

Southeastern Corridors Council – Cursory Webinar Notes

7th webinar – 12/6/19

Notes taken by Overly. Call started at 11 am ET.

Attendees (16):

AL = Mark Bentley, Phillip Wiedmeyer

FL = Wanda Forrest, Doug Kettles, Alex Kolpakov, Mark-Anthony Smith

GA = Joe Winslow

LA = Ann Vail

NC = Chris Dobbins, Bill Eaker, Carina Soriano

SC = Ben Kessler

TN = Shauna Basques, Jonathan Overly

DOE = Trev Hall

DOT = Mike Scarpino

1. Overly recorded attendees on the webinar

2. Some up-front notes of new resources:

- ✓ Overly added individual and group screenshot maps of corridors across the southeast for all the different fuels (excluding hydrogen) and placed them on the SharePoint page for our Corridors effort. Each image shows where the southeast stood as of the end of Rounds 1, 2 and 3 with respect to submitted and approved “corridor-ready” and corridor-pending” routes. An example is shown just below for electric vehicle corridors.

<https://members.cleancitiessharepoint.org/Wiki/Southeast%20Corridors.aspx>

- ✓ Overly also received from Mike Scarpino and added to the SharePoint page a link to the original “Signing for Designated Alternative Fuels Corridors” instructions that tells state DOTs how to develop signs – https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/policy/alt_fuel_corridors/index.htm

3. OUR ONLINE INFORMATION SPREADSHEET

- ✓ We started off our discussion focusing on the missing data in our online spreadsheet. We reviewed what we did and do not have, and Overly noted that he would contact LA folks to get them to work on (during the call, Ann Vail was making such updates and notified us she was on the call after a few minutes of adding updates).
- ✓ For Georgia, both Scarpino and Wiedmeyer noted that they had seen more of the GA signs on different corridors, including on the west side of the state along I-20 and on the north side of the state on I-75. Winslow note that he is working with various GADOT officials on this.



4. ISSUES WE ARE HAVING

- ✓ Wanda Forrest reminded the group that they are having issues like the the state DOT saying “we already have TOO MANY signs all over the place” in the area where that coalition wants to add signs. In this discussion, what we realized is that that coalition only covers six counties, and the places where they want to add signs are all within their jurisdiction (as compared to most other southeastern coalitions which are working across their entire state to add signs – it is not such a confined area). This brought up some comments about the FL efforts including (by Kettles and

Forrest) that there are multiple coalitions that have been working *together* to get better communications on-going between the coalitions and the state DOT, and work to better make their case for signage support. The FL set of coalitions have been hard at work on this and they have upcoming meetings with state DOT to further their efforts.

- ✓ On this front, Scarpino suggested that if that is a problem, they may want to pivot toward using *General Service signs*. Overly added that they might want to consider abandoning the urban area posting of signs and focus more on the inter-urban areas – the major corridor stretches between their cities.
 - ✓ Overly brought up the corridor images he has added to the SharePoint website, and the note on what things look like across the entire southeastern region when you aren't just paying attention to individual states. Scarpino noted that the head of FHWA was looking at these maps at some point in the recent past and *they saw the hole for corridor submissions that was in FL!*
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5. Agenda for call with DOT folks

This was discussed as a group and the following is our starter agenda for what we want to discuss when state DOT representatives join us on a near-future call:

- ✓ Background this group – why/how formed
 - ✓ Purpose for the calls – Establish (reasonably) consistent Corridor ID Signage across the states that are participating with DOTs communicating with coalitions and one another on signage plans.
 - ✓ Must have designated corridors before you can put up such signage
 - ✓ ID signage focus – RURAL stretches of interstates first (or possibly only)
 - ✓ CMAQ funds CAN BE used to fund signage – “Is your state open to using CMAQ funds for signage (like NC is already doing?)” Reference the FHWA site:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/resources/faq/index.cfm
 - ✓ ENDGAME = is signage in every state that at least doesn't look completely different from one state to another
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6. SUMMARY & Planning Information:

- ✓ Overly asked two Clean Cities related questions – Which coalitions...
 - a) ... did NOT select the corridors subtask for this current year? *Only Alex in Tampa and Mark-Anthony in Southeast FL answered in the affirmative.*
 - b) ... are planning on selecting the corridors subtask for this coming (2020-21) year? *Everyone on this call was choosing the subtask.*
- ✓ Plan for calls in 2020: Every other month calls was the approved schedule.
- ✓ On those calls, Bill Eaker suggested that we alternative those calls between DOT and just us.
- ✓ Since we want to get fully prepared to begin on-going call with state DOT reps, we planned two calls in January: **Jan. 10 and Jan 23**. Overly will send out Outlook invitations to everyone for those call with the webinar information included.