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NTCIP Compliant PCMS SP

The MDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program office has created a Special Provision (SP) for Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) utilizing National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) requirements. The NTCIP system will give MDOT the ability to post and schedule messages from any location with internet access by using a password protected website.

If the MDOT project office utilizes the NTCIP compliant PCMS SP, they will then be able to post timely incident management response messages, current and accurate construction scheduling messages, or real time traveler information. The project office shall contact their local traffic operating center (TOC) and coordinate the locations and utilization of the PCMS.

If the project office wishes to utilize real-time, travel time information, this SP can act as a temporary ITS system for freeway construction projects. However, travel time data is only available on trunklines equipped with 3rd party Navteq probe data. This data is used to populate the MI DRIVE website with color-coded average speed maps. If the route in question has speed information available on MI DRIVE, only then can real-time travel time information be utilized.

The NTCIP system should be considered on any significant project where there is not an ITS system currently in place, areas containing historically high crash rates, or high impact roadways. The recommendation for use should be considered and documented during the development of the Transportation Management Plan in accordance with the departments Work Zone Safety & Mobility Policy.

NTCIP-Compliant PCMS SP

The SP can be found on the web on MDOT's Previously Approved Special Provisions, under the ITS 12 – Misc Equipment & Software Specs.

NTCIP-Compliant Full Matrix SP

If a project warrants the use of travel time messages that require more than 8 characters per line, or a message with formatting that does not fit on a standard PCMS, then the use of the Full-Matrix NTCIP-Compliant PCMS is needed. Region approval is required prior to the use of a full matrix PCMS.

Once region approval is obtained, please send documentation to the ITS program office in order to receive a copy of the NTCIP-Compliant Full Matrix SP.