



HITS Committee Meeting

February 13, 2013

Meeting Record

Attendance

Keith Wages, Chair (GA)	John Cramer (ID)	Sue Morris (OH)
Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)	Carol Cunningham (OH)	Julie Rabeau (AK)
Katrina Altenhofen (IA)	Linda Dodge (DOT RITA)	Tomi St Mars (AZ)
Frank Cheatham (VA)	Dia Gainor (NASEMSO)	Scott Winston (VA)
Richard Cooper (NH)	Patrick Irwin (NV)	C. Wright-Johnson (MD)

- I. **Welcome and Roll Call** –Keith Wages called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

- II. **Special Presentation: R.E.S.C.U.M.E.** – Keith Wages welcomed Linda Dodge, Chief of Staff, and Program Manager for Public Safety & Rural Programs, ITS Joint Program Office, USDOT, adding that the committee is honored to have her speak on this project. Linda reported that she was previously involved with EMS and trauma earlier in her career in Maryland and Colorado, and she is pleased to speak today. Noting the committee had received the draft Concept of Operations, Linda offered to send out the high level comments which were just released a few days ago. Linda explained that within the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Office of USDOT, much has been done with technology. Part of her job is to make sure the advancement in technology will support, rather than hinder, public safety. R.E.S.C.U.M.E. is focused on the dynamic part of public safety. How do we protect the people on the side of the roadway? How do we stage the personnel with safety in mind? The intent is to research applications that can better support public safety at a work zone or incident, including notifying drivers approaching the scene as well as responders at the scene. AACN will probably become part of the safety side of vehicle to vehicle communications so they will not concentrate on this piece as it will be developed through other sources. They believe the research they fund can drive down fatalities by a large percentage through the application of the technology envisioned. The connective vehicle opportunity will mean fewer weather related crashes as drivers are alerted of weather-related road conditions. It includes flight, transit and freeway applications. Along with the specifics of the pre-arrival staging, they will be able to alert roadside workers and emergency responders of potential dangers. Examples include smart phone alerts to those at the scene, as well as applications to alert drivers approaching a scene. They hope to evaluate if there should be augmented communications, as public safety currently has a good communication system among themselves. While they are keeping the roadway safer for drivers, how can they keep the roadway safer for emergency responders? She invites members to communicate any gaps seen in the Concept of Operations document. She welcomed questions from the group. Frank Cheatham asked if SHRP 2 members have been involved in the project. She said they are involved as well as NTIMC. Frank questioned the mobile vehicle channels and if rural EMS has access to that technology. Linda agreed with his concern and emphasized that this is mobility-focused. They will prioritize in the congested areas first and then move toward rural needs. She

gave an example of a highway patrol officer vehicle that had great technology but was limited to the technology infrastructure available in the community where the patrol car was traveling. Linda believes we will see incentive funds being made available to implement these technologies. Dia Gainor asked Linda to explain how she sees this evolving. Linda explained that her office is focused on research, rather than deployment. They may fund a research demonstration in a community or state. They use other operating programs to fund the infrastructure projects. They partner with others to fund research demonstration projects. The Next Generation 911 project is an example of her administration partnering with NHTSA on projects. MAP 21, the new federal transportation bill, states that they can use some of their research funds to incentivize deployment of a demonstration project. They typically require a match of 20%, which can be a soft-match. Linda explained that her office is part of FHWA but it resides within the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) of USDOT. Linda offered their services in doing a webinar for our members.

III. AACN Educational Course Outline - Keith noted that the AACN Course outline was previously sent to members for comment. Comments will be collated by Mary Hedges for the Board meeting tomorrow.

IV. Project and Committee Updates

- A. Model Rules for Ambulance Vehicle Design Project - Keith did not have an update since the last HITS meeting. He serves as the alternate to Dennis Blair on this project.
- B. NFPA Emergency Responder Advisory Panel - Frank Cheatham represents NASEMSO on this advisory panel which is focused on emergency response to electric vehicle fires. He has submitted comments to documents prepared by the panel, including PPE (safety gloves) and related matters pertaining to EMS. They have scheduled testing in Maryland which he hopes to attend.
- C. NTIMC: National Traffic Incident Management Coalition - Scott Winston said the Coalition has not met since the last HITS Committee meeting, but they have a meeting scheduled for May 1. He believes the subject of the meeting will deal with re-organizing the existing structure. The Executive Steering Committee created by FHWA does not include EMS unfortunately. Dia added that she has brought this to their attention but was unsuccessful in changing their mind, adding that we need to stay alert to be sure EMS is involved and included. Scott added that the TIM network website is timnetwork.org and he encouraged members to join to stay abreast of TIM-related matters.
- D. NCHRP 20-24(37) K, Measuring Performance among State DOTs: Sharing Good Practices -- Serious Crash Injury – Dia said this project is looking at records use and some linkage and is related to the Metric for Serious Injury project.
- E. NCHRP 20-07, Developing a Framework for Emergency Responder/Roadside Worker Struck-by/Near-miss Database - Mary Hedges reported that the project has developed a draft framework outlining a reporting system for near misses, hits and fatalities at roadway incidents. Chip Cooper mentioned the EVENT reporting system and commented on the difficulty of getting people to report incidents.
- F. Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG) - Dia Gainor, who chairs this multi-disciplinary group, explained that TSAG issues project proposals for ITS projects. They have two projects underway now related to EMS: one is to evaluate state ITS plans to find innovative ways EMS personnel can benefit; and the other involves the multiple devices in cabs that distract emergency responders.

V. Other Business / Member Questions / Comments

Sue Morris said that the Ohio EMS Office has been involved with informing their members about the upcoming Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Train the Trainer Course in Ohio which was presented at the December HITS meeting. They have received an overwhelming response from EMS providers in Ohio.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM EST. The next meeting will be April 10.

The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.