 2013, will allow stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the document before it is finalized.

A list of stakeholder agencies that were invited to participate in the process was also presented. Tom asked the attending stakeholders to identify any missing stakeholders from the list. Tom also encouraged everyone to extend an invitation to anyone else within their own agency that they thought might be interested in participating. The following is a list of the primary contacts for agencies with multiple attendees at the Kick-off Workshop:

- Landon Castleberry – TDOT
- John Van Winkle (Secondary – Tommy Trotter) – City of Chattanooga Traffic
- Shannon Yates – Tennessee Towing Representative
- Annie Powell (Secondary – Lisa Maragnano) – CARTA
- Christie Phillips – THP
- Daniel Hague – City of Chattanooga Fire Department
- Mile Ailey – City of East Ridge
- Tony Reavley – Hamilton County Emergency Services

Existing and Planned ITS Projects

After a short break, Tom led a discussion regarding each agency's completed ITS projects since the 2010 update in addition to any planned projects. The inventory will assist the project team in preparing a draft of the Regional ITS Architecture update for the next workshop. The following is a summary of projects by agency.

TDOT
- Installed 9 additional closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras now totaling over 70.
- Currently in the process of an expansion to connect the TMC with the fog detection system along I-75.
- Completed the first phase of McMinn County Smart Parking project, and the second phase just received approval.
- Monteagle Mountain infrared cameras will be installed to detect fog. The infrared cameras will be mounted lower than the CCTV traffic cameras to determine weather conditions at the roadside level.
- Installation of additional speed advisory or warning signs for vehicles descending the mountain.
- Runaway truck ramp detection system to warn if a truck is on a particular ramp.
- Future installation of dynamic message sign (DMS) boards and other ITS devices to assist with traffic management during the Bonnaroo Music Festival near Manchester.
- The TDOT SmartWay Traffic Management Center (TMC) moved into a new facility near the VW plant. However, only Nashville and Knoxville TMCs operate 24 hours a day. Currently, control of the Chattanooga TMC is transferred to Knoxville after hours.

City of Chattanooga
- Completed Phase 1 of ATMS with 115 traffic signals.
- Installed first adaptive traffic signal system on 13 signals on SR 153.
- Next phase is to develop an incident management system for Ringgold Road, Lee Highway, and Brainerd Road when rerouting traffic from the interstates.
- Will implement 400 system detectors throughout Chattanooga, East Ridge, Red Bank, and Collegedale as part of a regional ITS system.
- Signed interlocal agreements to coordinate signals across city boundaries in Red Bank and East Ridge.

Georgia DOT
- Tennessee is now a member of the Southern Traffic Incident Exchange along with Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida.
- Implementing traffic probe data on all interstates and arterials.
- Plan to install CCTV cameras on all interstate ramps in addition to speed detection. Data will be made available to the public.

CARTA
- Utilizes a computer aided dispatch system to track buses.
- Recently upgraded website for riders.
- Installed five DMS signs to notify riders of when buses will arrive.
- Implemented all planned ITS projects, and now in the process of evaluating their effectiveness.
- Plan to allow riders to text or use QR codes to see when their bus will arrive.

Towing Agencies
- Chattanooga requires stiffer training for towing companies regarding drivers and equipment.
- Utilize the TDOT SmartWay CCTV traffic cameras to know what equipment is needed for specific incidents.

ITS Needs

Tom led a discussion on the Region's ITS needs. The following general regional needs were identified:

- Possible ITS solutions should be explored at the I-24/US 27 interchange (mile marker 177) in addition to signs and warning lights. TDOT has grooved the pavement to help with traction and suggested a high friction surface could assist.
- A high number of incidents is also being experienced at the top of the ridge on I-24 eastbound toward I-75. Many incidents have been involving commercial vehicles.
- More signal coordination and adaptive signals.
- Find more funding sources such as Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, and assist smaller communities with grant writing.
- Work toward actually implementing better communications systems to improve incident management.
- Reorganize the local incident management group that disbanded.
- Assist rural areas with incident management since they tend to have limited or stretched resources over a wide area.
- Better coordination with Dade County and the Georgia State Patrol concerning the I-59/I-24 interchange.
- Chattanooga has many choke points (i.e. railroad crossings), but an effort should be made to remove local traffic from interstates.
- Revisit evacuation plan for the nuclear plant in Soddy-Daisy, and inform citizens outside the evacuation zone of the plan.
- Use concepts for emergency routing such as reverse traffic flow.
- Aid travelers that are trapped in the event of severe incidents. Provide restrooms, food/water, and assistance with overheated vehicles or ones that have run out of gas.
- Share information or control of systems between local jurisdictions and the state.

- Integrate real-time ITS with mapping companies such as Google and Bing in addition to GPS companies to ensure route information is up to date.
- Utilize social media for traveler information.

Concluding Comments and Next Steps

Yuen Lee and Tom Fowler thanked everyone for their participation and reiterated that stakeholders will be contacted in the coming weeks to set up an appointment for an interview. Stakeholder were encouraged to contact any of the project team members if they had any questions or if they would like to add additional items to the ITS inventory or needs. Stakeholders should contact Yuen Lee or Tom Fowler if they would like for the project team to extend an invitation to any other agencies or individuals not currently included in the list of stakeholders.