

VII Update

Designing a better transportation system through **Vehicle Infrastructure Integration**

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VII Mission:

- to facilitate deployment of an information infrastructure for ongoing real-time data communications with, and among, vehicles to enable a number of safety, mobility, and commercial applications
- to identify a sustainable business model for ongoing maintenance and operation

VII State of the State Message

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Vehicle infrastructure integration (VII) has the potential to bring our transportation systems fully into the information age, using wireless communication to reduce crashes and delays on busy roadways. VII will enable smart vehicles and improve driver's situational awareness of potential hazards, as well as roadway and traffic conditions, while enabling a suite of tools for transportation system and agency management purposes. As the custodians of the three key VII test beds, we welcome you to the premier issue of *VII Update*. The primary goal of this publication is to keep the state DOTs and associated entities informed of new VII project developments and other intelligent transportation system (ITS)-related events within the United States.

As the VII proof of concept (POC) testing in both California and Michigan concludes, and as the

ramp-up begins for the ITS World Congress VII demonstrations in New York City, it is clear that the public agencies will need to speak with a collective voice on the VII progress to date. To achieve an understanding of what a sustainable future for VII will require, future editions of the *VII Update* will showcase the wide range of VII work being undertaken in the U.S. Upcoming issues will focus on VII-related initiatives underway in other states and globally. We anticipate the next issue will be released in conjunction with the 2008 ITS World Congress in November.

The progressive development path for VII includes making the current test beds sustainable and expanding partnerships with automotive and commercial-vehicle manufacturers and suppliers, universities, the telecommunications industry, and related transportation organizations. An aggressive timetable is being established for the evaluation of VII feasibility and for the potential impact VII may have on how a state DOT does business. Moving quickly from a research to a deployment phase is critical.

The state DOTs are the caretakers of our nation's major road

ways and their leadership in planning, research, development, and deployment will be key to VII's success. Recently AASHTO celebrated the 50th anniversary of the interstate highway system which we are committed to improving and maintaining. By overlaying VII on this existing infrastructure, the potential to define the next 50 years of transportation in our country can be realized: a future where we can continue to make progress to increase safety and reduce congestion.

Developing a National VII Strategic Plan

The agenda items for the May VII executive leadership team (ELT) meeting include Safe Trip 2I, measuring progress toward meeting VII viability criteria, and a resolution that captures the ELT memorandum of commitment. We applaud the crucial work being accomplished by the ELT. We recognize that a long-term approach is needed, which transcends changes in administration and staff both nationally and locally. Based on this need, we recommend that the VII ELT develop a VII strategic plan. Not only will this be instrumental to the work of the ELT and the VII Working Group, it will be a key document for state and local DOTs to use as background for changing the way they do business as VII moves from concept to reality.



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U.S. DOT Seeks National VII Infrastructure

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)'s Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) is seeking input for developing VII initiatives such as improving safety and reducing congestion, and developing business models for a VII communications network.

BAA: Technology Solutions to Improve Safety and Reduce Congestion

RITA has made a broad area announcement (BAA) for up to \$3 million in initial funding available to private industry, research organizations, and state and local governments under Safe Trip-21, an initiative to reduce congestion and improve the safety and performance of the nation's transportation system. Safe Trip-21 builds upon research into the use of electronic information, navigation, and communications technologies to prevent accidents and alleviate congestion by providing drivers with real-time safety warnings, traffic and transit information, and advanced navigational tools.

The selected test sites and technology applications will be evaluated in a year-long field test following an initial exhibition of capabilities during the 2008 ITS World Congress in New York City. VII Technical Working Group Members who submitted applications include the following DOTs: Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York.

Point of Contact:

Orin Cook, contracting officer,
617-494-2593

Technical Point of Contact:

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RFI: Business Models for Vehicle-Infrastructure Communications Network

RITA request for information (RFI) seeks input on potential business models for the financing and operation of a nationwide communications network between vehicles and the roadway infrastructure. The input and ideas will be used to identify candidate models for the deployment of VII, which will enable the advancement of crash avoidance technologies in vehicles, real-time traffic information to reduce congestion and improve navigational systems, and other technologies that will improve the safety and efficiency of travel.

Points of Contact:

- VIIBizModel@volpe.dot.gov
- Ellen E. Bell, Senior Advisor to the Director, RTV-1 617-494-2491
- David S. Scali, Chief of Acquisition, RTV-6D 617-494-2042

RFI: U.S. DOT Seeks Input on VII Test Facility in Detroit

The U.S. DOT has released an RFI seeking input on operation and use of the VII testing facility near Detroit, Michigan, following completion of VII proof of concept testing in late spring, 2008. The Detroit Test Environment (DTE) was created to test the concept of VII as defined by the U.S. DOT's joint VII research initiative with the auto industry and state departments of transportation. The U.S. DOT is interested in receiving input and expressions of interest in using the DTE by other private and public sector entities and options for continuing to operate and maintain the facility. The responses to the RFI may result in the government releasing a request for proposals for potential award of a contract to operate and maintain the DTE.

Technical Point of Contact:

Mike Schagrin, 202-366-2180

Upcoming Events

VII Tactical Deployment Workshop,
May 22, McLean, VA, www.omniair.org

ITS Canada's Annual Conference,
June 1-4, Montreal, Quebec, Canada,
www.itscanada.ca

European Congress on ITS, June 4-6,
Geneva, Switzerland, www.itsineurope.org

Management Briefing Seminars,
August 11-15, Traverse City, MI,
www.cargroup.org

National Rural ITS Conference,
September 3-5, Anchorage, AK,
www.nritsconference.org

Transpo2008—"ITS: Piecing It All Together,"
September 22-25, Orlando, FL, www.itstranspo.org

15th World Congress on Intelligent Transportation Systems:
"ITS Connections: Saving Time, Saving Lives,"
November 16-20, New York, NY, www.itsworldcongress.org

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