

**DATE:** July 15, 2002

**TO:** AASHTO, ITE, and NEMA

**SUBJECT:** **User Comment Draft of NTCIP 1601,**  
*Traffic Management System Interface Standard for  
Center-to-Center Communications*

**ACTION:** Request for Distribution to Solicit User Comments

**RECOMMENDATION.** This Bulletin reports that the Joint Committee on the NTCIP accepted the proposed NTCIP 1601, *Traffic Management System Interface Standard for Center-to-Center Communications*, as a User Comment Draft, and recommended to AASHTO, ITE, and NEMA that the draft be distributed to solicit user comments. The recommendation was made at the regular Joint Committee meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 4-5, 2002, and was approved by a majority of the committee members (11 yeas, no nays, one abstention).

The Joint Committee on the NTCIP contributes to the joint standards development process by accepting a proposed draft document at two stages in its development – first as a User Comment Draft and then again as a Recommended Standard.

**BACKGROUND.** This document was developed to be a Joint AASHTO / ITE / NEMA Standards Publication, part of the NTCIP family of standards and profiles. The document is in a new series of NTCIP document numbers, and can generally be described as an Interface Standard.

The NTCIP 1601 defines an interface which traffic management centers may offer to other systems in order to provide information regarding various traffic-related events. The interface offers base services as well as optional extensions. These interfaces may be implemented by a variety of protocols, including CORBA and DATEX-ASN.

Some of the issues addressed by NTCIP 1601 were previously addressed in the Message Set for External Traffic Management Center Communications standard, developed by AASHTO and ITE. The NTCIP 1601 extends the MS-ETMC standard using real-world



implementation experience, and provides the definition in a format which is compatible with multiple protocols.

The NTCIP 1601 document is organized in five major sections plus one normative annex. Section 2 explains how the systems are expected to operate. The discussion of these operational concepts lead to the identification of certain key services that must be provided by the center-to-center interfaces. Section 3 explicitly identifies these services and how they interact with the various parties that interact with the systems. Section 4 completes the definition of each service defined in Section 3. In some cases, multiple Section 3 services may be fulfilled by a single Section 4 solution. Section 5 defines each specific class, data element and method referenced in Section 4. The Annex provides the formal Interface Definition Language (IDL) code that can be used in CORBA systems in order to implement the designs defined in this document.

NTCIP 1601 was developed by the NTCIP C2C Working Group, now chaired by Manny Insignares (Consensus Systems Technologies Corporation). The C2C WG has 12 members from the public and private sectors.

An electronic copy of this User Comment Draft is available in the LIBRARY area of the NTCIP Website, at <http://www.ntcip.org>.

NOTES. The Joint Committee accepted 1601 version 01.04. The front matter and other introductory text was revised and reformatted to make version 01.05 for user comment distribution.

USER COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS. People who receive this request for comments are asked to follow these instructions.

1. Refer this Standards Bulletin and the draft document to the person or persons in your organization who are most familiar with, and concerned about, traffic management and NTCIP standards. Also refer this Bulletin to anyone involved with the design, deployment, or operation and maintenance of traffic management systems, including any consultants they may use.
2. Review any portion, or all, of the user comment draft. Any comments, however general or specific, will be appreciated.

3. Email, mail, or fax (in order of preference) your comments to:

email <ntcip@nema.org>  
NTCIP Coordinator at NEMA  
1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847  
Rosslyn, VA 22209-3801  
fax (703) 841-3331

4. List each of your comments in the following four-part format:

**document:** NTCIP 1601, v01.05  
**page:**  
**paragraph or item:**  
**comment:**

5. Please respond by the end of the comment period as instructed by your standards organization. For NEMA, the 30-day comment period for this Bulletin will close about August 19, 2002. For AASHTO, the 30-day comment period will also close about August 19, 2002. Comments received after the closing date will be accepted, but they may not be included in the next version of the document. Please include your name and mailing address so that your comments can be acknowledged.

**ATTACH-  
MENT:** 1. NTCIP 1601, *Traffic Management System Interface  
Standard for Center-to-Center Communications*,  
version 01.05, July 2002, ~163 pages.

**FROM:** NTCIP Coordinator  
NEMA  
1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847  
Rosslyn, VA 22209-3801  
fax (703) 841-3331  
email <ntcip@nema.org>

**CC:** Email with PDF attachment for redistribution to AASHTO and ITE  
staff.  
Email notification to NTCIP community via listserv reflector for  
NTCIP Web site distribution.

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