

I Rode in FHWA's Truck Platoon, and it was AWESOME! FHWA's Truck Platooning Project

Nicole Katsikides

Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Presentation to the Freight Movement Task Force

March 29, 2018

Truck Platooning Testing by FHWA





What is Truck Platooning?

- Uses Cooperative Adaptive Cruise Control (CACC) to drive at shorter gaps than under conventional, manual driving
- CACC is an enhancement to Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) technology that provides closer and more accurate control of the gap and speed differences between trucks
- Uses forward looking radar sensors and electronic actuation of engine and brakes of the conventional ACC system but adds 5.9 GHz Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V).
- The CACC system exchanges operational information between the trucks at 10 Hz and can adjust engine and brakes to maintain longitudinal control (speed/separation). Drivers are responsible for lateral control (steering and lane keeping).





What are the Benefits?

- Safety
- Energy savings
- Reduced emissions
- Improved congestion
- Reduced delivery time
- Higher driver retention, Reduced workload and fatigue
- Reduced operating costs
- Significant increase of capacity of a dedicated truck lane facility
- Benefits for goods movement to and from the major ports, long-haul cross-country routes

Reduced costs for goods movement and improved safety is important for sustaining business and fostering economic development and jobs!



Freight, so What?

- Freight movement on the nation's network is expected to grow 40 percent in the next 25 years and the value will double
- This will severely impact the transportation network, congestion reduction is necessary
- Fuel costs are the largest single component of a trucking fleet's cost per mile (CPM).
- Small improvements in efficiency have great payoffs in lowering CPM.
- Businesses in the U.S. lose approximately \$7 billion a year due to congestion.



What are the Freight Benefits?

- Allows for optimized transport of freight by using roads more effectively, which helps in delivering goods faster and reducing traffic jams.
- Reduced workload on drivers translates to less driver fatigue and more attentive performance on the road.
- Improves the supply chain efficiencies and optimization of the highway transportation network



What are the Freight Benefits for Maryland?

- Maryland is a through state with significant truck traffic
- Platooning could support the Port of Baltimore and Maryland businesses by improving the efficiency of routes in and out of the state.
- We could use platooning around the port (TradePoint) to make drayage and back and forth to freight generators more efficient.
- Reduced congestion will improve traffic for all, improve the environment and costs of delay

2015 FREIGHT CONGESTION COSTS ON MARYLAND'S FREEWAYS/EXPRESSWAYS (\$119 MILLION)





Will this be Commercialized?

 Truck Manufacturers and their suppliers are working to commercialize the system by late 2018. There is currently no federal regulatory barrier for commercialization and deployment of level 1 partially automated truck platooning.



Who are the partners involved in the testing?

• FHWA

- California Department of Transportation
- University of California Berkeley Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology
- Volvo Group
- Gateway Cities Council of Governments

- Los Angeles Metro
- Cambridge Systematics
- FMCSA
- Virginia DOT
- Virginia DMV
- Virginia State Police
- Fairfax County Police
- Prince William County
- Fairfax County Park Authority



What was it Like? Thrilling!























What are the Opportunities in Maryland?

- I-95 Corridor
- Partnership with the Army Test and Evaluation Command and FHWA
- Freight Operations around the Port of Baltimore
- Potential Eastern Short trucking





Other Emerging Opportunities for MD?

- Data from V2V
- Partnerships with Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Urban deliveries
- Mobility

