

# Active Traffic and Demand Management (ATDM)

Case study at MTA B&T Facilities

---

Presenter:

Abhishek Singhal, Ph.D., P.E.,  
Senior ITS Project Manager  
ITS, MTA Bridges & Tunnels



# Agenda

- MTA Bridges & Tunnels
- Active Traffic Demand Management
- Need at TBTA Facilities
- Proof of Concept Development
- Project Design & Construction
- Project Integration & Commissioning





# MTA Bridges & Tunnels

- Seven Bridges:
  - Bronx-Whitestone
  - Cross Bay
  - Henry Hudson
  - Marine Parkway
  - Robert F. Kennedy
  - Throgs Neck
  - Verrazano-Narrows



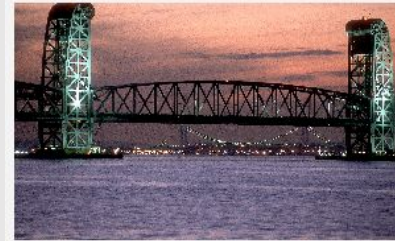
Bronx-Whitestone Bridge



Cross Bay Veterans Memorial Bridge



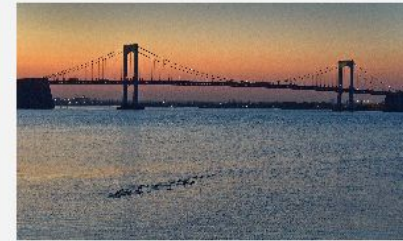
Henry Hudson Bridge



Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge



Robert F. Kennedy Bridge



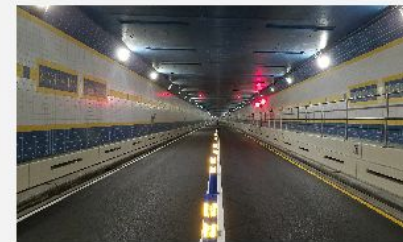
Throgs Neck Bridge



Verrazano-Narrows Bridge



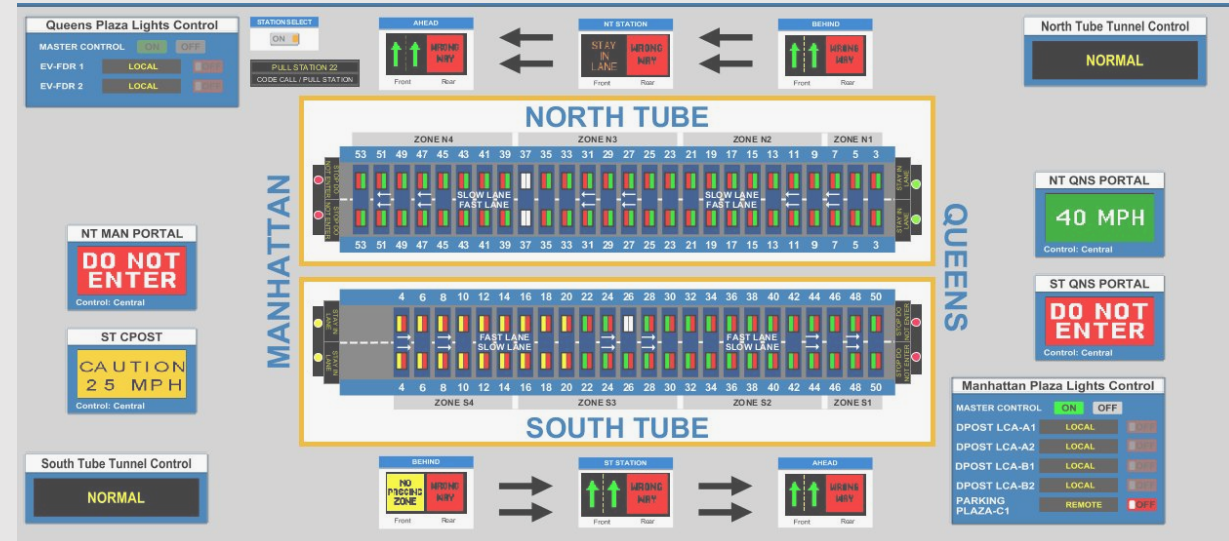
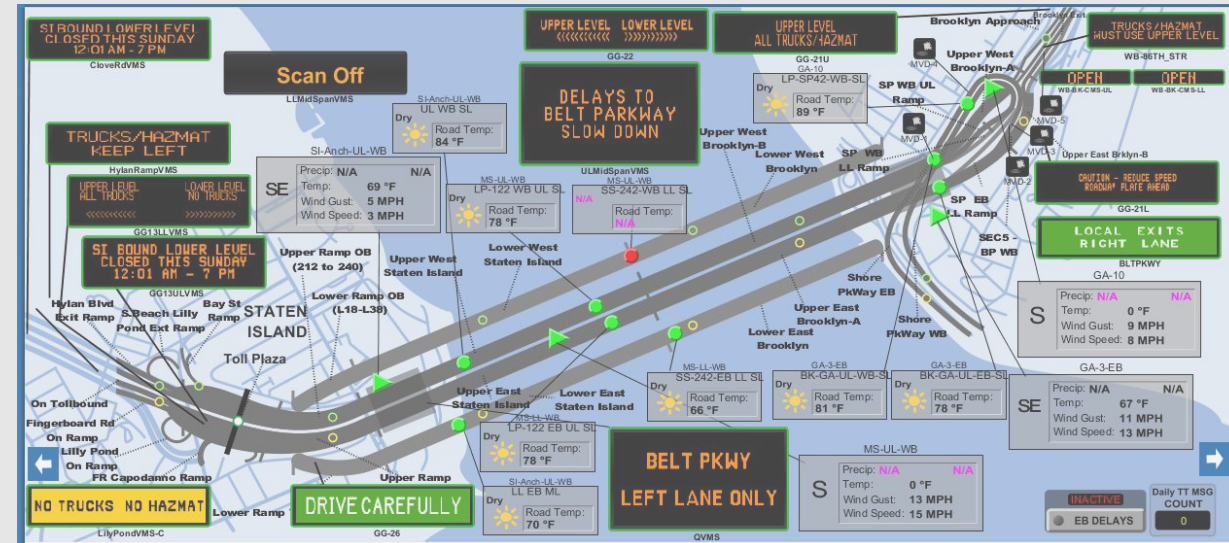
Hugh L. Carey Tunnel



Queens Midtown Tunnel

# MTA B&T ITS Program

- Advanced Traffic Management System (DYNAC)
- Facility Control Rooms
- TRANSMIT integration-TRANSCOM's System for Managing Incidents and Traffic
- VMS/VSLs, Cameras, Weather, LUS, Fiber plants
- Tunnels Safety & Traffic SCADA Systems
  - In-tunnel LUS, VMS, Lighting Control, Code Call, Way Finding Light, Portal VMS, etc.
  - Over Height Vehicle Detection & Warning
  - Traffic/Operations SCADA Network
- **Active Traffic Management at BWB, TNB and VNB**

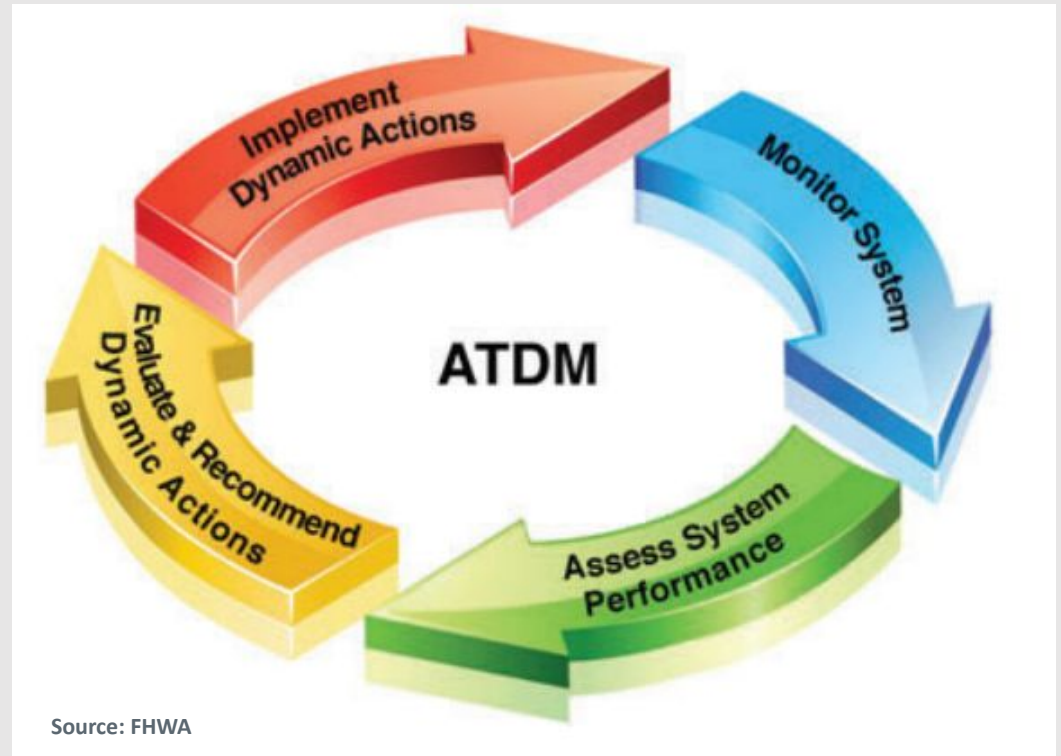


# **ATDM - Need at TBTA Facilities**



# Active Traffic & Demand Management

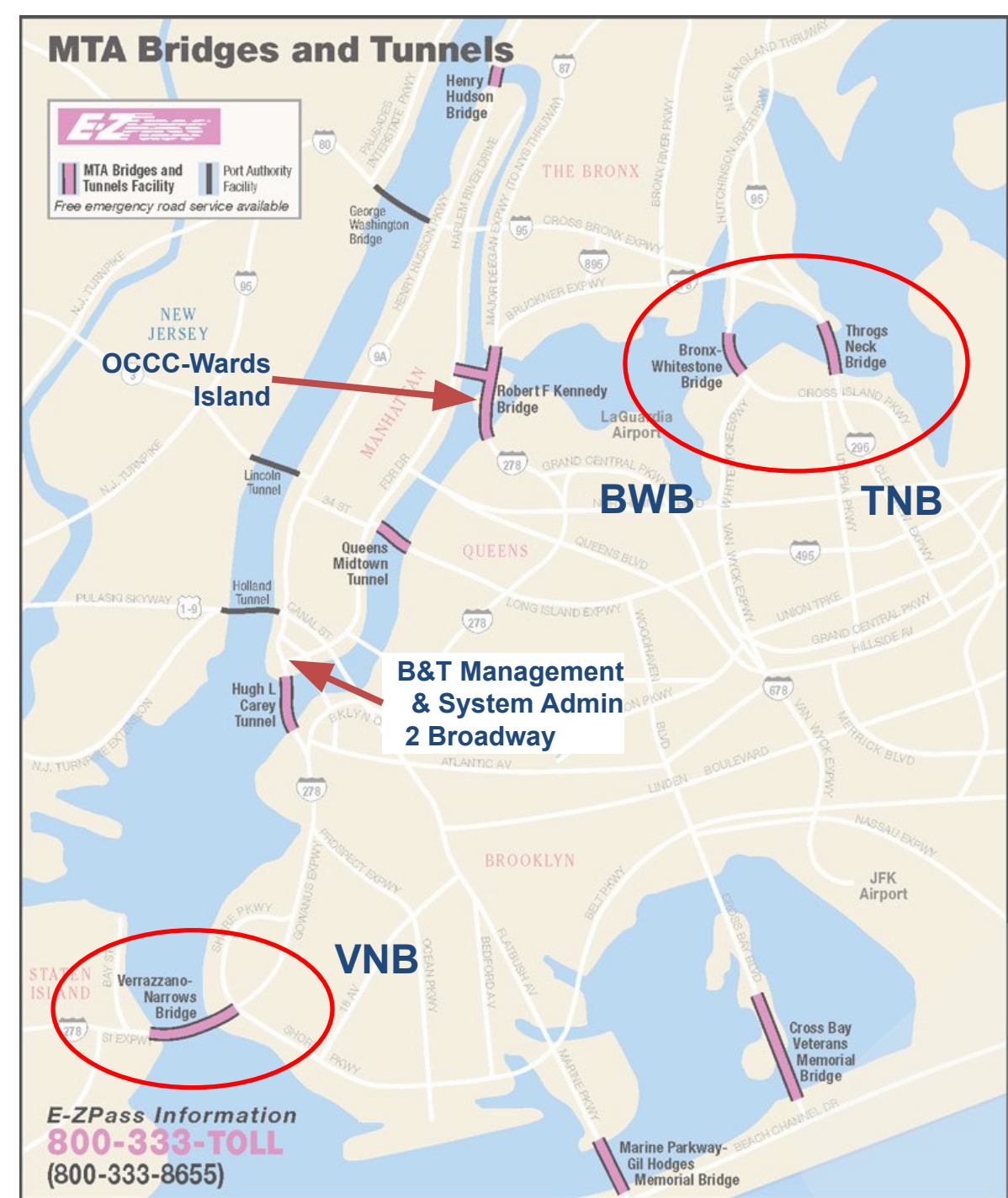
- ATDM is the dynamic management, control, and influence of **traffic demand**, and **traffic flow** at transportation facilities (FHWA).
- The **traffic flow** is managed, and traveler behavior is influenced in real-time to achieve set objectives.
- Maximizing system efficiency, Improving safety, preventing traffic congestion
- ATM examples-Dynamic Lane use Control, Adaptive Ramp Metering , **Variable Speed Limits, Queue Warnings**
- ATM applied in Work Zone



Seattle I-5 Northbound Active Traffic Management –  
Source: Texas Transportation Institute

# Need at TBTA Facilities

- Free-flow speeds post Open Road Tolling (ORT)
- Severe queuing on exit ramps, rear-end collisions
  - Off-property congestion
  - Ramp exit lane configurations
  - Restricted line of sight geometries
  - Last minute traffic weaving
- Static signing, lane marking changes have been made which reduced weaving conditions, but queuing is still prevalent.
- On-property congestion- disabled vehicle, random collision, weather, routine maintenance activity, planned lane closures.







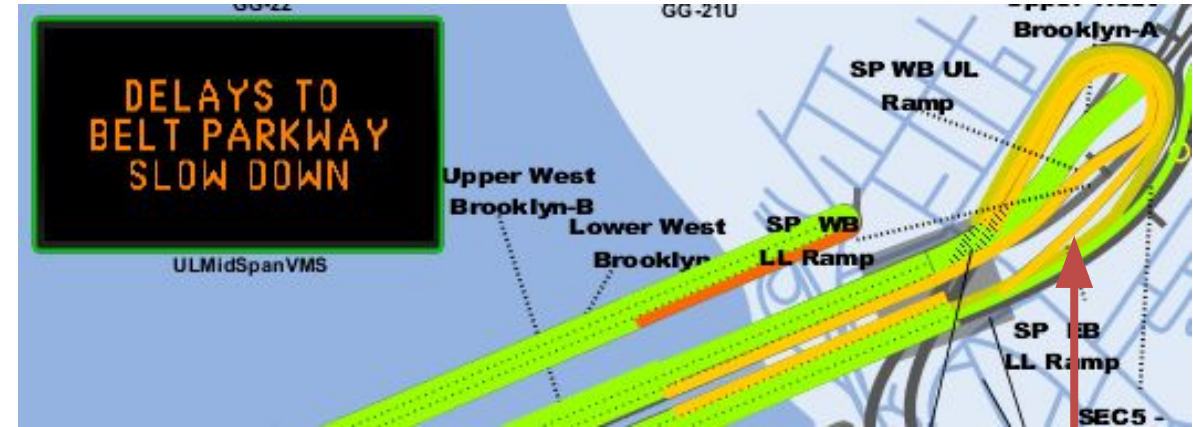


# Proof of Concept Testing

---

# Proof of Concept – Queue Warning

- **VNB**
  - Installed new VMS at midspan.
  - Used existing TRANSMIT link travel time (TT).
  - Incorporated scripts in ATMS to activate alert message based on link average speeds.
  - Posted message on VMS using ATMS.
  - TT updates of 5 minutes were not sufficient.
- **BWB**: Used iCones for speed data, Portable VMS and iCone server (cloud based) for sign activation
- Need targeted zone and lane specific data
- Need targeted video surveillance
- Need real time data (<30 sec) to reduce response time



VNB E Bklyn Gantry U/L – Belt Pky Gantry (35 MPH)



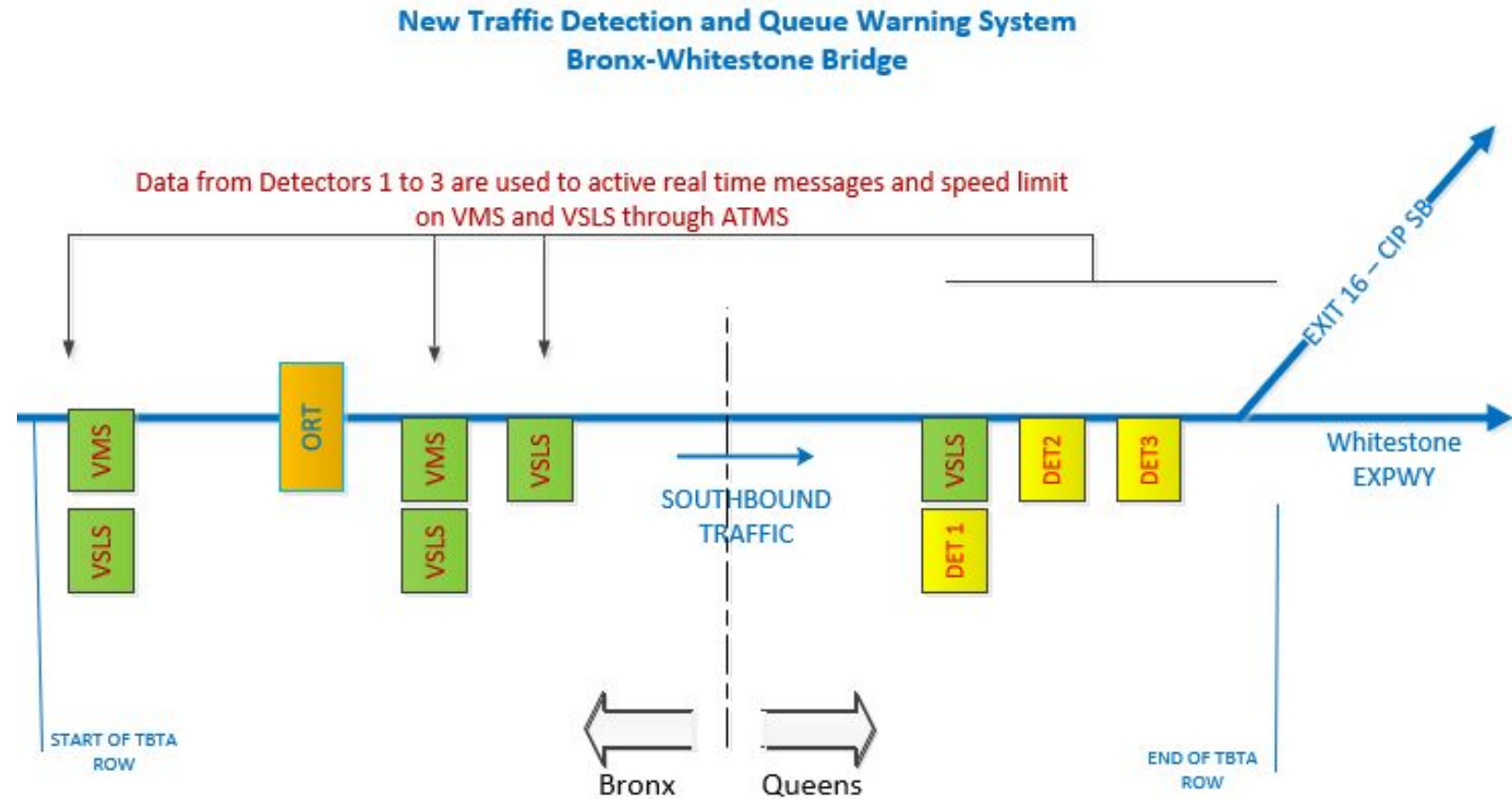


# **Project Design and Construction**

---

# Queue Detection & Warning

- Implemented at BWB, TNB and VNB
- Series of roadway detectors and CCTV cameras at queuing and weaving areas
- Processing of data by central ATMS
- Advance notification using overhead VMS (roadway conditions) and VSLS (recommended speed limits)
- Remote monitoring, alerts and reporting
- Remote device configuration and troubleshooting





# Variable Speed Limit Signs

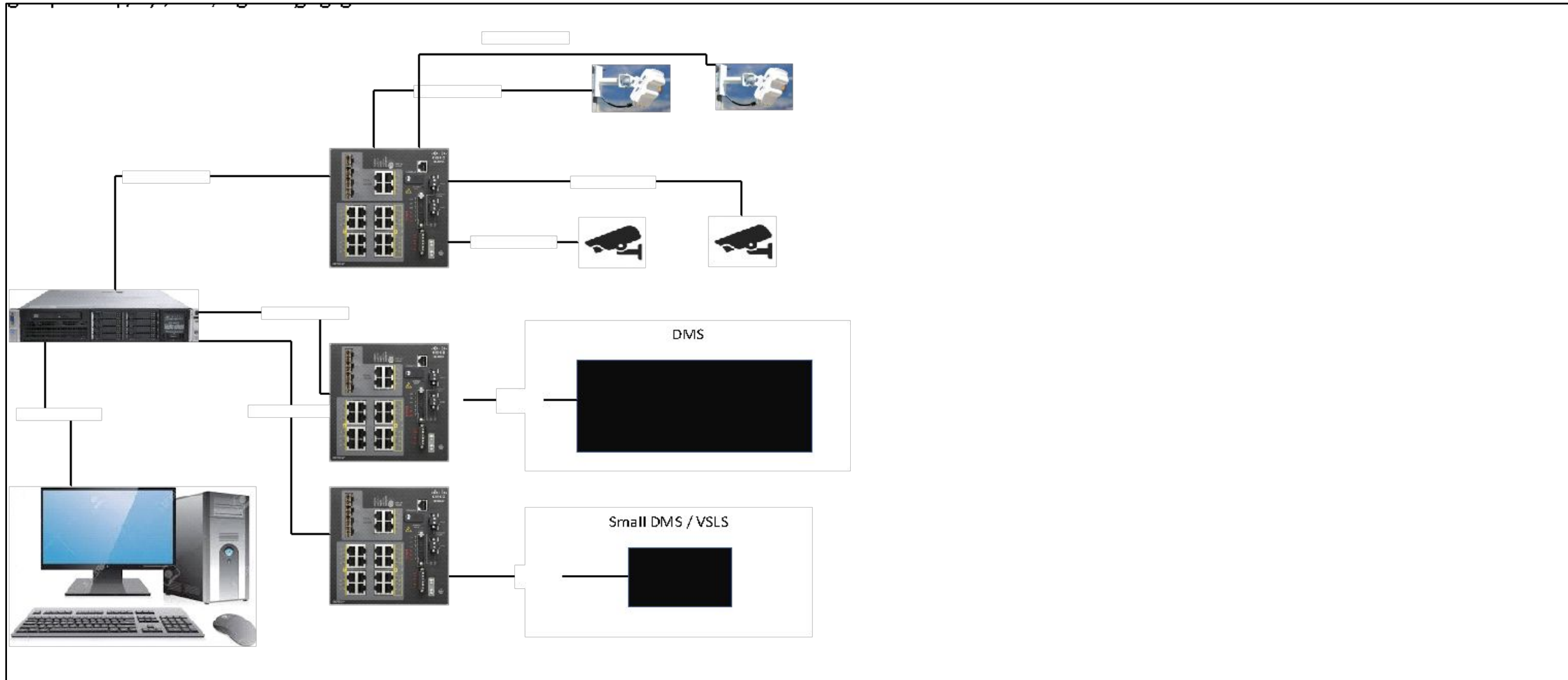
- VSLS implemented at TNB and BWB
- VSLS can mitigate **rear-end**, sideswipe, and other crashes on high-speed roadways.
- Effective on urban freeways with posted speed limits > 40 mph (TNB: 45 mph, BWB: 40 mph).
- Integrated to facility ATMS
- Implemented as an **advisory** system-Sign is not regulatory
- Applied to an entire roadway segment.
- Messages using full color signs may improve driver reaction time.



CONGESTION	INCIDENTS	WORK ZONES	INCLEMENT WEATHER

Source: FHWA

# Queue Detection & Warning System





# System Components

- Mature technology, commercially available
- All IP based devices and ability to integrate with ATMS
- Remote device configuration and troubleshooting
- Support remote firmware upgrades

## Microwave Vehicle Detector

Small footprint, minimal power required  
**Real-time point speeds, occupancies and volumes**

**Performance with small offsets**

Calibrated one time on-site



## Fixed CCTV

Small footprint, minimal power required  
Ability to also integrate with TBTA video management systems

Serve three purposes:

- 1. Video analytics software at the edge**
- 2. Visually confirm radar calibration**
- 3. Video monitoring to confirm alerts**



## VMS & VSLS

Meets Authority-wide VMS specification:  
**Full-color, full-matrix, LED, 20mm pitch, NEMA TS-4, NTCIP.**

**Supports TBTA Maintenance Procedures:**

**One controller per VMS**

Three Sizes:

Full Size VMS (24'x7')

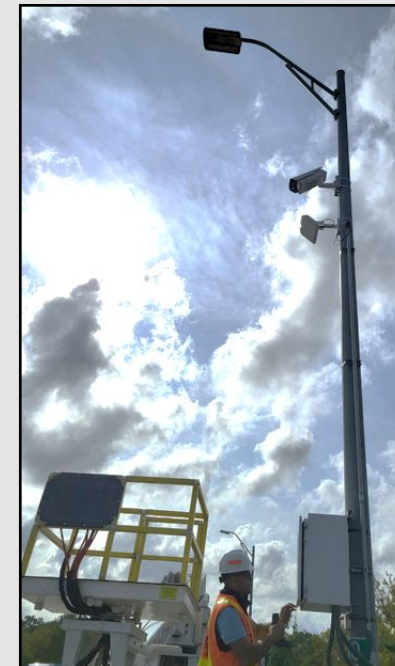
Mid Size VMS (20'x7')

Small (5'x5') VMS used as VSLS



# Project Construction

- Standard TBTA construction contract procurement- Not suited to small ITS deployments.
- Savings by breaking the project into components:
  - Design - TBTA ITS On-Call consultant.
  - VMS & VSLS – Procured through NYS OGS
  - CCTV - Procured through a bid
  - Radar Detectors, Network Switches, Control cabinets: RFP, bid to furnish, configure, test, and warranty.
  - On-site installations - TBTA Central Maintenance
  - Integration - TBTA ITS staff, On-call ATMS vendor.
- There is no GC or CI: Functions provided by TBTA ITS staff



# Project Integration & Commissioning

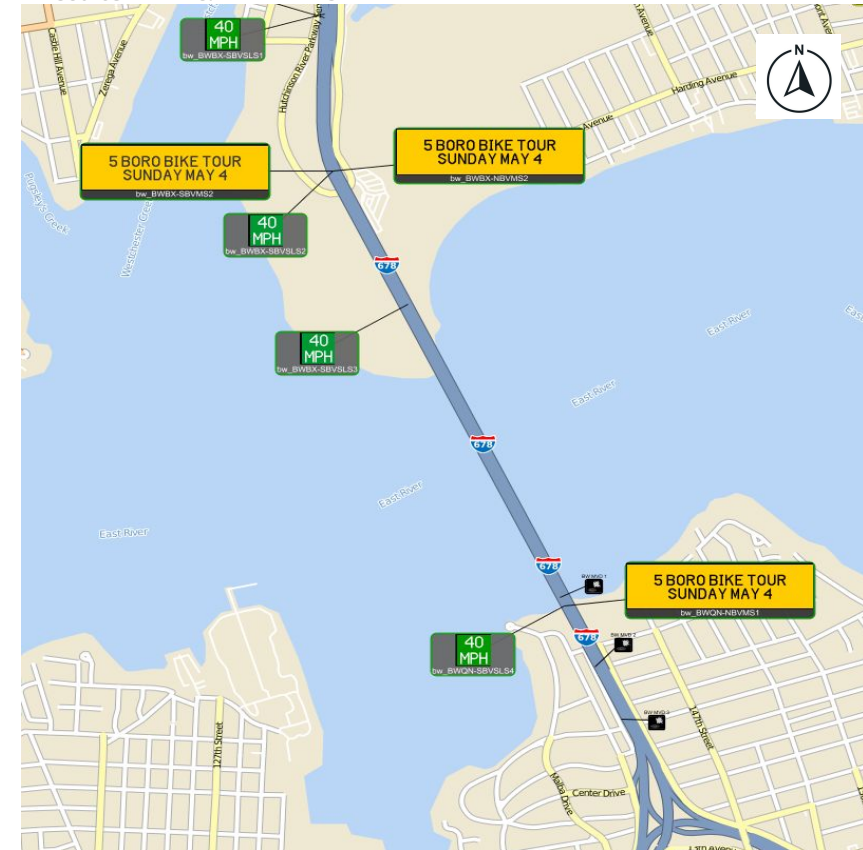
---



# BWB ATMS

- Queue detection, warning and VSLs integrated to facility ATMS
- (4) Small Full Color VSLs in SB direction
- (3) MVD Stations in SB direction
- Live data view & system status
- Pre-set VMS messages for roadway conditions
- Operator (TMC) can create new messages
- Pre-set variable speed limits for the facility in SB direction
- Operators confirm vehicle speed through MVD & CCTV
- Manually select suggested reduced speeds.
- Activation of VSLs signs can also be automated.

Source: MTA B&T BWB ATMS



BW VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Southbound

40 MPH

BLANK

20 MPH

30 MPH

40 MPH

APPLY

BW VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Southbound

30 MPH

BLANK

20 MPH

30 MPH

40 MPH

APPLY

BW VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

Southbound

20 MPH

BLANK

20 MPH

30 MPH

40 MPH

APPLY





# VMS & VSLS Warning Messages



BWB



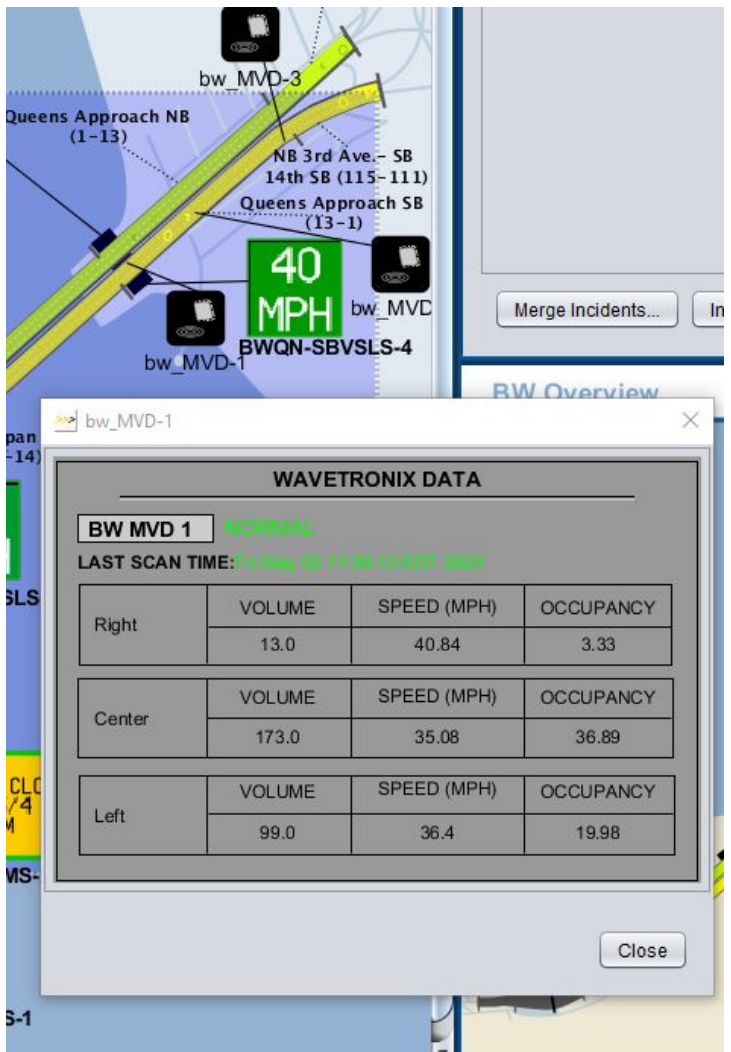
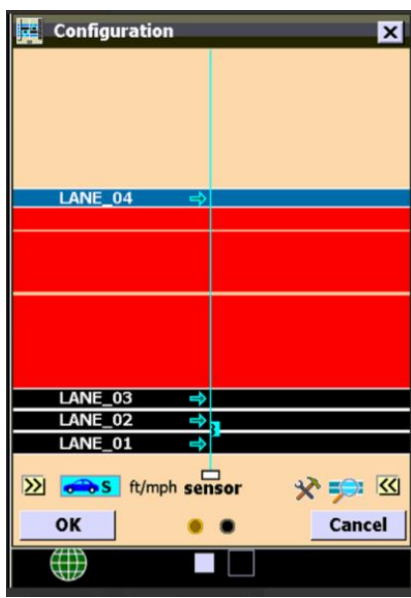
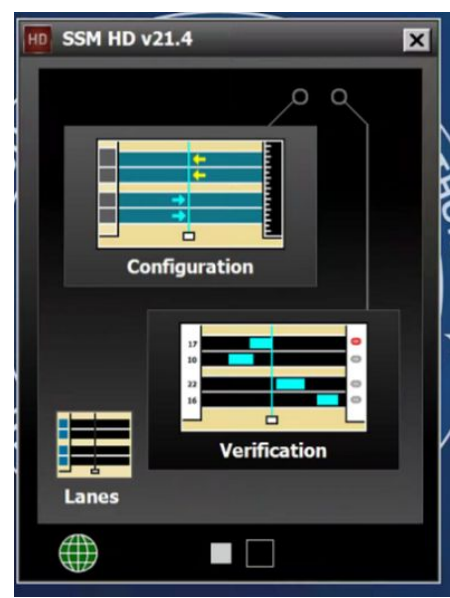
TNB





# Radar Detector

- Onsite Calibration
- Remote verification
- Point Speed, Volume and Sensor Occupancy
- Radar interface and ATMS interface
- Point speed is used to determine congestion



# Radar Camera

- Visually confirm congestion
- Confirm radar orientation & check calibration
- Access via Camera Manager Utility Tool
- Traffic Data Collection- Speed data
- Compare performance of Radar detector and act as back up





# TNB ATMS

- Queue detection, warning and VSLS integrated to facility ATMS
- (3) VSLS in SB direction
- (3) Detectors in SB direction
- (2) VSLS added in NB direction as well to help with lane closures & construction activity.







# Questions

---

- What are the four components of ATDM?
- What are the two ATM systems deployed at MTA Bridges & Tunnels?
- What is biggest benefit of using VSLS?
- What kind of data is provided by the Radar Detector?

# Thank You

---

Questions?

Abhishek Singhal, Ph.D., P.E.,  
Senior ITS Project Manager  
ITS, MTA Bridges & Tunnels  
[abhishek.singhal@mtabt.org](mailto:abhishek.singhal@mtabt.org)

