Summary of Webinar Q&A

Comment: NATMEC Meeting web site:
http://pressamp.trb.org/conferences/programs/default.asp?event=487

Question: If the "in-vehicle" Bluetooth signals are from devices like cell phone etc, how to identify the signals if the system receives multiple Bluetooth signal one time?
Answer: Each Bluetooth device has a unique ID called a MAC address used in the Bluetooth communications protocol. It is these MAC addresses that are used to match the vehicle at the downstream station.

Question: You said it can be used for O/D data collection; does the device record Bluetooth ID? If not, how is O/D data collected?
Answer: Yes, the system records the Bluetooth MAC ID (or a form of it.)

Question: Will the data collected being bias toward people generally taking more Bluetooth devices?
Answer: There are data filters to detect and remove multiple detections from the same vehicle. From our work, multiple returns from the same vehicle has not been a concern.

Question: Do you have any idea of the pedestrian sample capture rate gathered on the D.C. 4th of july egress test?
Answer: Unfortunately, not. We had no manual counts to compare against.

Question: It seems Bluetooth technology can be used for External-External trips calculation. Are there any studies completed on this?
Answer: Yes, we have attempted this with Bluetooth and can share some preliminary results.

Question: Have you done any studies of that compares congestion when public schools are in session vs. out for the summer?
Answer: No, not to my knowledge.

Question: Was the cost $300-500, or $3000-5000?
Answer: I can speak only for Traffax Inc, a Bluetooth system provider that licensed the technology from University of Maryland. A hardened, industrial portable system, including all supporting software, is available for roughly $4000 per unit.

Question: can this technology be applied for bicycle and pedestrian speed
Answer: If volumes are sufficient.

Question: Was is public knowledge that you were collecting data using Bluetooth?
Answer: No special notice is given. Bluetooth devices have a 'discoverable mode' that can be turned on or off. We can only detect devices when discoverable mode is 'on'.

Question: Can this technology be used in detecting transit rider O & D? Mounted on buses but use AVL to record locations?
Answer: We are just finishing a study for O&D in NYC at the egress of a major subway station. So the technology is being investigated in these areas.

Question: How often do you need to download the data from the Bluetooth system?
Answer: There are options for frequency of downloads and will vary with vendor.

Question: For O/D data was that Hourly or daily matrix numbers?
Answer: OD matrix shown was daily; hourly could potentially be selected