

SunGuide Software

User’s Group

Meeting Minutes



Date: March 28, 2019

Time: 2:30pm-3:30pm EDT

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| Agenda: |  |
| Topic | **Led By:** |
| Item 1: Non-Standard DMS Message for Color DMS (don’t display well)Item 2: Floodgate File Distribution (no JIRA issue)Item 3: RWIS Alerts need the alert type and value addedItem 4: SG-3860 Planned EventsItem 5: Data Purge from TPS | Mark DunthornMark DunthornTucker BrownTucker BrownTucker Brown |

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| Attendees: |  |
| Alain Capucci, D1Justin Merritt, D1Robbie Brown, D1Ray Mikol, D1Luis Ruiz, D1Jason Summerfield, D2Jason Evans, D2Kevin Mehaffy, D3Aven Morgan, D3Amy DiRusso, D3John McFadden, CoTJacques Dupuy, D4Clay Congdon, 595Edward Grant, D5 | Shannon Watterson, D5Mark Lucas, D5Jay Williams, D5Mark Laird, D6Jared Roso, D7Jessica Ogden, D7Dan Buidens, D7Tony Albert, FTEJohn Hope, CFXTucker Brown, SwRIChristine Shafik, COMark Dunthorn, COJennifer Rich, COFrances Ijeoma, COKarthik Devarakonda, CO |

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| Discussion: |  |

This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of taking meeting minutes.

1. Non-Standard DMS Messages for Color DMS Do Not Display Well on Map

Mark Dunthorn: First we are going to talk about a JIRA issue and then a few non-JIRA issues that are related. The JIRA issue is 3444. We have some external systems that are being used to post messages to SunGuide. SunGuide doesn’t have a well-defined API and as long as you are sending the correct XML to the databus you can post messages. So there is a lot more flexibility with the MULTI string that is sent and it lets you put messages on a sign that would not be possible through SunGuide. The messages themselves are appearing fine on the sign. The rendering engine within SunGuide does not support all MULTI tags right now. What you end up with is that the message looks great on the sign but in SunGuide, in the Operator Map we have some shields that have been dropped. The MULTI string here was not interpreted correctly. We are proposing to support additional MULTI tags. Specific examples would be text alignment, so in the previous example the travel times were right justified and the destination was left justified. We would want the operator map to render them correctly.

Are there any other features the SSUG wants to see? Right now, we are just talking about sending the MULTI in from an external system. I know there are a few external systems right now, SELS, are there any other external systems that require MULTI support?

 District: Color and graphics.

Mark Dunthorn: Color wasn’t a specific problem reported but if we do want to make changes I think it would be a good addition. Is there any specific functionality that we would want to add to the add message control that we do not have there right now?

I think right now we are always center justified and the graphic is always on the left. Would enhancing those capabilities be useful?

John: Position text in various places on the surface of the DMS sign and place it between graphics. Each line of text is positioned specifically in different places so the way the GUI is right now is that the text is always in the same spot and that would not work for CFX use of the color DMS.

Mark Dunthorn: Is this MULTI from the server you have down there?

John: Yes, it is the data server from the travelcom system

Mark Dunthorn: So the data server is producing MULTI that has different needs than the MULTI that SunGuide is sending. Are you asking to add this support in the rendering of the operator map?

John: Yes, right now there is a perimeter that tells SunGuide to ignore any kind of programming. We are working on an alternate implementation that is more flexible.

Mark Dunthorn: That is something we want to move forward with, what about in the control itself? Is that something your operators would find useful? The JIRA issue was only for the data center use case.

John: I think for today, it is the way the GUI works at this time. Moving forward we may investigate making the use of these color signs to where we can position text wherever we want on the sign.

Mark Dunthorn: I agree, I think long term we have to pick up where we left off maybe two years ago which was a separate ConOps for making better use of the DMS signs. It is still out there as something we want to do. We can limit this change to what was asked in the JIRA issue which is supporting what you need for the data server. Tucker, is there anything specific that you wanted to ask John on that?

Tucker: No.

Mark Dunthorn: Since we are talking about graphics, we do have a few out there. They are from the MUTCD and they aren’t lined up with event types. Is there a need for additional graphics?

Tony Albert: Turnpike is using about five graphics in the system. However, we were informed that Alex Brum is compiling a list and he would be the one to submit any suggestions on our side. I will pass that on to him since he is not on the call.

Alex Brum: I am here and came on late. We are consolidating a list, one thing we are talking about is there a library of graphics that are already created that we can compare against? Also, I think there is always an additional need for graphics. There should also be a process to add or remove graphics as needed. I do think we need additional graphics.

Mark Dunthorn: I am glad to hear someone else is already thinking of that. If you can let Christine know what you are thinking we can support you.

Any questions? What we have decided is that we will move forward with the JIRA issue and we will table any additional GUI changes for now. We are at some point going to move forward with a ConOps then we will get some ideas from Alex in terms of additional graphics.

1. Floodgate Files

Mark Dunthorn: We have some need for changes to the floodgate files (thanks Jason) that is distributed via SunGuide. We have reached out to a couple of Districts and have gotten back files and so far no two Districts have the same file. We have not gotten the FL511 file yet and it does raise the point that there are discrepancies out there that could lead to issues when creating floodgates. We are looking for a way to better coordinate changes to the Floodgate file. How often are you updating the Floodgate files? Regularly, quarterly?

Jason: Previously it was told to us that it was managed and distributed through Central Office since it had to be coordinated with FL511. So, we only updated it when we were told to. Occasionally we would compare it with what we had from the SunGuide distribution and we seemed to be in sync with it so we never asked. Counties don’t move around that much.

Mark Dunthorn: And your specific case was a county. I was thinking more about specific roadways being added, or roadways being extended into new counties. There are changes that need to be made. It sounds like the previous process was to coordinate through Central Office. Does anyone have any objections to that? Central Office will be responsible for making sure the changes are implemented in FL511. We do need to get back to baseline. Any thoughts? We will do some comparisons and establish a baseline and will make sure everyone gets that including FL511.

1. SG-4758 RWIS Alerts Need the Alert Type and Value Added

Tucker: It was recently pointed out that when you get an RWIS alarm there is an alarm at the top. Hurricane and weather are the only two options it has which has to do with hardcoded values in the RWIS alert. When you create an RWIS threshold you have to tell it what it is configured on (wind, rain, etc.) then it will alert you when the value changes. Currently, you don’t see those in the alarm and we would like to put them in there. We would add both the field the alert was based on and the current value at the time of the alert. We want to see what the trend on that value is going for. In addition to the current alarm value and the type, do you know anything else that might be useful on these that are not currently there?

District: Possibly fog or rain situations?

Tucker: So, you are probably doing the visibility threshold and you could do it through miles. I don’t think it reports if it is fog or smoke. If you think of anything else you want, please send it in an email.

1. SG-3860 Planned Events

Tucker: This is already funded in the 7.2. Here are proposed screenshots of what this might look like. The add new event screen has three dates located under the event type. There is a start time, end time, and time before the start date to be notified. These three fields will be added to the event creation. However, there is a standard event creation and there is a planned event creation. The standard event creation would not show these three fields. The planned event creation would. As far as being in the event list, notice on the top left there is a create an event and create a planned event. You can have two different dialogs displayed. In the event list, itself notice that the red bar says “planned” these will show up there and they will have a planned status. All of your planned events will be in that area and you can look at them and view them.

There was a field on the first slide that says, “time before the start date to be notified”. When you set that time, this will pop up. There are a few options here of approved and activate, approved do not activate, activate event and response plan immediately, and reschedule the event.

Mark Laird: One suggestion on the dialog, after the word approves put a noun in there like either event or request. Right now, it looks like you are approving the response plan. It would be helpful to be more clear.

Tucker: Yes, that is not a problem.

District: What does defer approval mean?

Tucker: Let’s say that you create a scheduled event and I get a reminder 30 minutes before. When it pops up, and the event is delayed so you have the option to defer it to pop up at a later time.

District: So, the question at the bottom should be greyed out unless defer approval is selected.

Tucker: yes. These are mock-ups, they are not as is.

Mark Laird: Is the delay at the bottom is the actual event or the approval of the event? You might need to change that as well.

Tucker: If you have an event that pops up, it allows you to activate an event from this window. There are three new ribbons which allow you to have control of the event without getting the reminder window. Where there any other questions? We will check the wording.

1. Data Purge from TPS

Tucker: Right now, there is no purging of data from the TPS ODS tables, it will stay there until it is manually removed. Each table could get extremely large, especially if you have multiple truck parking systems. The space availability status logs every space available on every single poll cycle. The zone status, area status and facility status which is a lot of wrap up data. Each one of these is holding a full cycle of data and will get larger over time. The question is what do we want to do with that data?

One concept is what TSS does now which is purges on a configurable interval. We could make it to where each of these purges each table at a configurable level. We could also go back and look at the raw poll data for each one. We can do roll up data which would add more data but it would help you create a database using a .csv file. Does anyone have strong opinions on how they would use the data? From a planning standpoint will someone ask about the data?

Jacques: It is a lot of data, the last option would be the best for me.

Tucker: So roll it up and purge it out like TSS?

Jacques: Yes.

Jason: Are we talking about the raw detector data and not the counts?

Tucker: Every poll cycle, we generate a new one, the space counts are probably going to be the largest serving all space counts every time you poll. The others are going to grow but not as bad. Configurable per table is what we were thinking. The facility status you might want 3 years’ worth of data Is anyone interested in the roll-up data?

Jared: I think the roll-up would be good to have for quick reporting and the TMC could go back and filter if necessary. As for intervals for purging, I am not sure.

Dan: I presume the planning office will be interested in this data to determine future planning. They haven’t asked for any of it yet but I think they would want to see this data.

Tucker: That was the last slide of the day.

Christine: One initiative we are doing here is going over the JIRA backlog. We found issues as far back as 3.0. The plan is to review them at the CO level, then to go over the list with each District and coordinate closing the items. Any issues that won’t be closed out will be prioritized. CFX, COT, and D1 will be the first group. The other Districts are coming afterward. Any questions? Thanks for your participation.

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| New Action Items: |  |
| Action: | **Responsible Person:** |
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