

ITS MICHIGAN—TIM NEWS

MARCH 7, 2013

Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan

Work shop at SEMTOC

- *Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel highlights new Traffic Operations Center Combined with Sheriff Dispatch and Emergency Management*

8th Annual Partnering Workshop: Traffic Incident Management

March 7, 2013 MDOT-SEMTOC, Detroit, MI

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan (ITS-MI) sponsored the 8th Annual Workshop on Traffic Incident Management for Metro Detroit to promote partnerships among the various responders to traffic incidents. The workshop was held at the Michigan Department of Transportation

Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center (SEMTOC) on March 7, 2013. Co-sponsors included the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Beaubien Engineering. This workshop was the eighth in a series of annual workshops to develop partnering relationships among those with an interest in safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents. It was the first time that this workshop was held at SEMTOC.

The program was intended to clarify the roles of the

different responders to a traffic incident and to foster a better understanding amongst first responders and the roles each play in response to and safe clearance of traffic incidents. The workshop identified the roles of the different responders so the participants could get a better understanding of who is in charge of what.

The presenters included Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Oladayo Akinyemi manager of the Michigan Department of Transportation Transportation Operations Center, Livonia Fire Chief Shadd

Whitehead, Sergeant Craig Shackelford from the Bloomfield Township Police Department, First Lieutenant Ann McCaffery and Dan Hancock from the Michigan State Police Dispatch Center, Annjanette Kremer Traffic Incident Management Engineer from the Michigan Department

of Transportation, and Erin Nichole traffic reporter from WXYZ TV. Over 100 attendees at this workshop were treated to a firsthand look at the new joint MDOT transportation operations center and Michigan State Police regional dispatch center.



Networking to coordinate



Dick Beaubien introduces speakers



Belinda Beard (ITS-MI) with Erin Nicole (WXYZ-TV)

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RECORD WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Participants included: the Michigan Department of Transportation (Lansing, Bay, and Metro Regions), representatives from Allen Park, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Township, Canton Township, Chesterfield Township, Detroit, Grosse Ile, Grosse Pointe Woods, Federal Highway Administration, Harrison Township, Joe Ballor Towing, Macomb

County, Madison Heights, Melvindale, Michigan State Police, Novi, Oakland County, Official Towing, River Rouge, Riverview, Romulus, Roseville, SEMCOG, Southfield, Sterling Heights, Traffic Improvement Association, Troy, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, WXYZ, and Westshore Fire.



SE Michigan Transportation Operations Center

Traffic cameras will be available for Macomb Sheriff dispatch

MACOMB COUNTY OPERATIONS CONSOLIDATED

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel explained the importance of bringing the county traffic cameras together with the sheriff dispatch and county emergency management. Putting all of these county operations into the same control room eliminates duplication of efforts and allows the sharing of resources to better serve the citizens of the county. Sterling Heights dispatch

and Clinton Township dispatch are scheduled to move their operations to the new center.



Mark Hackel



Ann McCaffery

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE 911 DISPATCH

First Lieutenant Ann McCaffery from the Michigan State Police described the changes in the command structure with the Michigan State Police in the Metro Region. There are fewer buildings, and more of the State Police are assigned to mobile locations. Some are stationed with local government. Dan Hancock, Operations Supervisor, described the operation of the Detroit Regional

Dispatch Center. The center is housed at the Southeast Michigan Transportation Operations Center control room adjacent to the MDOT Freeway Operations staff. It serves Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties. The Computer Aided Dispatch system now operates statewide, and appropriate information is shared with the MDOT freeway operations staff. The Detroit Regional

Dispatch Center currently receives approximately 78,000 emergency 911 calls per month.

TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS



Angie Kremer

Annjanette Kremer, MDOT Traffic Incident Management Engineer, described the coordinated training program that is intended to build a stronger responder corps for safer incident recovery. A new coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) is now available for all emergency responders and those supporting Traffic Incident

Management Operations. The training puts police, firefighters, state and local departments of transportation, towing, medical personnel, and other incident responders on the same page, leading to faster, safer, integrated responder teams. Traffic Incident Management has now been added to the Governor's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.



FREEWAY OPERATIONS AT SEMTOC

Dayo Akinyemi, manager of the MDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems Center, described the technologies available to assist with traffic incident management including the closed circuit television cameras and the dynamic message signs. The Freeway Courtesy Patrol operates out of the Transportation Operations Center, and the Michigan State Police regional dispatch shares

the center which has access to the more than 200 cameras on Metro Detroit Freeways to assist with their dispatch operations. The cameras are also available for local public safety answering points (PSAPs) to dispatch local police, fire, ambulance, and tow services. MDOT hosts responder safety workshops to promote awareness of the camera technology availability and best prac-

tices to keep first responders safe on the road.



Dayo Akinyemi

HAZMAT CLEARANCE

Livonia Fire Chief Shadd Whitehead reviewed the I-696/Halsted Tanker Rollover incident that occurred in early 2012. In addition to being the Livonia Fire Chief, he serves as the Chief of Special Operations for Western Wayne County and oversees both the Hazardous Material Response Team and the Urban Search and Rescue Team operations. He explained that there are nine

HAZMAT teams in Metro Detroit and that they are organized to share resources. The Tanker Rollover at Interstate-696/Halsted involved a cargo of jet fuel that had to be emptied to avoid environmental damage. Because there was some delay in getting all the proper equipment on site there was some delay in opening the freeway.



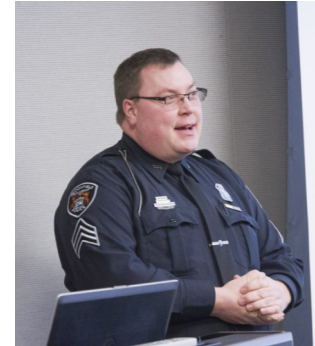
Livonia Fire Chief Shadd Whitehead



Medical Examiner Protocols

Sgt. Craig Shackelford

Bloomfield Township Police Sergeant Craig Shackelford described his work with the Oakland County Medical Examiner to develop protocols for faster clearance of fatal crashes from freeways. The South Oakland County Crash Investigation Team which operates on I-75 has a goal of clearing fatal crashes within 2 hours, and cooperation among the three police agencies and the Medical Examiner has allowed them to achieve that goal on several occasions



Traffic Reports

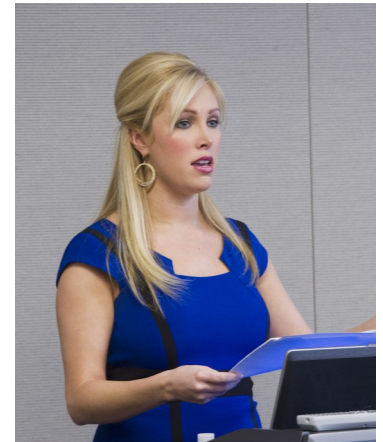
Erin Nicole traffic reporter from WXYZ-TV spoke after lunch about her experiences helping viewers start each day off right with her live traffic reports. Traffic data comes from Metro Traffic, and MDOT cameras are vital to her traffic reporting. Incidents are not automatically put on the traffic system, and this allows for independent verification. After an incident is verified, it is activated manually and an icon specific to the incident is generated and placed at the correct location. Verification comes through internet partners in-

cluding MDOT and law-enforcement agencies. Verification is assisted by the WXYZ assignment desk, producers, executive producers, and chopper as necessary to ensure accuracy. Not all of the “viewers” (customers) are watching. Some customers are on Twitter, Facebook, and WXYZ.com. If MDOT could provide volume data for each route it would assist in determining the impact an incident has on customers. She dreams of a system that takes communications with law enforcement to automatically generate a text/email directly to traffic reporters.

Summary

The goals of the workshop were met because the program highlighted the roles of the different responders to a traffic incident. Attendees at the workshop were asked to provide direction for the future activities to improve traffic incident management and regional transportation operations in Metro Detroit. The three activities receiving the most votes were:

1. Develop alternate routes/signal timing plans to divert traffic around incidents.
2. Educate the public on both *Move Over* and *Steer It Clear It* Laws.
3. Host additional responder safety workshops and table top exercises



*Erin Nicole,
WXYZ TV*