

# AUSTIN REGIONAL ITS ARCHITECTURE UPDATE WORKSHOP MINUTES

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**MEETING DATE:** November 20, 2014

**MEETING TIME:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**MEETING LOCATION:** Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications Center (CTECC), Austin, TX

**ATTENDEES:**

- Curtis Beaty, Texas A&M Transp. Institute
- Charles Booker, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Brian Burk, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Dave Carey, City of Austin
- Brian Craig, City of Austin
- Alesia Gamboa, TxDOT
- Stephen Hanuscin, City of Cedar Park
- Alex Kone, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)
- Greg Mack, CTRMA
- Tim Prueh, Austin Police Dept.
- Erica Ramirez, TxDOT Toll Operations
- Tim Reilly, CTRMA
- Jane Schroter, Capital Metro
- Robert Turner, City of Austin
- Tom Fowler, Kimley-Horn
- Vivek Deshpande, Kimley-Horn

**SUBJECT:** Austin Regional ITS Architecture Update – ITS Deployment Plan Workshop

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## Introductions and Workshop Overview

Tom Fowler of Kimley-Horn welcomed the stakeholders and thanked them for participating in the Regional ITS Architecture Update. The stakeholders introduced themselves and identified the organization that they were representing.

Tom noted that the Draft Regional ITS Architecture is available for review on the project website located at: [www.AustinITSArchitecture.com](http://www.AustinITSArchitecture.com). Comments on the Draft Regional ITS Architecture were requested by December 5, 2014.

A Draft Regional ITS Deployment Plan will be developed to identify projects that should be considered for deployment in the region in order to implement key elements of the Regional ITS Architecture that were identified as high priorities by the stakeholders. The Regional ITS Deployment Plan will focus on larger regional projects. During the development of the Regional ITS Architecture, stakeholders commented that they generally know what elements they would like to deploy to meet the needs within their own agency; however, help is needed in identifying and defining larger regional ITS projects that involve multiple stakeholders.

## Presentation Overview

A presentation was provided to the stakeholders that provided an overview of the Regional ITS Architecture update project, including the schedule and future deliverables. The presentation focused primarily on the Regional ITS Deployment Plan. The status of existing ITS deployment areas in the Region was discussed with a focus on areas where additional deployments were

needed. Based on the information gathered during the update of the Regional ITS Architecture, there were eight regional project areas that were recommended for the development of regional projects to consider for the Austin Region. There are many additional projects that individual stakeholders will be deploying in the coming years; however, the Regional ITS Deployment Plan will focus primarily on the larger regional level projects that involved multiple stakeholders. The eight regional project areas are included below:

- Regional Traveler Information Improvements
- Traffic Incident Management Improvements
- Freeway Service Patrol Expansion
- Integrated Corridor Management
- Center-to-Center Communications (TxDOT-to-Local)
- Center-to-Center Communications (Local-to-Local)
- Regional or Statewide Transit Payment System
- Archived Data Warehouse Implementation

### **Stakeholder Comments**

The following comments were noted during discussion of the eight regional project areas:

#### *Regional Traveler Information Improvements*

Jane Schroter from Capital Metro noted that there are a variety of methods to improve the dissemination of traveler information. The Region needs to consider partnering with private sector companies so they can help present data to the public that transportation agencies provide them.

Brian Craig from the City of Austin noted that the initial push for traveler information will need to come from individual agencies to gather and provide their own data. Eventually the Region may get to the point where agencies will want to use data from other agencies. A regional data warehouse model may provide this type of service.

#### *Traffic Incident Management Improvements*

Jane Schroter from Capital Metro noted real-time information on road closures would be important for Capital Metro and allow them to plan around road closures and incidents.

Brian Burk noted that TxDOT is currently coordinating computer aided dispatch (CAD) data with the City of Round Rock and Williamson County. This program could expand to other cities and counties if they would like to share data. Improved incident management data sharing should assist the Region with improving incident response times and allow TxDOT to provide improved traffic management.

#### *Freeway Service Patrol Expansion*

CTRMA noted that freeway service patrol is existing on US 183 and I-35 and will be added on MoPac. Funding is 80% federal and 20% TxDOT. TxDOT is provided freeway service patrol on SH 45 and SH 130 as part of an agreement that they would provide freeway service patrol on these toll roads.

### *Integrated Corridor Management*

The Austin Region submitted a grant application to FHWA for ICM funding in February 2014. FHWA has not made an announcement regarding funding.

### *Center-to-Center Communications (TxDOT-to-Local)*

CTRMA noted that they will be implementing a TMC for the managed lanes on MoPac. CTRMA has had meetings with TxDOT and the City of Austin and are willing to share data and video with both agencies.

### *Center-to-Center Communications (Local-to-Local)*

City of Austin/City of Cedar Park, and the City of Austin/City of Round Rock, both require center-to-center communications for traffic signal coordination. Capital Metro also noted the need for center-to-center communications so Capital Metro has real-time data on traffic conditions and closures.

### *Regional or Statewide Transit Payment System*

In addition to Capital Metro and CARTS, the City of Round Rock may need to be considered as a regional partner for the transit payment system on their transit service.

### *Archived Data Warehouse*

CAMPO could take the lead on this effort. They would like to see additional information on best practices and magnitude of cost.

### *Other Comments*

Brian Burk noted that development of regional standards would be useful. TxDOT could possibly take the lead and fund this effort if a consultant were brought on board to coordinate the effort. This may be challenging due to the continuously changing nature of ITS. Brian Craig noted that it will be easier to share data if agencies are using similar systems. Brian Craig also noted that the nature of technology is such that it may never be a good time for the Region to try to adopt certain types of technology, but we will have to start somewhere.

## **Concluding Comments and Next Steps**

Stakeholders were asked to provide any comments on the Draft Regional ITS Architecture to Kimley-Horn by December 5, 2014. The Regional ITS Architecture will be revised and remain in draft format until March 2015 when all documents are finalized. Kimley-Horn will also develop a Draft Regional ITS Deployment Plan and provide it to the stakeholders for review and comment.

Stakeholders were encouraged to contact any of the project team members if they had any questions or wanted to discuss the Regional ITS Architecture or Deployment Plan in more detail. Contact information is included below:

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