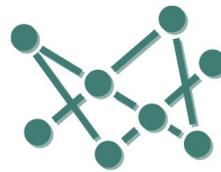


Southeastern Corridor Council – Zoom Webinar Notes

25th webinar – 2/19/21



SOUTHEASTERN CORRIDOR COUNCIL

Notes taken by Soriano; attendance by Vail; chat by Overly.
Call started at 2:00pm ET.

Attendees (38xx):

STATE DOTS (& related)

ARDOT = **Virginia Porta**

ALDOT = Edward Austin

FLDOT = **Tanner Martin**

GADOT = **John Hibbard**

KY = Jahan Khan

NCDOT = Brian Phillips

TDOT = **Nathan Vatter, Jennifer Marshall**

VADOT = **Marc Lipschultz**

(Bold = spoke during webinar)

Carlyle Jones

CLEAN CITIES COALITIONS & FHWA/DOE-CC REPS

AL = **Mark Bentley**, Michael Staley,
Phillip Wiedmeyer

AR – Patti Springs

FL = Alexander Kolpakov, Aleisha

Lopez

GA = Jennifer Fundora

LA = Ann Vail

NC = Sara Nichols, Carina Soriano

SC = Ben Kessler

TN = Shauna Basques, **Jonathan**

Overly

VA = Alleyn Harned, Sarah Stalcup,
Matt Wade

DOT/FHWA = Mike Scarpino

(Bold = co-chairs)

AGENDA

(Overly) First, ask state DOT reps if anything has changed on their radar for expecting them to make comments about the alt-fuel related signage pieces of the NPA ("Notice of Proposed Amendment")

(Staley) Then review any plans for gathering support for MUTCD changes:

1. Michael will prepare draft and provide instructions for any business or individual to submit comments to the DOCKET (online)
2. Businesses will hopefully put letter on their letterhead and submit through online interface; individuals can attach letter or just put what they want to include in the comments field - HIT SUBMIT
3. Can coalitions or SCC TRACK who has made submissions?
4. Goal of 100 submissions?

Review website and information that has been placed there to help coalitions.

(Overly) Any updates from states:

1. Corridor ID signage
2. Round 5 submissions

NOTES

Links for MUTCD proposed changes are on the corridorcouncil.org site, including a summary of the Clean Cities suggested comments.

The deadline to submit comments is now May 14, 2021.

Kerry from ALDOT has talked with Michael (AL) - updated timeline but Michael has yet to reach out to him.

Hibbard from GADOT-They are continuing their review of the proposed changes and trying to figure out their own response.

ACFC-Michael mentioned they sent their own comments in today, and will share once they appear on the docket.

Porta- Arkansas-Similar situation to Georgia, the Clean Cities coalition is not directly involved but happy to take any prepared comments to their DOT.

Lipschultz is leading VDOT's review of the MUTCD changes and are looking at everything. There will be groups supportive of the changes, such as gas station lobby groups, so need to make sure we are submitting comments by each coalition and stakeholders so that there are lots of comments regarding how the proposed changes are negative for alt fuel signage.

Comments Guidance: Looking for 100 comments from Clean Cities coalitions, TEP, stakeholders, members of congress but they all need to have consistent substance, and can vary just a little based on who is submitting them. Would prefer the more volume, the better.

Pay attention to the commenter's checklist.

Select 'Amendment/Revision' and should check box to receive email confirmation.

Michael (from AL) wrote a summary in the comment box and then also attached a four-page file going into further detail. (*see Chat*)

Corporations can use the 'Amendment/Revision' category as well.

Link from Michael for after February 1st, will be open longer-Jonathan will add a second link to the corridor council website under 'News'

There may be some MUTCD webinars and they have a way to sign up for notifications of the webinars. Would like to have all Clean Cities comments in before the webinars. The sign-up link will be put on the corridor council website.

For TN, Middle West will be better submission vehicle.

AL- Would like to have a two-prong strategy for comments-each coalition submits comments, and then encourages stakeholders to also submit comments. These stakeholders should include utility groups and fuel associations.

Springs- concern that the Clean Cities coalition can't do much, since housed at a state agency. They will need help with wording on comments so it doesn't sound like lobbying/advocating.

Michael (from AL)-thinks there's a congressional component and that the acting secretary of the FHWA is supportive of reducing GHGs.

Alley- TEP is currently trying to sort through policy and agency asks.

VA- Are allowing EV signage on exit signs and the federal policy asks, what is the state policy? VA allows supplemental signs, but wouldn't allow like a chargepoint logo by itself though. They do allow the blue EV plug sign though (or a general service sign) though typically it must have gas signs as the base. VA has contracted with EVGo to make a VA network so 95% of Virginians will be within 30 miles or less from a DC Fast Charger and Plug-In America wants the same treatment. They've been partnering with Sheetz as well.

Jonathan- seems MUTCD proposed changes are short-term.

Changes were made prior to election, VDOT is concerned about over-crowded interchanges and the signs there (federal rules limit the amount).

Michael- seems odd that we are restricting alt fuel signage on 'Gas' boards. Really need to change boards to say 'fuel'. Concern that the changes are not broad enough and with how long changes to the MUTCD take, it's shortsighted. There should be state flexibility within reason.

Philip- This is an equity issue too, to increase mobility (which is part of the law) and all fuels need to be treated equally.

Jonathan- I think there was concern that all the changes would confuse motorists.

Michael- AL has a logo subscription program-can't exactly put up free signs for EV charging when other fuels have to pay to put up their own signs.

Jonathan- may fall to Clean Cities to keep on top of whether or not stations are working for specific station signs. We'll be having a meeting at the beginning of March, then April, May and June so as to correspond with DOE funding.

Mike Scarpino- INFRA funding is available, Round 5 nominations are due next week. **Doesn't make specific note of omnibus for specific signs.** (Carina noted that Mike talked fast and she didn't get all of the stuff from this discussion.) The Southeast Corridor Council efforts supports Biden's climate agenda. Committee language in FY21 omnibus that specifically allowed FHWA to allow specific service signs for electric signage. Mike will share the language with Jonathan to put on website.

Note for next call – talk about 2021 Cooperative Agreement Corridor Subtask and coalition work

Michael – overview of MUTCD updates/webinars

CHAT

From Carina Soriano to Everyone: 02:03 PM -- Space coast-Colleen

From Me to Everyone: 02:08 PM -- CARINA - Can you help with notes?

From Carina Soriano to Everyone: 02:09 PM -- Yes; sorry should have mentioned Caitlin asked me to take notes-she wasn't feeling well.

From Me to Everyone: 02:10 PM -- Thanks CS!

From Mike Scarpino- US DOT Volpe Center to Everyone: 02:15 PM -- <https://www.corridorcouncil.org/>

From Patti Springs to Everyone: 02:15 PM -- I have to step away for a few minutes... be right back

From Jennifer Marshall, TDOT to Everyone: 02:20 PM -- For TN, I am sure that you all are familiar with Joseph Sweat with TDOT. He typically works with the MUTCD; however, our Air Quality Office with Susan Steffenhagen and Brianna Benson will be meeting with Sweat and TDEC beginning March to learn more.

From Me to Everyone: 02:26 PM -- TY Jennifer!

From Alleyn Harned to Everyone: 02:31 PM -- Alleyn joining late

From Virginia Porta to Everyone: 02:32 PM -- I have to step away for a few minutes... be back

From Carina Soriano to Everyone: 02:34 PM -- Was that the acting secretary of the DOE Michael?

From Michael Staley to Everyone: 02:35 PM -- acting secretary of FHWA

From Carina Soriano to Everyone: 02:35 PM -- thank you

From Michael Staley to Everyone: 02:38 PM -- <https://www.transportationandclimate.org/statements-state-leaders-launch-tci-p>. Her name is stephanie pollack, Biden put her in at the #2 spot at FHWA she is from MA, see her quote at the link above. Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack

“Tackling a challenge as big as climate change requires regions to work together and both the Memorandum of Understanding and joint statement represent a commitment by a broad group of states to continue collaborating on strategies that can bend the curve on transportation greenhouse gas emissions, which continue to be the largest and fastest growing source of climate-altering pollution,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.