

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FOR THE BALTIMORE REGION (TIMBR) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 1, 2023
10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. J.J. Lynott, Chair, welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 7, 2022

There were no comments on the minutes.

3. TIM TECHNOLOGIES

The USDOT Everyday Counts [Round 7](#) (EDC7) program runs from 2023 through 2024 and highlights eight innovations – technologies that are available for use but need more awareness. One of these innovations is Next-Generation TIM. Each state selects which EDC7 innovations it wants to focus on (as many as desired) and works with stakeholders to increase use over the two-year period.

The Next-Generation TIM technologies may be of interest to the TIMBR Committee, and Ms. Eileen Singleton wanted to make committee members aware of them. She showed [a video](#) that presents the TIM technologies that will be highlighted in Round 7, and she provided examples of use of the technologies across the country. The Next-Generation TIM technologies include:

- Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for TIM
- Debris removal
- Lighting and markings
- Advance vehicle/incident warning
- Emergency vehicle signal preemption
- EMS post-crash care

She asked the committee if there is interest in working with the state to use or increase use of any of the Next-Generation TIM technologies.

Mr. Eric Fogle provided background on use of some of the technologies by MDOT SHA:

- Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for TIM – MSP crash team is using UAS; MDOT SHA may consider using tethered UAS for traffic monitoring but it has not been used yet. CHART trucks have cameras but the UAS could get higher so provide a wider geographic view.
- Debris removal – looking at testing lane blades to remove debris
- Lighting and markings – haven't looked at doing this yet, involves syncing up arrowboards and vehicle lights
- Advance vehicle/incident warning – 500 vehicles have HAAS alert devices and 80% of the fleet have AVL

Each state receives \$100,000 each year to use for EDC innovations, under the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC). The STIC funds can be used for any innovation from any year of the EDC program.

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute has done recent studies on advance warning/vehicle lighting. There are many informative reports on their [webpage](#).

Ms. Singleton will share any information with the committee about additional technologies to be used by MDOT SHA.

It was noted that the state 511 traveler information signs are being converted to Move Over signs. There was discussion about the difficulty of enforcing the Move Over law because the criteria in the law are general (move over *if possible*, how much to slow down is not specific). One suggestion is to consider technology to track compliance. MDOT SHA used similar technology to assess Move Over law compliance as part of regular traffic stops.

Mr. Lynott offered to invite Mr. Joe Tebo from FHWA to the next TIMBR Committee meeting to provide more information about the TIM technologies.

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4. UPDATE FROM UAWG PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER COMMITTEE

Ms. Kasey Thomas, Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management, is the chair of the UAWG PIO Committee, and she is interested in broadening the range of agencies represented on the committee. There are many ways that PIOs can support response operations. They can assist with traffic safety awareness, construction awareness, etc.

Currently the members are mostly from emergency management departments. She is talking to a range of committees to invite PIOs from other departments and is encouraging TIMBR Committee members to talk to their PIOs to ask them about participating on the PIO Committee. Send questions or contacts to Ms. Thomas (emthom22@aacounty.org; 410-703-4915).

Mr. Bob Cumberland mentioned that Carroll County Fire Association has a PIO Committee, and the chair is Mr. Charles Simpson. He added that the [Emergency Responder Safety Institute](#) has resources for public information.

5. STATE AND LOCAL TIM UPDATES

- MSP update: MSP will be expanding the number of personnel in the TIM unit – there will be four motor units and one patrol trooper. These troopers are not assigned to a barrack and can go wherever they are needed. The unit will be funded by MDOT SHA and will be fully integrated with CHART operations. The MSP TIM troopers are included in the CHART ATMS as an option in the dropdown. The Baltimore region Traffic Operations Center can dispatch MSP TIM troopers which speeds up response; in a couple of cases recently, the MSP TIM troopers cleared the incident before the CHART units arrived. The MSP TIM troopers are mostly motor units because they can bypass congestion quicker than cruisers. The TIM Troopers can enable the barracks troopers to get back to their patrols more quickly. There is a desire to eventually expand the TIM unit even more to allow more of a focus on the beltways and I-270 and I-95.
- Training on electric vehicle fire risk/suppression: MDOT MTA is developing EV training for first responders, with the goal to have the training available this spring/early summer. FHWA headquarters is working to convene a group to develop EV training; Mr. Lynott will be on the panel working on this. Mr. Breck Jeffers suggested that we should take advantage of our proximity to FHWA headquarters to be involved in pilots or get speakers. Ms. Pat McElroy said that Tim's Towing has an EV technician that we can contact for information if desired. BMC staff can help support EV training if desired. Mr. Dave Lewis noted that the [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) has EV training safety training. The training is free to all NVFC members.
- TIM Training updates:
 - Number trained in Maryland as of February 13, 2023, is increasing slowly, up to 40.7% equating to 9,461 responders.
 - The number trained in each jurisdiction is provided by FHWA as is the number trained by discipline compared to the total per discipline that needs to be trained.
- Upcoming events:
 - Maryland Highway Safety Summit is scheduled for April 12th at the Maritime Institute. [Information and registration](#) is now available.
 - The Eastern Transportation Coalition Move Over/Distracted Driving Conference is scheduled for May 8 – 10 at the Maritime Institute. Attendance is limited; if interested, View the agenda [here](#) and register [here](#).
 - National TIM Conference scheduled for September 29 – October 1 at National Fire Academy, attendance will be by invitation.
 - National Crash Responder Safety Week is November 13 – 17, 2023.

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6. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting is June 7th.

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ATTENDEES

Members:

Golnaz Askari, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
Andrew Burke, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
F/Sgt. Brett Canfield, Maryland State Police
Bob Cumberland, Emergency Responder Safety Institute
Sgt. Sara Dorsey, Howard Co Police
Eric Fogle, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
Hiwot Habtemariam, MDOT State Highway Administration
Breck Jeffers, Federal Highway Administration Maryland Division
Bill Johnson, MDOT State Highway Administration OOM
David Larsen, MDOT
David Lewis, Maryland Fire Chief's Association
J.J. Lynott, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration
Pat McElroy, Tim's Automotive and Towing
Andrew Orr, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
F/Sgt. John Pietanza, Maryland State Police
Lt. Dave Ryan, Maryland State Police
Raj Sharma, MDOT State Highway Administration OTMO
Kristen Skogsberg, Maryland Department of Transportation
Cpl. Michael Streett, Baltimore Co Police
Lt. Chris Valentine, Howard Co Police
Jennifer Woo, Howard Co Dept. of Public Works

Staff

Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Kasey Thomas, Anne Arundel Co Office of Emergency Management