STAGE 2 PROJECT: ELECTRONIC SEAL SCREENING AND TRACKING

PROJECT GOAL
The goal of the proposed program is to increase the efficiency and security of bonded goods traveling through New York State, using advanced ITS tracking systems. The particular shipments targeted by this project would be agricultural in-bond shipments that cannot legally be opened in the United States. The shipments would enter the United States at the Port of Newark and enter Canada at either the Champlain (I-87) or Buffalo area (I-90) border crossings.

EXISTING PROGRAMS
NYSDOT has an existing screening system that uses solar powered transponder readers and antennas mounted on trailers for container tracking. The Federal Highway Administration Intermodal Freight Technology Working Group (IFTWG) operates a separate program that utilizes reusable electronic door seals to detect when the container is opened. The seal is read at the border by Customs. However, there is no program in place to track such shipments within the State or detect whether they've been opened.

PROPOSED PROJECT COMPONENTS
The program, sponsored by the US Departments of Agriculture and Defense, tests the ability to track in-bond shipments (in this case, agricultural goods) traveling along pre-set routes within the US. New York is one of the test locations. The program will involve the following:

- Modify Commercial Vehicle Information and Screening Networks (CVISN) equipment from NYSDOT’s existing screening system to incorporate container tracking component of the IFTWG program
- Enable communications between the screening readers (at 2 locations: (1) between Albany and Buffalo on I-90, and (2) on I-87 between Albany and Champlain) and a central project server.
- Coordinated with similar effort by NYS Thruway, with a screening reader on I-87 between Suffern and Albany.

RELATION TO SHORT-/LONG-TERM PLAN
Testing of this type of freight tracking system is consistent with the Smart Freight goals of the corridor’s overall Strategic Plan, as well as the State and Federal goals of improving the efficiency of the nation’s handling of agricultural and other imports requiring tracking.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, AGENCY COORDINATION
Electronic screening utilizes Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) technology, which currently shares its frequency with other devices such as wireless telephones, electronic toll payment systems, and military radio-location systems. Federal law requires that DSRC applications do not interfere with military uses, and DSRC systems require a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license to operate.

ESTIMATED COST
The $100,000 cost of this demonstration project is already funded.

Parsons-Clough Harbour