

SunGuide Software

User’s Group

Meeting Minutes

**Date: July 8, 2021**

**Time: 2:30-3:30 EST**

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| Agenda: |  |
| Topic | **Led By:** |
| Announcements  SG-5327: Integrate TrafficVision video analytic alerts into SunGuide.  SG-5895: Map tile updates  SG-5808: Event Attribute for approval  SG-4887: TIM Report | Christine Shafik  Mark Dunthorn  Mark Dunthorn  Mark Dunthorn  Mark Dunthorn |

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| Attendees: |  |
| Ray Mikol, D1  Robbie Brown, D1  Justin Merritt, D1  Chrissie Collins, D1  Luis Hernandez, D1  Tom Arsenault, D1  Jason Evans, D2  Tanesha Sibley, D2  Greg Reynolds, D3  Kevin Mehaffy, D3  Amy DiRusso, D3  Neena Soans, D4  Dee McTague, D4  Shannon Watterson, D5  John Hope, D5  Eddie Grant, D5  Jovanny Varela, D5  Mark Laird, D6 | Alex Mirones, D6  Zach Arndt, D7  Romona Burke, D7  Mike Crawson, D7  Tony Abid, FTE  Jermaine Da Silva, FTE  Michael Kerpen, FTE  Umesh Subramanyam, FTE  Cherie Phillips, FTE  Brent Poole, CFX  Christine Shafik, CO  Fred Heery, CO  Mark Dunthorn, CO  Carla Holmes, CO  Juan Abreut, CO  Karthik Devarakonda, CO  Jennifer Langford, CO  Alex Brum, CO |

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| Discussion: |  |

Christine Shafik: Welcome to the SSUG meeting for the purpose of taking notes this meeting will be recorded. This meeting will mostly be an FYI discussing announcements instead of JIRA tickets. We have a lot of things that have been happening in Central Office that we need to get your input on.

**Item 1: Announcements**

**Annual Database Request**

Christine Shafik: We have been requesting the last annual database as back up for years. It is used for statewide reporting and IV&V testing. Central Office will send an email with the formal request asking for the full backup through 6/30/2021 and to upload it to the TERL FTP by COB 7/31/2021. Any questions on the database requests?

**Report Background Documentation**

Christine Shafik: Back in 2019, one of the districts reached out to us on clarification for one of the reports. Central Office and SwRI are creating background documents for reports that do not currently have one. The current priority is based on district input and report frequency. All newly developed reports will come with the background documents. The following have been completed: Event Chronology, Event List, Camera Usage Summary, and Beat Coverage Summary. The AVL Summary and Event Summary are in progress and the other reports are pending district input. We are proposing the Device Location Report and Detector List Report to be next, and they are scheduled for August. Unless you have a report that requires more prioritization, please let me know. We want to prioritize based on your needs. Any questions or comments?

**RTMC Operation Staff to Participate in SunGuide 8.1 IV&V**

Christine Shafik: The last couple of releases we got support reviewing our test procedures and test cases. Last release we had 3 districts volunteer to test with us. This time we would like to implement a new process and invite the RTMC Operations Staff to participate in testing. We are going to discuss this at the next CMB. It is totally voluntary, but we would want the person to come to the TERL for the IV&V week or weeks. We would appreciate any help. We are doing this to ensure that testing replicates as closely as possible real-world SunGuide usage and provides information that will refine the development and application of test cases. If you are interested, please reach out to me and your TSM&O engineer. We are shooting for the September/October timeframe and will refine the dates based on development. Are there any questions for this topic?

Romona Burke: Are you looking for operators? Is that what you need?

Christine Shafik: Yes ma’am. What are your questions or concerns?

John Hope: Do you have any estimate of how many days you are asking for?

Christine Shafik: We usually have it in a week although the last few releases we had to go through multiple IV&V’s so that means it could be a few weeks. Typically, it is one week but we could have multiple weeks. We cannot confirm that now, but we will work with whoever is interested.

John Hope: Are you asking for staff for every round?

Christine Shafik: Yes, pending their availability. It would be good to get a list of people to schedule them. We just need to know who is interested and then we will refine the details.

John Hope: This is something that D5 and CFX will need to discuss internally and will get back to you.

Dee McTague: D4 is interested but I will have to talk to the TSM&O Engineer.

Christine Shafik: That is correct, that is exactly what we need you to do. Talk to the TSM&O Engineers prior to the CMB in two weeks.

Amy DiRusso: So, you want people physically there? Is there a requirement for overnight stay?

Christine Shafik: If I hear you correctly, you are asking if we need people to come in person? That is correct.

Amy DiRusso: Are you wanting more of an operations person or network person?

Christine Shafik: That is a good question, I am leaning more towards an operations person than a network person, but we can open this discussion.

Amy DiRusso: I need to talk to the operations team, but District Three would be interested.

Christine Shafik: Please discuss internally with your team and have the TSM&O engineer let me know the plan for each district.

Romona Burke: I will have to check our contract; I am not sure that it covers travel.

Christine Shafik: That is a good point. Before I turn it over to Mark, this is a reminder that last Friday I sent over the CMB priority list and tomorrow is the due date to submit your votes. We want to discuss what you need, please submit your vote by COB tomorrow. If you have any questions or technical difficulties, please let me or Carla know.

**Item 2: SG-5327: Integrate TrafficVision video analytic alerts into SunGuide.**

Mark Dunthorn: We have been trying to get a lot of WWD devices included in the APL TrafficVision is one of those systems. One thing that came up during the testing, all of the other systems we have are working with the TERL to become approved on the APL. TrafficVision does not reside on equipment in the field, it resides in the TMC. Therefore, the APL requirement of the system providing images of the WWD vehicle detection does not apply from an APL standpoint. It lines up with TrafficVision who doesn’t produce a sequence it is just a single snapshot. Which is what they send us in the API. In the current state we have an alert dialog, an alert selected, and that alert will have a sequence of images. The control beneath the image will place the sequence. The dialog for TrafficVision will look identical, since they only display one image there will be nothing to play. Is this sufficient? This is what TrafficVision gives us, we could ask them to make a change, but it would not be a small thing. It will impact the schedule. Will this give you what you need to handle this alert?

Ray Mikol: I believe that we were going to get an email with the video of the wrong way driver. If we got this alert in SunGuide then I would alert the operators to go look in their email at the video, that would be enough.

Mark Dunthorn: That’s a good point and you know that we have raised the point of adding video into these alerts. That is something we have talked about the SSUG, it isn’t happening today but is something we have looked at. We could have tighter integration in the future. I know there were only a couple of Districts who were requesting TrafficVision. Does anyone else have any comments? Ray is saying that this gives the information to go pull the video.

Cherie Phillips: We didn’t utilize the WWD detection as much as we did with other features of TrafficVision but wanted to weigh in. One of things worth talking about is that every time we had an alert there was associated video with the alert and we accessed it through a website, not through the email system. Depending on how yours is set up there could be a hyperlink to the actual video. The link would allow the operator to view it straight away as opposed to going through the email. If there is feasibility to do that, it might be a good option.

Mark Dunthorn: That leads into what we were going to talk about. It is out of scope for this enhancement, but we do see a lot of value for these other alert types. The path forward for what you described would be for you to create a JIRA ticket for any or all of these types and mention that the embedded link would be useful. That might be something we can do in the short term. It would not require us to consume and store the video in SunGuide. Any other comments on the use of TrafficVision as a detection type for WWD?

John Hope: I have a question about what the difference between slow speed and congestion? If there isn’t any difference, we would like to have the list modified.

Mark Dunthorn: I am not sure if there is a difference, I would expect TrafficVision would know the difference. I am not familiar enough with the API to know but this list came out of the API.

John Hope: I understand if it is hardcoded but if there is way on SunGuide to not show certain alert types which would be our preference.

Mark Dunthorn: For the current enhancement we are absolutely going to exclude these enhancements. I think we were thinking that we would bring them in on an as needed basis. We would only bring them in when requested by a Districts. The district would have to create another JIRA issue in order to include these other alert types. I really just wanted to share them incase someone who was familiar was interested in the other alert types. For this enhancement we are only looking at WWD.

Carla Holmes: I can see the difference in congestion and slow speed, with congestion being back up due to volume and slow speed due to something in the roadway causing the motorists to go slow.

Cherie Phillips: I concur with the congestion and slow speed examples provided. Sometimes we would see slow speed if someone was going slower over a ramp because the software allows tracking of speeds vs congestion. We set up these alerts and determined that all of the alerts were slowing down the operations in the TMC and not providing much value. We didn’t need the alerts coming in because we already knew about it, so we removed those alerts. If you are setting these up for SunGuide I would recommend setting them all up. That way each District can manage the alert types they are utilizing.

Mark Dunthorn: I would imagine those would be configurable. Another thing is that we need to decide which would be vehicle alerts or system alerts. I agree they should be configurable which also goes back to John’s concern. Any other comments or questions on TrafficVision? It sounds like from the districts currently using this, I think the alert is okay.

Justin Merritt: During our pilot, we did it for mainline detection and we are going to go with it as a stopgap for WWD. The PTZ cameras were the issue with the TrafficVision itself. I just wanted to add that. The pop-ups that are ramp related you would want all alert types.

Mark Dunthorn: Would you want all of those alert types integrated into SunGuide eventually?

Justin Merritt: Yes.

Mark Laird: It almost sounds like you want the alert types to be configurable for the camera.

Cherie Phillips: You have the ability to configure the alert types per camera. The way it done is on a per camera basis.

Mark Dunthorn: In order to move forward with that, we need someone to create a JIRA. It sounds like there is an option to expand TrafficVision beyond the original need. Any other questions or comments?

**Item 3: SG-5895: Map Tile Updates**

Mark Dunthorn: The current state is that ESRI delivers updates quarterly. The last time the map was updated was SG 7.2. We have no open issues in JIRA reporting missing roadways. Should we continue with the process we have today of someone submitting an issue and then we react to that issue? Or should we look at doing this on an annual basis? Any thoughts?

John Hope: CFX in the past has requested once per year.

Mark Dunthorn: Let me explain why it is an issue. The process to generate the map set of tiles took about 3 months. It is a CPU intensive process; we ran into resource issues. Once we had sufficient resources it took about 5 days. It is a resource intensive process; we don’t want to do it too often but want to make sure we get them updated when needed.

John Hope: Would it be worth investigating a better way to get them updated?

Mark Dunthorn: Absolutely, we want to put in effort understanding what went wrong last time and avoiding that this time. The manual labor was an issue last time, and it was a painful process. If we solve those issues, it might be easier.

Carla Holmes: Does it get harder the longer you wait?

Mark Dunthorn: We are basically taking the shapefile from ESRI and spitting out an output. You are starting from scratch every time but should be well defined and something that should be fully automated, but it just takes time and effort to do that. There are things we can do to make it an easier process.

Carla Holmes: Are the resources on the district side, Central Office or SwRI?

Mark Dunthorn: It was on the SwRI side. We are just looking for input from the districts on if we are ready for new tiles, it has been two years.

Mike Crawson: I think a yearly update would be good since we have a lot of construction in our District.

Mark Dunthorn: Are you aware of missing roadways or bridges now?

Mike Crawson: No.

Alex Mirones: District Six agrees with the annual update.

Justin Merritt: Would changes to a DDI be reflected?

Mark Dunthorn: Changes to the interchanges would be affected. The zoom level is more limited than some GIS application provide. Some granular level things wouldn’t be reflected at the SunGuide level, but the interchanges would be.

Justin Merritt: I agree with the annual update because we have a big construction project. Now when we add lanes it just looks like lanes over top of grass. Has there ever been a thought of a satellite image instead of the setup we have now? Would it be too much system intensity?

Mark Dunthorn: It is not too much system intensity; we will take that as an item and look into it.

Justin Merritt: ITSFM is basic too and we have to pay for Google every time we open it up like that. I was just curious if there was a way to fancify it while you are doing the work.

Mark Dunthorn: Any other comments or questions on tiles? I am hearing once a year is the way to go.

Carla Holmes: Since we will be doing one soon, is there anything the districts need to do to prepare?

Mark Dunthorn: Nothing the Districts need to do to prepare. I will bring up one more wrinkle in this, the tiles are pretty big file size wise. Does anyone have any objection to us delivering the tiles separate from the SunGuide installer? It might make it easier. It would be more convenient if we didn’t have to move the tiles every time. Splitting the delivery cycle out. We would give the installers per the current schedule like we always have and then we would be giving tiles independently. It shouldn’t impact the districts, but it would be helpful for Central Office.

Jason Evans: I think splitting it out would be okay. Will you go through the trouble of building a separate installer for the tiles themselves or just give instructions on how to unzip them?

Mark Dunthorn: Just the latter, give instructions on how to unzip them.

Jason Evans: What I would do is when you have a SunGuide release, take the latest tiles and have it match the SunGuide release. Even if it is the same tile set just have it all together in the same place. That way people who download it will know they need both without having to figure out which is the correct one. Then if you need to release new tiles, you can do that separately.

Mark Laird: I would prefer them separately that way it cuts on the file size.

Jason Evans: Same here. I have old versions as back ups incase a road is missing in a version.

**Item 4: SG-5808: Event Attribute for Approval**

Mark Dunthorn: We currently have a list of event attributes that have vehicle vs “something”, we want to add vehicle vs. toll gantry. The usage would when a vehicle strikes a toll gantry. There are a number of districts that support express lanes and tolling now. Is this something the SSUG would find useful?

Brent Poole: CFX agrees with this.

Mike Crawson: District Seven agrees.

Dee McTague: District Four agrees.

Ray Mikol: District One agrees.

Mark Dunthorn: I hear agreement for this. One reason we are talking about this is because Luis in D1 and there are some ambiguities with the event attributes. What we need to do is layout in the SOG how to interpret each of these. This one is straight forward. It is a good idea to make it really clear and define the attributes how we want it to be used. We will be discussing this more at the ITS Working Group. They will be published and made available for comment from you. We want consistency statewide. Any questions on this topic?

**Item 5: SG-4887: TIM Reports**

Mark Dunthorn: This is really an FYI; we will be sending this out to the districts soon. The report template has been prepared and was designed to be configured to run automatically in SAS and deliver the report via email to an FDOT address. We will need the districts to run it on the last day of the month and it will cover it for the previous month. The first automatic run will be July 31, which will send June data to CO. We’ll send an email after the meeting with details. Any questions?

Christine Shafik: We have four more minutes; we discussed a lot. We would like the CMB priority list by tomorrow. Are there any other action items? The districts are going to get with their TSM&O engineers to send someone for IV&V testing. I will open it up for comments or questions.

Mark Laird: Alex asked me if there has been anything happening with the performance reports that have problems with the dates. Is there any update on that?

Mark Dunthorn: Is that related to the timestamp updates?

Mark Laird: I believe so.

Mark Dunthorn: I don’t have an update on that, but we will get with Tucker on that and make sure it is prioritized. I thought we addressed that issue. That is the one thing holding us up on the TIM report. It shouldn’t be a problem to get this addressed. The PM reports need to work so we will get on that.

Zach Arndt: I have a question about the annual database request, do we send it in a compressed format, or will it be detailed in the request email?

Mark Dunthorn: That would be fine, we have received it that way before, we will be able to figure it out.

Christine Shafik: We understand that there has been turn over at District Seven so we will be happy to support or help in any way.

Romona Burke: Thanks for offering assistance, we can always use it.

Christine Shafik: Thanks for all of your feedback and talk to you in two weeks.