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**March 31, 2023**

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## **PennDOT, State Officials Celebrate Southeastern Regional Traffic Management Center Grand Opening in Upper Merion Township**

**King of Prussia, PA** – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) District 6 Executive Louis Belmonte was joined today by Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS) Acting Deputy Secretary for Capital Programs Greg Kirk, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), and other state and local officials to celebrate the Southeastern Regional Traffic Management Center grand opening at PennDOT District 6 headquarters in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County.

“The new Southeastern RTMC will expand our capabilities by providing a larger and more modern facility for the management of PennDOT’s Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS),” Belmonte said. “This will allow us to optimize our operational strategies and technologies and continue our commitment to manage a safe transportation network and help motorists move freely throughout the Philadelphia region.”

Currently, the Southeastern RTMC, serving Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties, manages the busiest and largest transportation network in Pennsylvania while operating over 50 percent of PennDOT’s ITS devices, including 477 Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) cameras, 207 Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), over 700 sensors/readers for travel time and incident detection, and over 700 miles of fiber.

PennDOT anticipates that the number of field devices will double through continued investment in advanced technology, including connected and autonomous vehicle (CAV) strategies, as well

as owning and operating traffic signals as part of an initiative enhancing cooperation and coordination with municipalities.

The new RTMC will also increase District 6's capabilities to operate Advanced Traffic Management Systems such as Variable Speed Limits which reduce crashes by enforcing different speed limits along the corridor; Queue Detection/Warning Systems providing real-time traffic detection to alert motorists of stopped or slow traffic ahead; Ramp Metering Operations which regulate ramp traffic flow as it enters the freeway; and Future Flex Lanes that provide more corridor space to accommodate changing travel demand at various times of the day.

In addition, the RTMC serves as the Incident Command Center and will provide seating for coordinating partner agencies such as the PSP, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, City of Philadelphia, Delaware River Port Authority, Pennsylvania National Guard, counties, municipalities, and others during major incidents, inclement weather, or catastrophic highway events.

"Troopers patrol 44,000 miles of highway, and we can't be everywhere at once. Every traffic camera operated and monitored from this center is an additional eye on the road," said Captain Gerard McShea, commanding officer of State Police Troop K, Philadelphia. "The technology here can reduce crashes, warn motorists of the dangers ahead, and slow traffic down in areas where Troopers need to respond. So, this technology helps get drivers to work on time and Troopers home safely at the end of the day."

The new center's digital video wall architecture will increase video feed capacity and seamlessly display data and video to provide situational awareness necessary for improved response time and decision-making. Video sharing and incident coordination with other stakeholders, partner agencies, and the public will significantly improve with the new ability to transcode more video faster and with better quality than the current system. In addition, the new data network will be more robust and offer a much greater throughput, facilitating more efficient collection and dissemination of traffic incident data to the public and partner agencies.

In addition to improving its operations, PennDOT is dedicated to enhancing the new facility's efficiency and is seeking Silver certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, on this project. The construction of the new 43,000 square-foot RTMC facility also included a new separate parking structure that accommodates approximately 250 parking spaces.

“I am a firm believer that the services, resources, and information we provide as state government can only be as good as the tools we use to deliver them,” said Kirk. “This new facility provides PennDOT’s District 6 transportation nerve center with the physical space and technological capability to carry out its operations, and increase them, when necessary, effectively and efficiently moving forward.”

Schrader Group Architecture is the design professional, and Heim Construction Co. is the construction contractor on the \$49.2 million design/build project administered by DGS. Construction of the RTMC was financed with both federal and state funds. Construction of the parking structure was financed with 100 percent state funds.

In 1993, the first PennDOT District 6 Traffic Management Center (TMC) opened in St. Davids, Delaware County. The TMC began by operating a network of 12 CCTV cameras and four DMS using leased communication lines. In January 2000, the TMC moved to its current location in Upper Merion, Montgomery County, and began operating Freeway Service Patrols, a fleet of service trucks used to assist motorists with mechanical failure, flat tires, or minor incidents. In 2005, the TMC expanded its operations and was upgraded to the first RTMC in Pennsylvania and began operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please see [PAcast](#) for full coverage of the media event.

Information about infrastructure in District 6, including completed work and significant projects, is available at [www.penndot.pa.gov/D6Results](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/D6Results). Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at [www.projects.penndot.gov](http://www.projects.penndot.gov).

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