

A311a-Understanding User Needs for DMS Systems Based on NTCIP 1204 Standard Chat Transcript

Date: October 11, 2011- 12:00-2:00p.m. ET

Learning Assessment 1: (Poll) - indicate if your agency has deployed dynamic message signs using standards before.

Answer: I'm not sure which version we are using, but I know we are using NTCIP. That option was not on the poll.

Q: Can I access the presentations from A101, A102, A201, A311b, T311?

A: A101, A102 and A201 will be available as online courses on the RITA web site.

www.pcb.its.dot.gov/Standardstraining/ by the end of 2011. Module A311b and T311, look for an email announcement.

Learning Assessment 2: (Poll) - Which of the following two user needs may be satisfied by a DMS system?

Answer: Construction staff also has needs for the installation.

Comment: In our agency permanent and portable are separate.

Q: Does MUTCD discuss font size for DMS?

A: I know there are studies out there that talk about based on or recommendations that talk about based on the speed and the length of the message how big the message should be, you know, in terms of height and width. But beyond that I don't know that there is a font size specific for dynamic message signs.

Q: What are the definitions of CMS versus VMS?

A: A changeable message sign is more than one message but it's usually fixed meaning you can't change it. You can select between two or three different signs, for example, a rotating drum sign. That's considered a changeable message sign. A variable message sign you can edit, you can change whatever message that you wish to display so those are editable.

Learning Assessment 3: Can anyone identify a proprietary extension that may be necessary or have been created for a DMS?

Answers:

Parking availability in a parking garage.

NDOT uses a variety of sign types controlled by a Central Systems Software. Thru CSS we have wind-speed (via RWIS) that triggers wind restriction messages for high profile vehicles.

We like to use a CCTV to view the message to determine legibility.

Learning Assessment 4: The operator needs to be able to define and edit the appearance of the fonts used to display messages on the sign face. When would this user need be required (for the agency)?

Answers:

It's an automated message

For a variable message sign

Changeable message sign

VMS

Question: What if an agency wants to save money by choosing a sign with one font?

Comment: We use CCTV to view DMS message.

Q: Are managing font and manage graphics related to matrix sign?

Q: I heard full matrix signs were cheaper than one font signs.

A: Probably if you have a single font, again, that's a user need and it's an optional user need, the ability to manage fonts. Theoretically, if you have one font you don't need the additional capability to manage fonts or graphics, for example. Theoretically it is probably cheaper to-- a sign is actually probably cheaper if you only have a single font and use only one font.

Q: What is the web link for the PRL?

A: You can just go ahead to the NTCIP website and download it from there. www.ntcip.org

Learning Assessment 5: Conformance versus Compliance

Answers:

There is no legibility standard

1. Compliant. 2. No. 3. No.

Complaint, yes, no

Device id is required for all 1203

1.complaint 2.no 3. no

Compliant, no, no

Q: Is v02 the current version? What about version 3?

A: Version two is the current version right now. Version three is a recommended standard.

Q: How do we access prerequisites modules?

A: www.pcb.its.dot.gov/Standardstraining/

Q: Where is the PRL table?

A: The PRL table is actually inside the standard. So when you download the standard, if you look at section 3.3.

Q: We are using NTCIP 1201, how is this different from 1203?

A: NTCIP 1201 actually is a different dictionary but it's actually referenced by NTCIP 1203. NTCIP 1201 is global objects.

Q: How soon will v3 be voted upon?

A: Hopefully by the end of 2011 it will become an approved standard.

Q: Where do we get a copy of the announcements?

A: If you're interested in a particular standard, not necessarily just the dynamic message sign standard, but some of the other standards there is something called a reflector which is an e-mail reflector. That's where announcements and information about the standards get sent out. If you go to NTCIP.org website I think if you go somewhere on there you can send an e-mail to the standards coordinator asking that you be put on a list, on the e-mail reflector list.