TRB Webinar: Transportation Experiences and Next Steps in the COVID-19 Pandemic

June 16, 2020

@NASEMTRB
#TRBwebinar
#COVID19
Questions and Answers

Please type your questions into your webinar control panel

We will read your questions out loud, and answer as many as time allows

#TRBwebinar
#COVID19
TRB Webinar

Transportation Experiences and Next Steps in the COVID-19 Pandemic

June 16, 2020
Background

- TRB = Transportation Research Board
- TRB COVID resources:
  https://www.nationalacademies.org/topics/transportation-covid-19-resources
- Today’s webinar
  - Organized by the TRB Standing Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure
  - Purpose: “...discuss how planning, preparedness, and response can mitigate exposure and viral spread of communicable diseases among transportation customers and employees”
  - Presentations plus question-and-answer period
ACRP Project

- Developing a *Best Practices Guidebook* on airport preparedness for communicable disease outbreaks
- How?
  - Regional workshops and webinars
  - National workshop on November 13
- Learn more by
  - Emailing: Airports@erg.com
  - Visiting project website (below)
- What keeps you up at night?

https://projects.erg.com/conferences/acrp/register-acrp-workshop.asp
Today’s Speakers

Augustus “Gus” Hudson
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

*Atlanta Airport Deployment of Practices during Communicable Disease Outbreaks*

Sam Zimbabwe, Kristen Simpson, and Patti Quirk
Seattle Department of Transportation

*From Congestion to Contagion*
RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW

ATRS | JUNE 2020

AUGUSTUS “GUS” HUDSON | AIRPORT DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
TIMELINE OF EVENTS
COVID-19 INITIAL OUTBREAK & IMPACT PERIOD

JAN 2020
Closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in China

FEB 2020
Number of cases throughout the U.S increase sharply and air travel restrictions are announced.

MAR 2020
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) develops a reduction of operations plan to systematically reduce services, systems, and personnel

APR 2020
Airlines and airport tenants continue to reduce services including flights and concessions operations

MAY 2020
ATL develops a resumption of operation playbook to systematically resume shuttered and reduced operations

JUN 2020
Passenger and flight schedules increase. Resumption of operations playbook is implemented
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-COVID ACTIVITY</th>
<th>COVID-19 IMPACT PERIOD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systems operating at peak capacity</td>
<td>TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS PROCESSED ON MARCH 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• APM Systems</td>
<td>62,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ground Transportation Services</td>
<td>Passenger count average per day from March 24 - May 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food and Beverage and retail shopping</td>
<td>9,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Parking lots</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vertical Transportations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Roadway system</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Passenger processing systems (TSA &amp; CBP)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AVERAGE FLIGHTS PER DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,990</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2500</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AVERAGE PASSENGERS PER DAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>300,000</strong></td>
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</table>
### FEDERAL AGENCIES

**TSA Checkpoints**
- Domestic:
  - N/S Closed
  - Main Opened

- International:
  - F Departure Closed & Recheck Opened
  - E Recheck Closed

### CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION
- Consolidated FIS activities at F

### CENTRAL PASSENGER TERMINAL COMPLEX

#### CONCOURSES
- **Reduced Operations:**
  - Concourse C South
  - Concourse D South

- **Closed Operations:**
  - Concourse T-South
  - Concourse B
  - Concourse C-North
  - Concourse E North & South

- **Reduced Concessions Operations**

#### SYSTEMS
- **Escalators/Elevators**
  - Turned off 101 of 321 systems
  - APM suspended train frequency

### RENTAL CAR CENTER

#### SYSTEMS
- **Escalators/Elevators**
  - Turned off 6 of 46 systems
  - APM suspension to facility

### ATRIUM
- Optimized social distancing in seating areas

### PARKING
- Implemented parking consolidation
- Suspended shuttle operations

### TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES
- Moved pick-ups and drop-offs to upper and lower curbs

### AIRFIELD
- Runway 10-28 closed for maintenance
## PHASED APPROACH

### COVID-19 RESPONSE OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE I</th>
<th>PHASE II</th>
<th>PHASE III</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Assessed impact of COVID-19 to the Aviation industry, City of Atlanta and ATL</td>
<td>• Developed a reduction plan to further reduce systems and services</td>
<td>Developed a playbook for resumption of operations that included:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Developed a plan to reduce systems and services to reduce expenses</td>
<td>• Modified workforce to ensure social distancing based on CDC guidelines</td>
<td>• Processes for employees to come back to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Worked with our facility operators to reduce lighting and climate systems, as well as vertical transportation systems</td>
<td>• Monitored all federal government, public health, and industry councils for guidelines, recommendations, and changed in policy</td>
<td>• Social distancing recommendations and processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consolidated ATL parking operations</td>
<td>• Started the implementation of protective measures in the public areas of the airport to increase passenger safety</td>
<td>• Guideline and schedules for resumption of reduced system and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduced Ground Transportation services and APM services</td>
<td>• Increased signage and messaging for COVID-19 safety measures as recommended by public health</td>
<td>• Communication processes for employees, governmental entities, and the media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Evaluated operating budget and reduced discretionary spending</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Recalled staff to handle increased operations</td>
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</table>
Seattle DOT’s vision, mission, and core values

**Vision:** Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation

**Mission:** to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities

Committed to **6 core values:**
- Equity
- Safety
- Mobility
- Sustainability
- Livability
- Excellence
Presentation overview

- Background
- Workforce changes
- Adapting to changing needs
- Essential Elements of Information
- Then came the bridge
- Unwinding Continuity of Operations Plans
Background

- January 21 - first person in the U.S. tests positive in Washington State
- February 18 - Mayor begins citywide COVID planning
- February 19 – SDOT begins updating department COOP
- March 2 - Seattle Emergency Operations Center is activated
- March 5 - Seattle DOT activates our Incident Management Team
- March 23 - Governor Inslee issues stay at home order
- March 23 - West Seattle High Rise Bridge closes
Workforce Changes

• Need to quickly adapt and iterate on changes
  • Implementing large-scale telecommuting
  • Keeping high-risk employees safe
  • Managing potential Race and social justice disparities across workforce
• Creating workforce reserves
• Creating opportunities for talent redeployment
• Implementing social distancing for crew staff
Adapting to changing needs

- Initially, not a transportation emergency
  - Curbside Permitting: medical response, restaurants, retail, suspension of parking fees
  - Modified school zone speed limits
  - Managing public space and events (e.g. Farmers Markets)
- Gradually, opportunities for changing travel patterns
  - Stay Healthy Streets
- Now opportunities for pivoting toward recovery with many uncertainties
# Essential Elements of Information

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absenteeism</td>
<td>percent of SDOT called out today</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of front-line operations/field staff you would normally have reporting on this day</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>435</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of front-line operations/field staff you EXPECTED to report on this day.</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>252</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of front-line operations/field staff who ACTUALLY reported on this day.</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>221</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential Functions Delivered (Y/N)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall traffic volumes compared to normal*</td>
<td>measured at 3 screenlines</td>
<td>245,970</td>
<td>100,890</td>
<td>100,010</td>
<td>100,080</td>
<td>101,210</td>
<td>108,800</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane Lower Bridge Volumes</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,660</td>
<td>7,330</td>
<td>6,270</td>
<td>6,380</td>
<td>5,740</td>
<td>5,880</td>
<td>107%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle volume at the screenlines</td>
<td>counts at the permanent</td>
<td>5,817</td>
<td>5,414</td>
<td>2,851</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>2,247</td>
<td>4,532</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permit Applications Intake</td>
<td>permit applications</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDOT facilities closed</td>
<td>of SDOT facilities that</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Essential Elements of Information

Speeds: Historic collision lows, lower traffic volumes, and an increase in speeds. March speed and volume data from our school zone speed cameras show a 10% increase in speeds coupled with essentially a 50% drop in volumes.
An Emergency within a Pandemic: Closing the West Seattle Bridge

- Highest volume SDOT roadway
  - 84,000 vehicles per day (2019)
  - 17,000 transit riders per day
- Rapid and unexpected growth in cracks, over the course of days
- Decision was made to close bridge on March 23 and communicated within hours
- Department-wide response on mitigations and engineering
Returning to “New Normal”

• Crew capacity issues
  • Training and implementing new PPE and safety protocols
  • Fleet and staff transportation concerns
  • On-going childcare issues
• Travel demand issues
  • Unclear capacity of transit
  • Fiscal impact of crisis
• Race and Equity Issues
  • Pandemic has exacerbated existing disparities
  • Recovery presents opportunities but also risks
Questions?

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Patti.quirk@seattle.gov | (206) 423-1066
Kristen.simpson@seattle.gov | (206) 423-6937

www.seattle.gov/transportation
TRB Resources
Get Involved with TRB

Receive emails about upcoming TRB webinars

Find upcoming conferences
http://www.trb.org/Calendar
Get Involved with TRB

#TRBwebinar

Getting involved is free!

Be a Friend of a Committee bit.ly/TRBcommittees
– Networking opportunities
– May provide a path to Standing Committee membership

Join a Standing Committee bit.ly/TRBstandingcommittee


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Transportation Research Board

The National Academies of Sciences • Engineering • Medicine
TRB turns 100 on November 11, 2020

100 YEARS 2020 TRB

Help TRB:
- Promote the value of transportation research;
- Recognize, honor, and celebrate the TRB community; and
- Highlight 100 years of accomplishments.

Learn more at
www.TRB.org/Centennial
#TRB100

MOVING IDEAS: ADVANCING SOCIETY—100 YEARS OF TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

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