

NEW YORK

For meeting between Rodney Slater, New York State DOT Commissioner John Daly, and staff from Governor Pataki's office

*** RECENT EVENTS

At the end of January, and to NYSDOT's dismay, NYNEX withdrew from an operational test on which they had been the lead organization, **Northstar**. Northstar was a partnership between a NYNEX Venture Company, NY, NJ, CT, and FHWA, to demonstrate the utility of low cost communications technologies to deliver basic ITS services. This NYNEX decision was based on a corporate-wide review of business priorities, citing the immaturity of and need for more investment in the ITS market.

New York is actively involved on many Intelligent Transportation fronts, especially in combatting congestion with advanced technology. They have made groundbreaking progress in the following areas:

- Area-wide Advanced Traffic Management Systems
- Interagency Coordination (Incidents and Traffic)
- Electronic Toll Collection

Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)

The State has approximately **\$380M of ATMS projects** on their 5-year capital program, spread throughout urban areas in 7 of the State's regions.

Several of these projects are expanding with the hope of achieving widespread coordination of freeway management:

- n The INFORM project, one of the first ATMS projects built with Federal participation, has been running successfully for some years. It includes a system of Variable Message Signs, detectors, and ramp meters, all under software control, and covers 3 main East-West routes in the I-495 corridor: Long Island Expressway (I-495), Northern State Parkway, and Route 25.
(Management Center may be visited: contact Tom Werner, NYSDOT, 518/457-6438)
- n The Southern State Parkway, covering a parallel corridor, is being similarly instrumented and is intended to be integrated both with INFORM and with the I-95 corridor (see below). (Federal demonstration project funds: \$6.3M to date)

- n New York State, NYCity, the NYState Thruway, and the Port Authority are major partners in the I-95 coalition, a broad group of transportation agencies dedicated to improving mobility and coordinating transportation management on the I-95 corridor from Connecticut to Maryland. (Federally supported)

TRANSCOM

The Transportation Operations Coordinating Committee (TRANSCOM) is a consortium of 15 agencies in the NY/NJ/CT area whose goal is to improve inter-agency response to traffic incidents. They have been in successful operation for several years and played an instrumental role in coordinating the response to the World Trade Center bombing. They serve as a communications hub that provides information on incidents every day to public agencies, traffic information services, and commercial interests (truckers) as well as the public. (*Contact: Tom Batz 201/463-9033*)

Electronic Toll Collection and Border Crossings

Nearly half of all the nation's toll traffic occurs in and around New York City. An Interagency Group of 7 toll agencies (NY, NJ, PA, DE) has selected a common standard for toll collection.

- n The New York State Thruway is already instrumenting its most congested toll plazas with the EZ Pass electronic toll collection system, and hopes to have all 63 plazas (641 miles) in the system converted by the end of 1996. Thousands of users have been signed up and are using the system daily. Over \$11M of Federal funds have aided this project.
- n As part of the MiniTech project, FHWA has been providing funds and guidance to NYSDOT and the city of Buffalo to coordinate electronic clearance at the Buffalo-Ontario crossings with the Ontario-Detroit River crossings.

The **Port Authority of NY/NJ** is entering the implementation phase of an innovative (first attempt in the country) means of linking together various traffic management systems in and around their airports (Newark and JFK) with the surrounding traffic management systems. Signal systems, parking, variable message signs, and informational kiosks (traffic conditions and local services) will be placed under integrated control. Expansion may include incorporation of information from the INFORM and other ATMS systems. (*Contact at the Port Authority: Executive Director George Marlin, or Kathy Stanwick, Director of Govt and Community Affairs: 212/435-7851*)

Calspan Advanced Technology Center in Buffalo NY is one of the nation's largest independent research, test, and evaluation organizations. ITS projects at the center cover driver research, automated highway systems, ITS architecture and systems integration, highway safety and collision avoidance, and advanced commercial vehicle technology.

Planning for ITS

Currently the cities of New York, White Plains, Buffalo/Niagara, Rochester, and Syracuse are all involved in planning studies using partial Federal funds to strategize for deployment of ITS services in their areas.

These deployment planning studies are intended to assist local agencies in identifying their specific transportation needs and in developing short- and long-term strategic plans for implementation of ITS user services to meet these needs.

Environmental Technologies

NY and NJ and several public utilities are experimenting with alternative fuels for their vehicle fleets. State government officials have held discussions in the past with the Administration over concepts for installing infrastructure to support wider use of alternative fuels.

FACTOID: In 1994 New York City tied with Los Angeles for Metro Traffic Control's "Bottleneck Award" for the city with the consistently worst traffic conditions in the country.