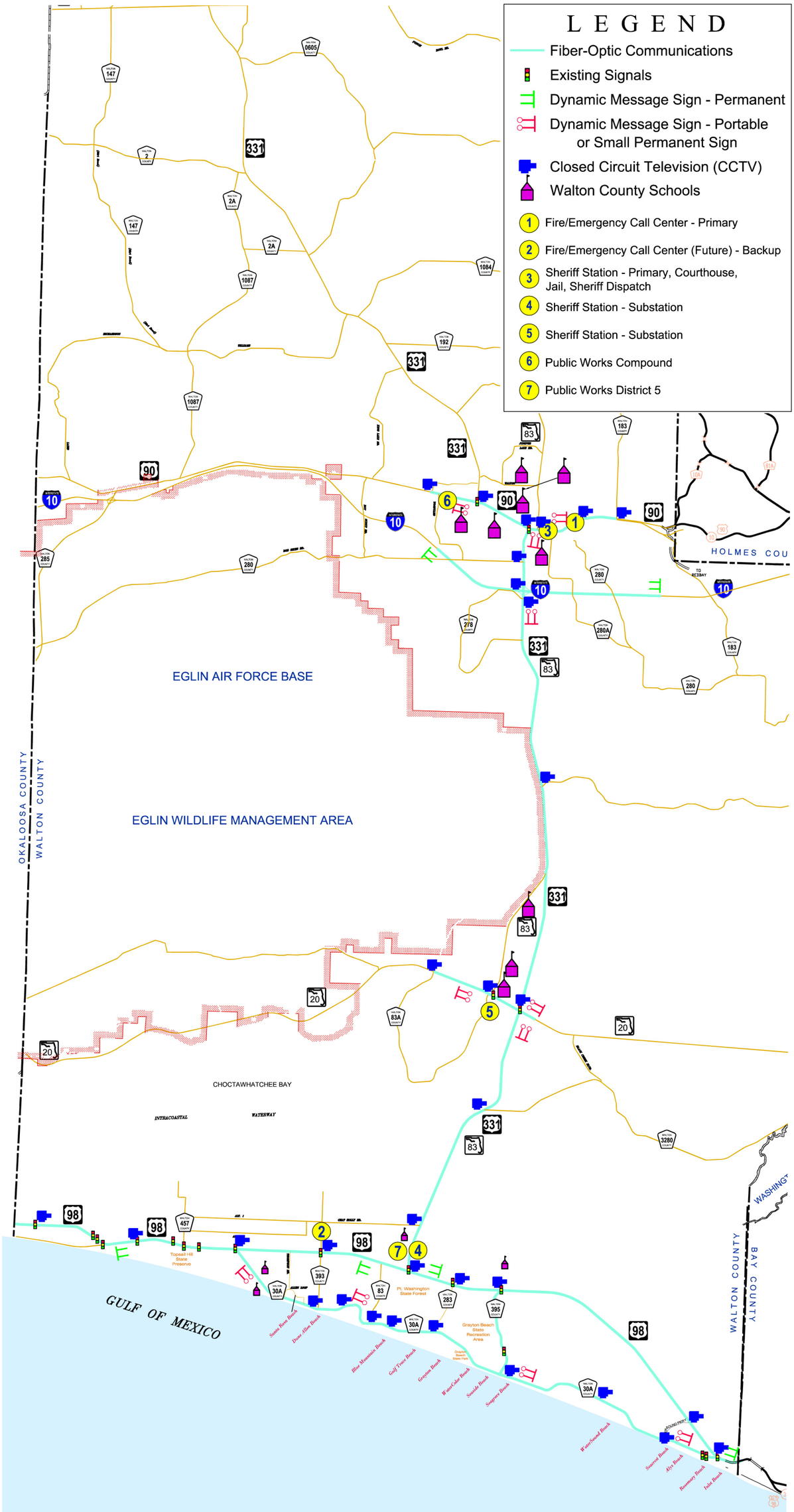

ITS CONCEPT PLAN MAP Q

Walton County, Florida CR 30-A Traffic Study

Appendix G

MAP R PHASE 1 ITS PLAN

ATMS/ITS/Emergency Management Coordination

Meeting Minutes

01/24/06

Attendees:	Edwin Baltzley	Walton County Emergency Response
	Captain Danny Glidewell	Sheriff's Office
	Greg Graham	Planning Department
	Debbie Dantin	Genesis Group
	Tracy Forester	Genesis Group

A. Introduction

On January 24, 2006 a meeting was held to discuss various logistics and long-term planning as it relates to a future advanced transportation management system (ATMS) with intelligent transportation system (ITS) devices that have been proposed in concept as part of the CR 30-A Traffic Study. The purpose of the meeting was to inform other Walton County parties, that may be interested, involved or benefit from this system, and to suggest ways in which the County can proceed in the future. The CR 30-A Traffic Study recommended long-term improvements to develop a plan and construct a system to include underground fiber-optic communications, a centrally controlled computerized signal system, and ITS devices such as closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) and dynamic message signs (DMS). An ITS Concept Plan has been developed, initially proposed along CR 30-A and US 98 in South Walton County, but expanded to northern County roadways to facilitate hurricane evacuation and emergency management in the future.

B. Ongoing Activities By Others

Since Hurricane Ivan, a working group was formed to establish a radio communication system for Walton County. This system is being implemented in phases and has not yet begun. A new Public Works office was recently built off US 331 near the South Walton County Annex. The new jail, located on the north side of US 90 in DeFuniak Springs and adjacent to the State prison, is also under construction and to contain the Sheriff's administration offices and dispatch.

C. Discussion on Concept ITS Plan

Discussion was held on the CCTV and if the equipment needs to be hardwired or can be wireless. It was stated that wireless is not as proven and is more susceptible to lightning and security issues. Several road conditions exist that are problematic for hurricane evacuation including the offset SR 20/US 331 intersections, which is being realigned at this time. It was noted that the four-laning of US 331 is many years away due to a lack of funding by FDOT. The paving of Perkins Road has helped reduce the bottleneck at SR 85 and US 331, and has improved hurricane evacuation for Okaloosa County and Walton County. To ultimately include fiber communication systems to schools, the Paxton School is the only school which can not easily be accessed in the ITS Concept Plan.

In order to get ahead of the game, it was recommended that extending fiber-optic communications to the Mossy Head development near I-10 at SR 285 be considered. It was noted that extending fiber for private development may also be required as part of a development agreement. If a signal were installed for a particular development, for example, the fiber-optic communications should also be extended/connected to the signal by the developer. A discussion was held on how DMS and also highway advisory radio (HAR) can be used. The small DMS are proposed for the majority of the major roads within Walton County, and the large DMS are primarily proposed in the future along US 98 and I-10. Probable costs for the ITS Concept Plan have been identified by Genesis in the CR 30-A report. These costs were provided to Walton County Planning, and at this time are not included in the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

D. Partners

Partners in an ATMS are many (see handout of typical partners). The CCTV and video wall, included as part of traffic management centers are valuable to all partners for routine traffic control as well as for management of scheduled and unscheduled events.

Local partners recommended to be part of a planning group include the following:

- Walton County Public Works Department
- Okaloosa County Emergency Response
- Walton County Sheriff's Department
- Walton County Planning Department
- Walton County MIS
- Tourist Development Council (who may be proposing electronic signs for beach closures and beach flags)
- Eglin Air Force Base
- Walton County School Board
- US 98 Corridor Authority
- Media
- FDOT
- Walton County Fire Department

E. Adjacent County Systems

Genesis Group has been and currently involved in fiber-optic and signal system projects in surrounding Florida counties – Okaloosa and Bay. Okaloosa County has signal fiber already installed underground and additional fiber is currently being planned and constructed for the GIS Department and Eglin Air Force Base. The Okaloosa County fiber extends to Range Road on SR 20 and Regatta Bay intersection along US 98. Bay County is currently in the process of installing fiber-optic communications in eastern Bay County for a centrally operated signal system and also for Bay County Schools. The second phase of the Bay County system will extend further west towards Walton County. Phase one is currently under construction and phase two is expected to begin in August 2006. Bay County's central signal system is proposed to be located and operated in their Public Works' office initially, and planned to be relocated in the future to a joint emergency operations center (EOC) north of SR 77.

F. Other Walton County Related Issues and System Benefits

Officers direct afternoon dismissal of school traffic throughout Walton County except in Paxton. The schools along US 90 and US 331 are the primary needs for traffic control. Currently, the school resource officers provide this service. During the AM peak period officers are also needed on US 331 for the three (3) schools. It was discussed that traffic signals could ultimately be installed at some of these locations and could satisfy signal warrants for peak hour periods, at the High School in particular. Signal systems and real-time signal timing modifications can be used to facilitate traffic movement or special events, and accommodate diverted traffic due to roadway closures or heavy congestion. These systems can ultimately be designed to provide real-time information displayed graphically on the web for the public to identify heavy traffic congestion (in both directions) on a map along major roads. Web site data can also show camera images, construction schedules, crashes and other incidents that will affect routine traffic patterns.

G. Action Items / Needs

1. Need to identify who would take the lead on forming a committee to proceed with coordinated efforts in traffic and emergency management. It was suggested that the Public Works Department should take the lead, as they are the primary partners (with FDOT) and responsible for installing, operating and maintaining an ATMS.
2. A partnership should be developed with everyone and countywide goals should be established.
3. An implementation plan should consider a phase one fiber-optic truck line along US 98 and possibly CR 30-A. This first phase would include major intersections and test DMS and CCTV only.
4. The cost breakdown for this first phase should be identified, as it would be more economical than the full ITS Concept Plan, estimated at $10-11 million dollars.
5. The ultimate plan could be phased in, similar to what has been proposed for the countywide radio system.
6. Coordination with the office associated with local mitigation strategies, as necessary for assistance with funding alternatives and securing grants.
7. It is recommend that implementing a Phase one at reasonable costs and then showcasing this system to the media and Commissioners will help sell the system and it's benefits.
8. Schedule another coordination meeting with Genesis to discuss ITS Concept Plan phasing and costs, and invite other partners.
9. Identify ways to continue coordinated ATMS/ITS/Emergency Planning, as Genesis' role is limited as the CR30-A Traffic Study is complete.
10. Genesis recommends Walton County representatives to pursue the first phase of this system and fiber-optic communications along US 98 as part of 1) the Okaloosa-Walton County CIP, to be funded in FDOT's Five-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or 2) the US 98 Corridor Authority's plan through Walton County.