# Active Traffic and Demand Management (ATDM) Case study at MTA B&T Facilities

#### Presenter:

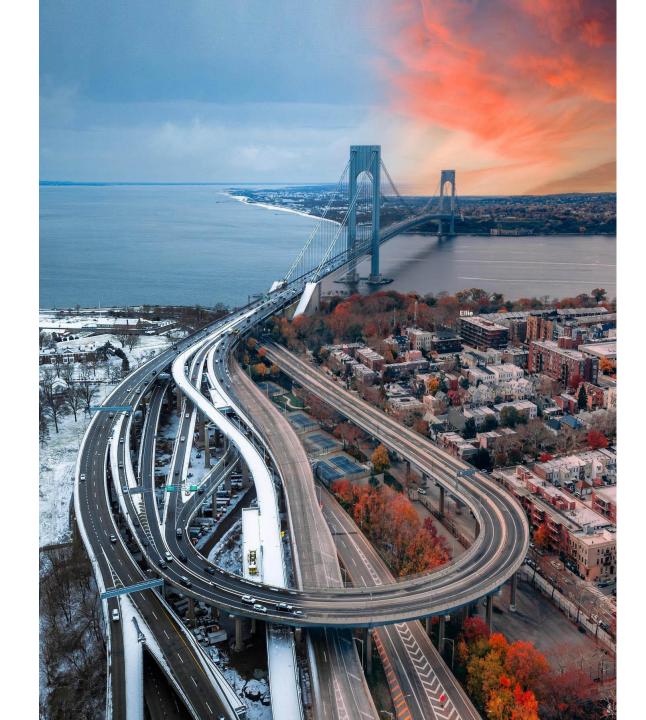
Abhishek Singhal, Ph.D., P.E., Senior ITS Project Manager ITS, MTA Bridges & Tunnels





# 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** 



Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge



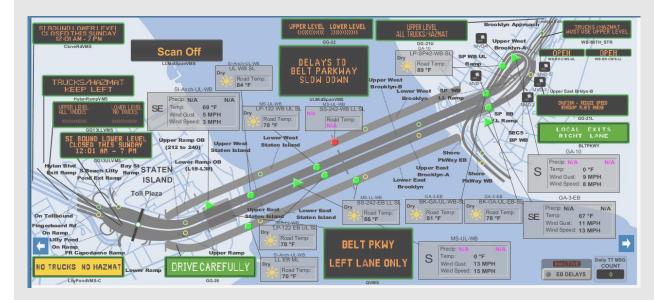
**Hugh L. Carey Tunnel** 

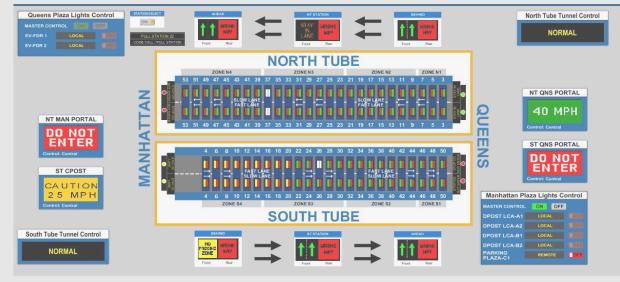


**Queens Midtown Tunnel** 

## 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

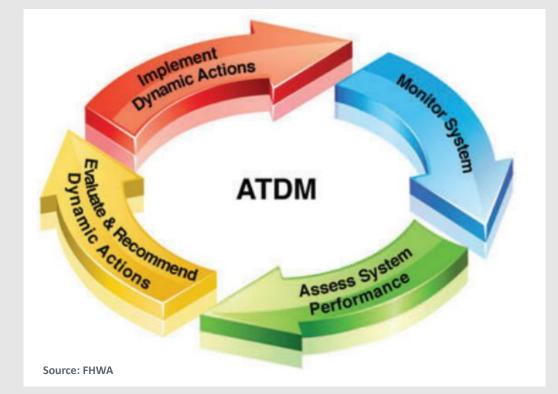




**ATDM - Need at TBTA Facilities** 

## **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

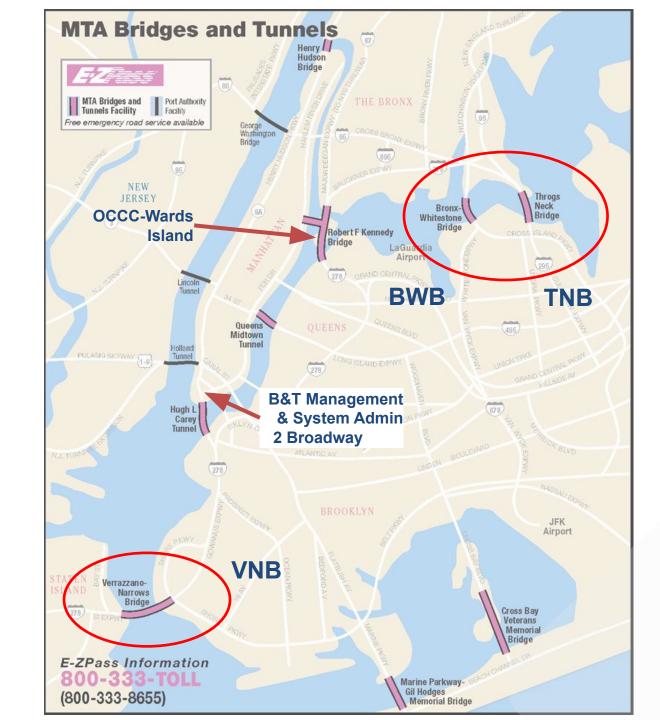




Seattle I-5 Northbound Active Traffic Management – Source: Texas Transportation Institute

## **Need at TBTA Facilities**

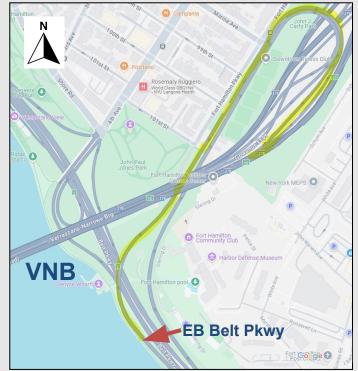
- Free-flow speeds post Open Road Tolling (ORT)
- Severe queuing on exit ramps, rear-end collisions
  - ☐ Off-property congestion
  - ☐ Ramp exit lane configurations
  - Restricted line of sight geometries
  - Last minute traffic weaving
- Static signing, lane marking changes have been made which reduced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



## **Need at TBTA Facilities**

- TNB: SB Right Exit to Cross Island Pkwy
- BWB: SB Right Exit to Whitestone Expressway and Left Exit to Cross Island Pkwy
- VNB: Left Exit to Belt Pkwy
- Active Traffic Management
  - Queue Warning & Variable Speed Limits





**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)



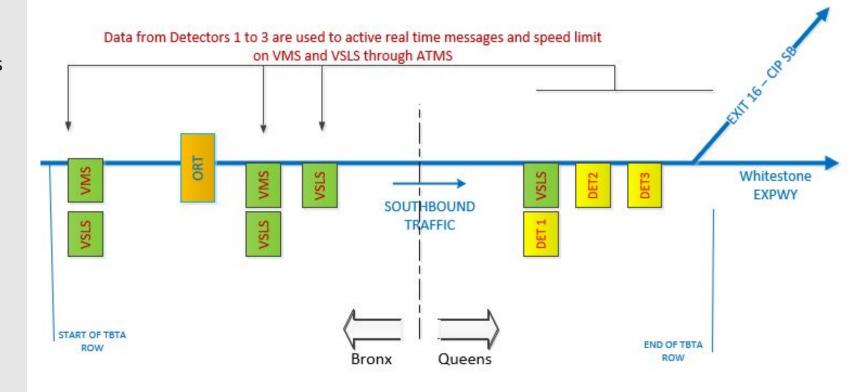


**Project Design and Construction** 

## **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

## New Traffic Detection and Queue Warning System Bronx-Whitestone Bridge



## **Variable Speed Limit Signs**

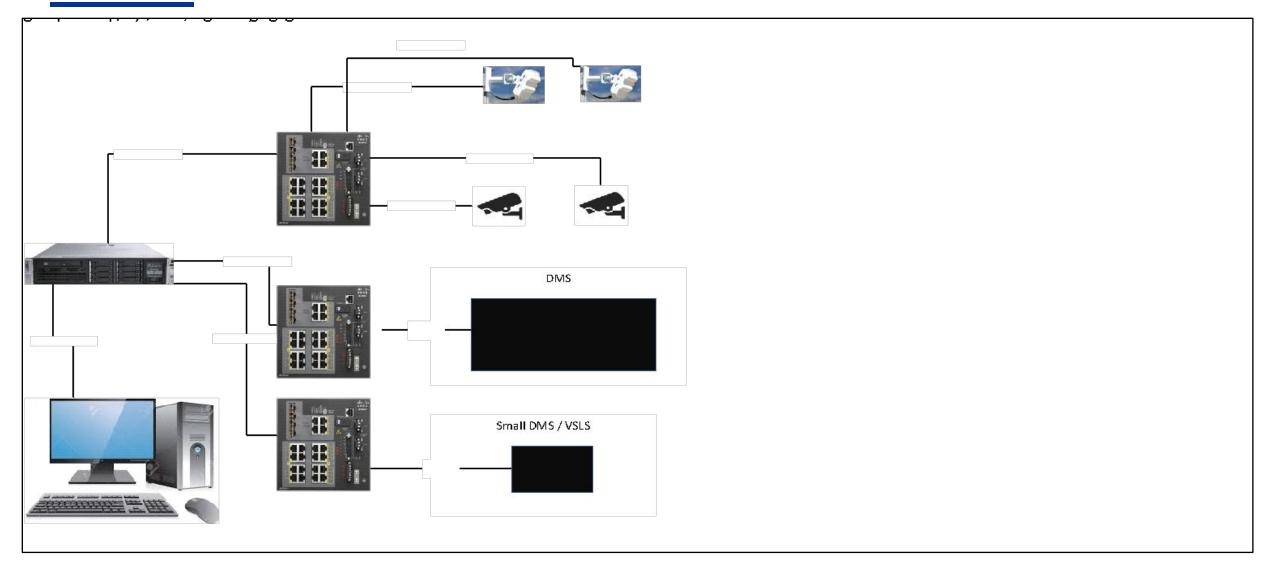
- VSLS implemented at TNB and BWB
- VSLS can mitigate **rear-end**, sideswipe, and other crashes on high-speed roadways.
- Effective on urban freeways with posted speed limits > 40 mph (TNB: 45 mph, BWB: 40 mph).
- Integrated to facility ATMS
- Implemented as an **advisory** system-Sign is not regulatory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





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





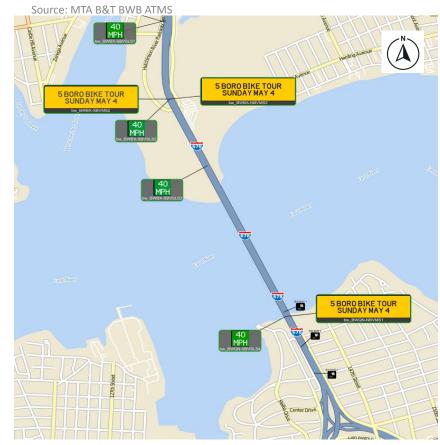




**Project Integration & Commissioning** 

### **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 DYNAC - dynac64 File Applications View History Options Help Bronx Whitestone Bridge → Default bw - 2/3 QUEENS Incident Name Creation Time Category Description Activated By MS-NB bw-25-04-00101 Apr/15/2025 8:50:13 PM tn\_VSLS\_SB SB VSLS NB 3rd Ave. - SB 14th Precip: bw-25-04-00100 Apr/15/2025 8:50:13 PM tn\_VSLS\_NB NB VSLS NB (111-115) Temp: bw-25-04-00099 Apr/15/2025 8:47:21 PM ⚠ bw\_VSLS\_SB SB VSLS Wind Gust 8 MPH Wind Speed: 13 MPH **NEED TO PAY TOLLS?** USE THE TOLLS NY APP bw MVD-O III MS-NB LP-29-NB Queens Approach NB BWQN-NBVMS-1 (1-13) Road Temp: B 3rd Ave. - SB LP-13-SB-SL 14th SB (115-111) 92 °F Road Temp: Queens Approach SB 92 °F (13-1) LP-13-NB-FL LP55-NB Road Temp: 00 South West 90 °F bw MVD-Calendar Apply Default Query Merge Incidents... Incident Archive... ⚠ Create Incident.. SW Wind Speed: Main Span NB (14-44) 8 MPH **BWQN-SBVSLS-4** bw MVD-1 QNS-Anch-SB LP-29-SB **BW** Overview **Travel Time** Legend Precip: N/A N/A Road Temp: Main Span SB SW Temp: 71 °F 91 °F Wind Gust: 4 MPH 40 Wind Speed: 6 MPH **NEED TO PAY TOLLS?** 0 USE THE TOLLS NY APP LP-55-NB-SL BWBX-SBVSLS-3 🔼 BWBX-NBVMS-2 Road Temp: MPH 84 °F Bronx Approach NB Bridge Approach NB LP55-NB (45-62)LP-55-SB-FL (130-146)BRONX Road Temp: Bronx Ramp NB 86 °F TOLL PLAZA ronx Approach SB NEED TO PAY TOLLS? (62 - 45)40 USE THE TOLLS NY APP itestone Bridge Bronx Ramp SB (68-63) **MPH** BWBX-SBVMS-2 **BWBX-SBVSLS-2** 0 MPH NEED TO PAY TOLLS? USE THE TOLLS NY APP Zoom 15 Bridge Approach SB BWBX-SBVSLS-1 1000 ft (146-130) BWBX-SBVMS-1 40















#### **BW SERVER STATUS**

**High Availability** bw-prod-dynac-02.kapsch.local Standby: bw-prod-dynac-01.kapsch.local



**Bridges and Tunnels** 

# **VMS & VSLS Warning Messages**







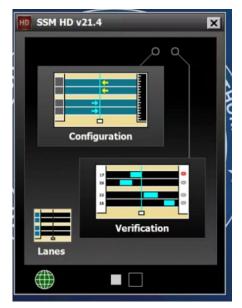


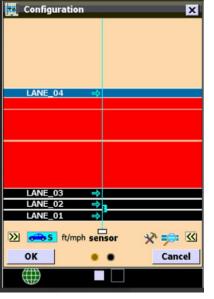
TNB

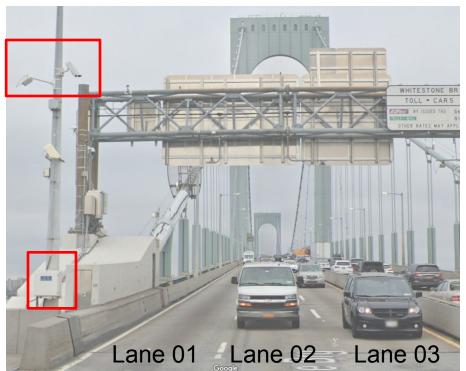


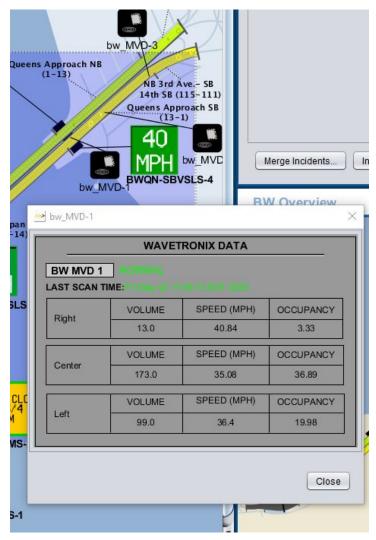
## **Radar Detector**

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









## **Radar Camera**

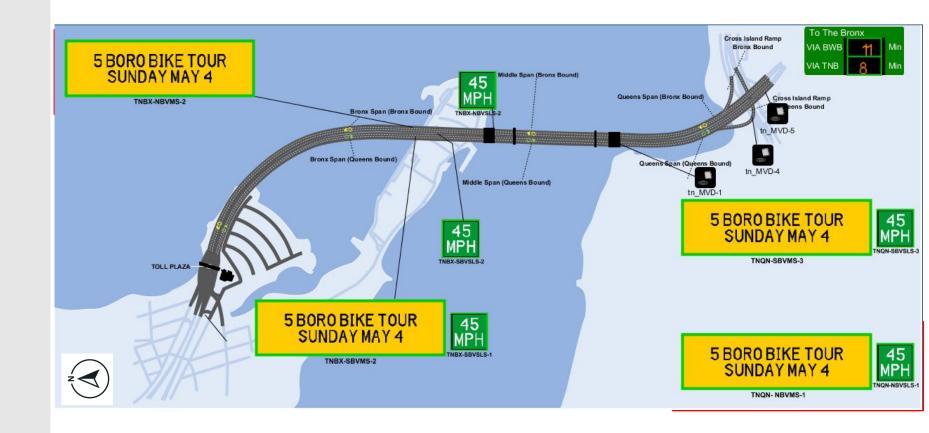
- Visually confirm congestion
- Confirm radar orientation & check calibration
- Access via Camera Manager Utility Tool
- Traffic Data Collection- Speed data
- Compare performance of Radar detector and act as back up





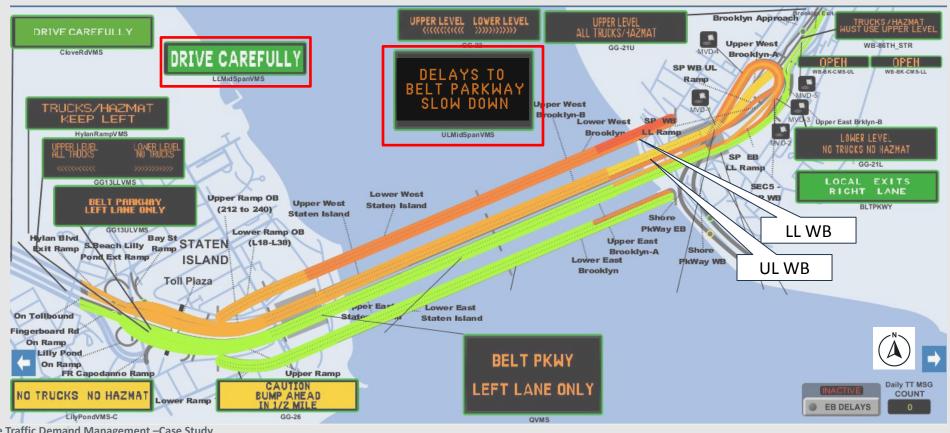
## **TNB ATMS**

- 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.



## **VNB ATMS**

- Queue Detection & Warning integrated to facility ATMS
- (5) Detector Stations on Belt Pkwy Exit ramp
- Existing VMS units on UL and LL used for warning for Belt Pkwy Exit delays



## 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

