

TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Online Meeting

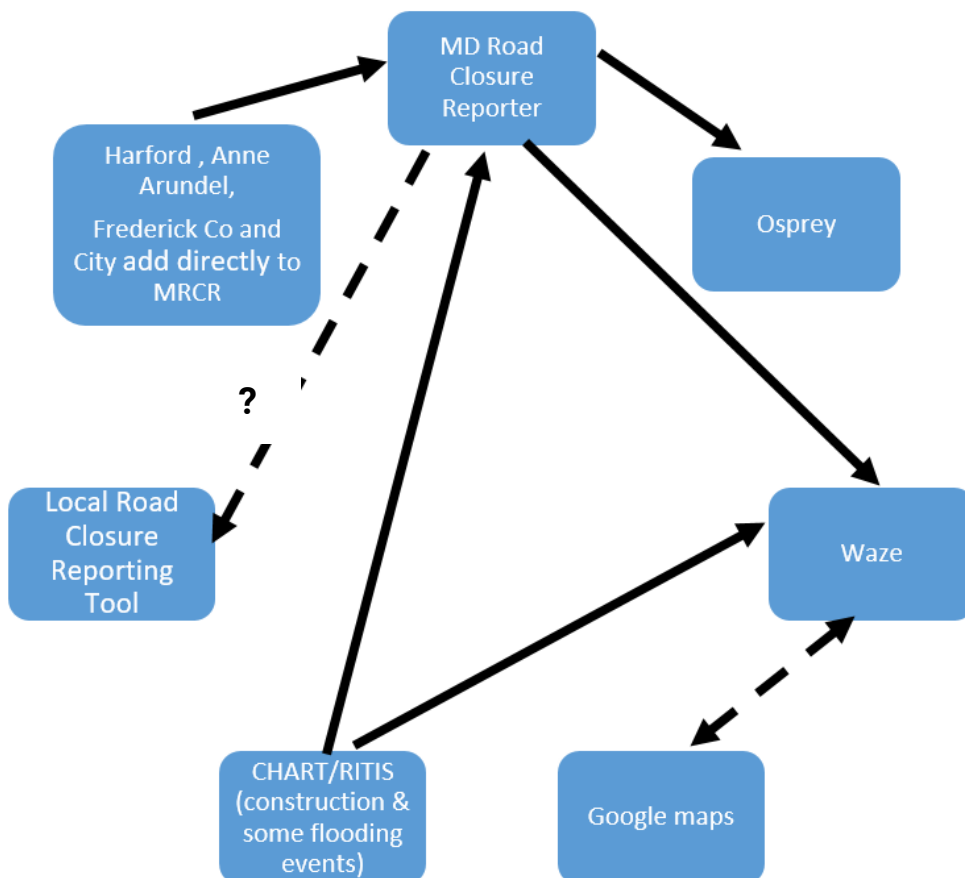
MINUTES

1. COMMENTS ON NOTES OF TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS FROM CANCELLED MARCH 9, 2020 MEETING

There were no comments on the notes.

2. UPDATE ON ROAD CLOSURE TRACKING TOOLS

Eileen Singleton prepared a diagram showing how road closure data is currently being shared between applications:



Maryland Road Closure Reporter

Marshall Stevenson provided a review of the Maryland Road Closure Reporter (MRCR) and data sharing updates.

- Road closures in the MRCR are added to Waze. Currently this process is not automated, but it is quick.
- MRCR can assist with documenting road closures as part of FEMA reimbursement applications.
- Data in the MRCR is archived; it is not deleted.
- BGE/DPW integration with Harford County: BGE adds downed wires and downed trees to MRCR. Mr. Stevenson added that Frederick and Prince George's Counties are also interested in this integration.
- There is a [public viewer](#) available.
- Road closures entered into MRCR are sent to MEMA-maintained Osprey.
- Sidewalk closures can be added to MRCR if desired. Frederick City adds them.

Highlights from MRCR demonstration:

- Only staff from a jurisdiction can enter a road closure in their jurisdiction.
- When adding a road closure, a cross street is not required.
- MRCR has a "storm mode" which enables users to more quickly enter a road closure.
- Users can add more closed segments to the original segment selected; segments run intersection to intersection.
- Jurisdictions set up a generic agency email address to use MRCR. Jurisdictions also receive notifications about closures in neighboring jurisdictions that are near the border. Road closure notification emails can also be sent to other agencies within a jurisdiction.
- Usage of MRCR for planned or unplanned events depends on the jurisdiction.
 - Frederick City is using the MRCR to report all events.
 - Users can post planned/future closures.
- Colors used in the MRCR change based on the closure type, timeframe (current or future), and whether it is active or not.
- If a jurisdiction wants to start using MRCR, they should send a general agency email address to Mr. Stevenson (MStevenson.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov), and he can set up the account and set up alerts from neighboring jurisdictions.

MRCR Coordination with CHART and CHART Use of Waze

Jason Dicembre provided an update on use of MRCR by CHART operators.

- SHA signed the data sharing agreement with Waze (as part of the Connected Citizens Program) in fall 2019. He said that MDTA has also signed an agreement with Waze.

- CHART staff will be adding significant unplanned road closures into MRCR until there is automated sharing of this data between the two systems. SOC operators can also make edits in Waze.
- Mr. Dicembre noted three Waze tools:
 - Map Editor
 - CCP partners can access this tool to edit maps
 - Waze map editor is cumbersome to use, and there are frequent changes to the system.
 - Traffic View
 - Tool that can be used to track mobility, real time travel time, and view how Waze is routing people around a delay and when they reroute.
 - Data Analysis
 - Waze has a lot of data so agencies need to figure out how to handle it so as to benefit from it and not get overwhelmed.
- Mr. Dicembre encouraged other agencies that are planning to sign agreements with Waze to get to know the “Waze CCP Champs” who also add a lot of data to Waze.
- There is a current Federal Highway Administration project to assess how many more incidents are first reported in Waze that are not detected by state agencies until later or not at all. Other studies have found that Waze has resulted in a decrease in detection time, especially in rural areas where there is less detection infrastructure.
- Mr. Dicembre offered to attend the next meeting to demonstrate how to build segments in Waze that can be monitored.

Discussion

- Queen Anne’s County is not using MRCR yet, but staff is interested; Mr. Stevenson is working with county staff.
- Anne Arundel and Harford counties are currently using MRCR.
- Kris Singleton commented about the potential to use MRCR to inform evacuation decisions. MRCR functionality and use by BGE could improve coordination.
 - MRCR could help to track frequently flooded roads, which might be needed during evacuation due to flooding.
 - There was a suggestion to discuss use of MRCR by BGE at the next T&PW committee meeting.
- MRCR has a mobile web application, and can be used on computer or mobile device.
- Jurisdictions should send requests for MRCR login and the generic email to receive closures to Mr. Stevenson (MStevenson.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov).
- Multiple people can login at the same time with the generic login.
- Mr. Stevenson is working closely with Mr. Dicembre to further integrate MRCR with CHART and Waze and other tools.

3. IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON DPW/DOT OPERATIONS

Jurisdictions provided brief updates on agency actions/operational modifications related to the pandemic:

Carroll County

- running one road crew per day
- adding UV filters in HVAC systems
- changing faucets and soap dispensers to be automated
- removing doors
- allocated a medical (physical and mental) respite location for homeless residents who are not Covid positive. Outside tents have been allocated to house Covid positive homeless residents, as of the meeting, there were none.
- county trucks will have driver and one passenger in the back, both with masks and windows down
- County Court will do UV temperature checks

Baltimore County

- some staff have returned to the office but there is still a lot of staff working from home
- more people using their own vehicles for travel rather than county vehicles
- will establish one way in and out of buildings and will have staff daily wellness checks.
- the county recyclable sorting facility is typically staffed by prisoners but due to the concerns with Covid spread in prisons, the facility is staffed by DPW staff
- has seen an increase in requests for installation of traffic calming infrastructure

Howard County

- staff that do not have an office with a door come to the office one day per week, these staff come in different days to reduce total staff in the office at any one time
- Facilities are retrofitting office spaces
- planning to identify and retrofit as needed a location to house Covid positive homeless residents and others who cannot quarantine at home.
- issued masks and laptops to staff

Anne Arundel County

- having staff return to the office slowly
- masks will be required in all work places unless someone is alone
- offices will be restructured to allow 6 foot distance between people
- shields will be installed at all public interfaces
- running one person per vehicle regardless of vehicle size
- using split shifts of field staff to reduce contact

Queen Anne's County

- staff returned to the office full time on May 18; public still not allowed in county buildings

Maryland DOT

- most staff are working from home

Contact Tracing

- The state contracted with a company to do contact tracing; local jurisdictions can use this contract if desired.
- A stay at home is ordered if someone has a positive Covid test.
- All positive results are entered into a system maintained by the state health department; the results are kept secure. If a doctor orders a Covid test that is given at a private lab and the test comes back positive, the doctor reports the result to the state.

Jurisdictions noted increased quantities of residential and bulk trash and reductions in commercial trash. One jurisdiction also notes an increase in illegal dumping.

4. UPDATES ON RELATED WORK

- T&PW Projects
 - FY19 UASI project: Adding evacuation routes to RITIS: The contract between BMC and UMD has been signed and work has begun.
 - Changing Climate Guide for Baltimore Region Operating Agencies: Eileen Singleton prepared draft RFP and a small group has been convened to finalize the RFP.
- Disaster Debris Planning Task Force: State debris contractors presenting at each meeting this year, upcoming meetings are:
 - June 17, 2020 – TFR
 - Sept 16, 2020 - AshBritt
 - Dec 9, 2020 – DRC

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Information Exchange Forum: Road Closure Coordination: details to be determined
- Project ideas: any interest in projects such as:
 - Automated Flood Warning system such as that used by [Houston TranStar](#)
 - Howard County is installing an automated flood warning system on a path
 - Mapping frequent flooding locations in the region
- Fleet Week is still scheduled for September 9 to 14.

2020 Meetings – September 14, December 14

ATTENDEES

Members

Azzam Ahmad, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
Alex Baquie, Anne Arundel Co Dept. of Public Works
T.J. Bathras, Maryland Transportation Authority, Operations

Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's Co Dept. of Public Works

Joe Davis, Maryland Transit Administration, Support Operations

Ann Haskins-Brookover, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works

Dan Janousek, Maryland Dept. of Transportation

Bill Johnson, State Highway Administration, OOM

Shelley Kellam, Maryland Transportation Authority

Chris Letnaunchyn, Carroll Co Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Engr.

Keith Link, Baltimore Co Dept. of Public Works

Michel Sheffer, State Highway Administration

Joe Siemek, Harford Co Dept. of Public Works

Kristofer Singleton, Howard Co Dept. of Public Works

Staff and Guests

Cindy Burch, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Jason Dicembre, State Highway Administration

Mara Kaminowitz, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Eileen Singleton, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Marshall Stevenson, State Highway Administration

Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council