

Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of the issues discussed at the Maryland Department of Transportation – State Highway Administration (SHA) StateStat meeting on October 28, 2011. Analysis is provided by StateStat.

Updates

- **Maps in Spanish.** SHA reported at the meeting that highway maps have been translated into Spanish and are ready for distribution. Digital versions of the SHA highway maps are available in English and Spanish online at: <http://www.roads.maryland.gov/Index.aspx?PageId=833>.
- **Snow Safety Online.** The panel suggested that SHA put snow safety information on their website in preparation for the snow showers expect on October 29th. SHA said that they would put them up by the end of the day.
- **Wellness Program.** The panel asked SHA if the agency had a wellness program. SHA said they did and that they would share information about it at the next meeting.

Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) System

- **Phase I.** The AVL project was divided into two phases to ensure that Phase I was completed by September 2011. Phase I constitutes location-only AVL deployment to be used for vehicle tracking only. The agency reports that Phase I has been deployed to almost all SHA vehicles. At the meeting, SHA reported that 500 mobile AVL units have been tested and are operational for hired equipment as well. SHA reported some issues in AVL operation that it is working to resolve.

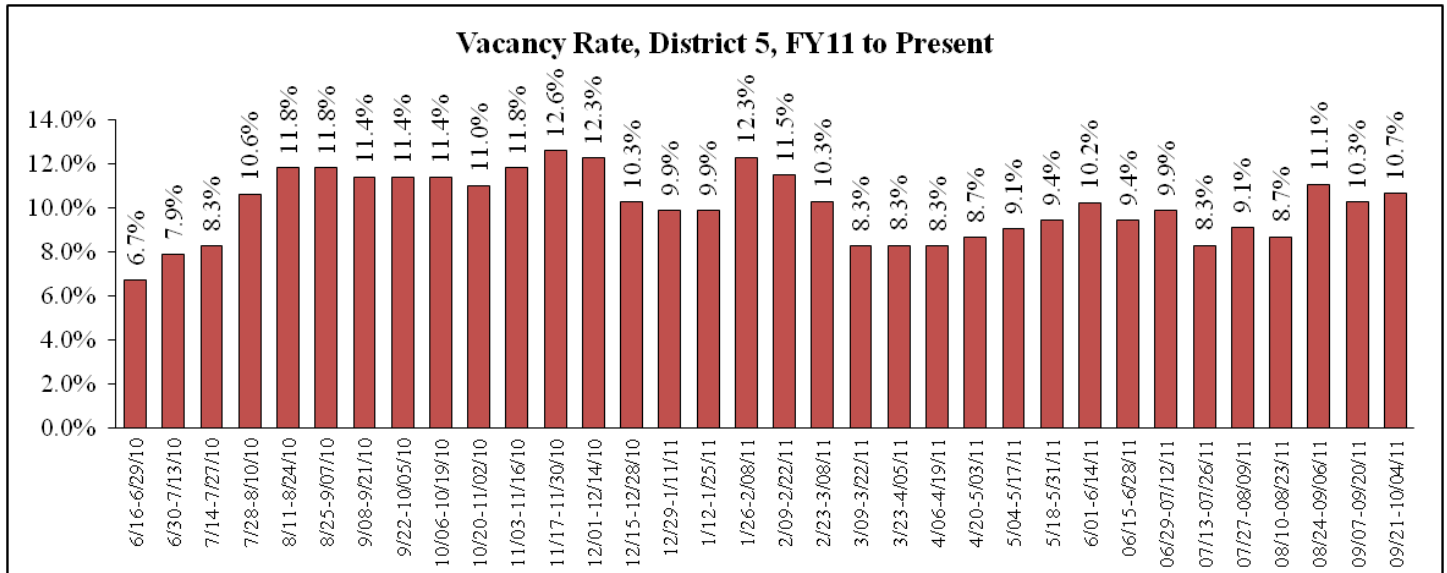
Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) System				
	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11
Percent of agency vehicles that are AVL equipped	32.0%	42.0%	77.0%	91.0%

- **Phase II.** Phase II involves additional functionalities that have yet to be decided upon or formally funded. SHA provided a detailed explanation of seven priorities it is considering for Phase II, including: additional portable modems, on-board vehicle diagnostics, route optimization software, among others. The agency anticipates completion of Phase II deployment by the end of FY 2014.

Personnel

- **Vacancies.** The number of vacancies dropped significantly agency-wide to begin FY12. The agency informed the panel at the January StateStat meeting that it would be eliminating 32 PINs to start FY12, and it appears that the elimination of PINs is virtually the sole reason for the drop in vacancies. PIN eliminations appear to be focused on Planning, Engineering and Real Estate (lost 12 PINs) and the Office of Construction (lost 10 PINs). SHA explained that the reason for the elimination of PINs for the Office of Construction was the low number of construction programs. In addition, inspections are now heavily done by outside inspectors. SHA explained that hiring efforts for Facility Maintenance and Transportation Engineer positions were still ongoing and that the data also reflected an increase in retirements.
- **District 5 Hiring.** District 5 possesses the highest vacancy rate among all of the agency's district shops. At the January StateStat meeting, the agency reported that there were offers pending in District 5 and that it expected the vacancy rate to drop from 9-10 percent down to 5 percent. The vacancy rate in District 5 was

at 8.7 percent in August and exceeded 10 percent for the last three pay periods. SHA explained that although they are continuing to hire, the high vacancy rates are the result of increased turnover in advance of the winter season.



Inter-County Connector

- **Cracks in the ICC Overpasses.** State inspectors have found hairline cracks in the supports of three bridges over the ICC, according to an October 18 article in *The Baltimore Sun*. The cracks have been attributed to a deficiency in the steel reinforcement of the concrete in the pillar caps. As a temporary solution, the contractor will wrap the caps in high-tension cables to prevent further cracking. In order to ensure long-term durability, however, a permanent solution is being devised that is likely to include reinforcement or rebuilding. The contractor will be responsible for the cost of the repairs. At the meeting, SHA reported that temporary repair work for all three structures has been completed ahead of schedule. The contractor is in the process developing a permanent solution.

Pedestrian Safety

- **Pedestrian Safety and Transit Stops.** In the previous StateStat, the panel recognized the potential of transit stops to contribute to pedestrian safety issues. The agency reported that it has not performed a system wide analysis of the correlation of transit stop location and proximity to pedestrian crashes, but has conducted analysis on the impact of transit stops on pedestrian safety for specific locations. At the last meeting, MTA offered to provide SHA with transit boarding data by stop to facilitate system wide analysis. SHA reported at the 10/28 meeting that they are working with MTA and Montgomery County to identify high incident areas.

Highway Access Permits

- **Access Permit Stakeholder Recommendations.** In June, the agency posted a status report updating progress on implementing 14 recommendations to improve the timeliness, predictability, consistency and transparency of the Access Permit process. According to report, quarterly updates on progress made on a quarterly basis on the SHA website. The status report should have been updated in September. SHA reported in the StateStat meeting that a new update would be online within two weeks.

- **Performance Metrics update.** The agency added metrics to the StateStat template to track improvements generated from implementation of the stakeholder recommendations. Both plan and Traffic Impact Study (TIS) processing times factor into the agency's calculation of submissions completed on-time. In each of the last four months, the percent of submissions completed on-time has failed to meet the 90 percent goal. The average processing time, however, has routinely been below the goal. SHA explained that much of this is due to applicant delay.
- **Fast Track Eligible Projects.** At the July StateStat meeting, the panel asked the agency to identify current projects that would qualify for Fast Track. The agency reported that there were seven projects in various stages of the access permit process that would qualify for the Fast Track process. SHA reported at the October 28th meeting that it is encouraging developers to use Fast Track.

511 Traveler Advisory Telephone System

- **511 Traveler Advisory Telephone System.** The 511 Traveler Advisory Telephone System rolled-out in September. The 511 Traveler Advisory Telephone System is a public number designed to allow travelers easy access to travel related issues that covers Maryland, as well as D.C. and parts of Northern Virginia. A traveler information website was developed in conjunction with the new number. SHA said that they would update the panel on how deployment is going at the next stat meeting.