



Working Together to Enhance Operational Coordination Across State Borders

***2015 National Rural ITS Conference
Snowbird, Utah***

Session RM5: Partnerships that Expand the Reach of ITS
August 11, 2015

The NWP Program

- North/West Passage has been a Transportation Pooled Fund since 2003
- States from Washington to Wisconsin along I-90/1-94

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Program Focus

- North/West Passage vision is to develop effective **methods for sharing, coordinating, and integrating** traveler information and **operational** activities across borders
- States share common challenges
 - Commercial and recreational travel corridor
 - Extreme weather conditions
 - Road closures and transportation management



Key Operational Efforts

- Significant work has included:
 - [ITS integrated corridor strategic plan](#)
 - [Major event descriptions](#)
 - Traveler information web sites
 - www.i90i94travlinfo.com was first
 - www.roadstosafediscovery.com is next (Fall 2015)
 - MCOM grant recipient
 - [Con ops for C2C communication](#)
 - Support page for TMC/TOC operations staff
 - [Operational guidelines for coordinating traveler information](#)
 - Googlemap of corridor resources
 - Seasonal operations webinars

The Challenge

After years of working together to complete projects that would support coordination across borders, the states were still struggling with when and how best to coordinate during major events...



Operational Coordination

- Corridor-wide Traveler Information Coordination Operational Test
 - Project completed in 2012-13 to more closely evaluate coordination among the states
 - Two seasons of observing when and how states coordinate during major events
 - After-Action Review/Improvement Plan identified strengths and areas for improvement
 - Strengths: willingness and capability to coordinate, strong incident management skills
 - Improvements: identify major event thresholds, nurture relationships, explore performance measures



The Operations Task Force

- Operations Task Force
 - Identified as a project in late-2013
 - Intended as temporary measure to
 - Establish and nurture relationships
 - Enhance scope of operations-oriented projects
 - Increase interaction among states outside of major events
 - Assess value of ongoing, dedicated group for operations
 - Participants include operations staff from each state
 - TMC/TOC staff
 - Maintenance and other staff from states without centers

The Operations Task Force

- Topics selected by participants and developed into annual work plans
- Task force meets monthly for 30-minute discussions about specific operational topics
 - Concise format has allowed for focused peer exchange or summaries of key topics related to operations within and among states



Ops Task Force Highlights

- [2012-13 work plan](#)
 - Points of contact
 - Reviewed primary POCs for coordination during major events
 - Memorandum of understanding
 - Reviewed 2011 MOU and newly established major event thresholds
 - Standard operating procedures
 - Exchanged SOPs for key operational functions (e.g. device operations, road closures, traveler information)
 - [Concept for Rural TMC/TOC Operations](#)
 - Provided input on rural center needs for operations-oriented project

Ops Task Force Highlights

- [2014-15 work plan](#)
 - Major event reviews
 - Introduced at seasonal webinar; maintained during task force meetings
 - Reminds group of major events worth coordination
 - Allows debrief on coordination as desired
 - Approaches to 24/7 staffing
 - Discussed how states are managing 24/7 reporting requirements in 23 CFR 511
 - Plan and prepare for major events
 - Identify upcoming planned major events (e.g. construction)
 - Citizen reporting and other crowdsourcing
 - Follow-up discussion to [Citizen Reporting Peer Exchange](#)



Ops Task Force Highlights

- 2014-15 work plan (continued)
 - [Regional Operations Forum](#)
 - Hosted SHRP2 forum for states in May 2015
 - All states, plus some GLRTOC agencies participated
 - Streamlined format to focus on rural transportation and corridor operations
 - Observed by National Operations Center of Excellence
 - Several action strategies identified
 - WASHTO COHT meeting session on multistate coalitions
 - Traveler information management plan
 - Third-party traveler information services synthesis
 - Push notification system best practices among states



***Regional Operations Forum was very well-received
and considered beneficial & successful.***

***North/West Passage likely to host another forum
in the future.***



Task Force Member Survey

- Task force participants were surveyed after to gauge value of task force
 - Monthly meeting format
 - Meeting topics
 - Potential for continuing task force



The Value

- Found the task force useful overall in supporting coordination
- Supported the continuation of the task force
- Supported the participation in the monthly task force meeting and TF activities



In Summary

- Coordinating traveler information and operations across borders **continues to be a relevant vision** for North/West Passage
- Regional Operations Forum **offered a unique opportunity** for states to gather and discuss operations for I-90/I-94
- Operations task force **has enhanced coordination**
 - MT, WY and SD worked together just last week on 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally!



Questions?

Bill Legg

NWP Program Chair & State ITS Operations Engineer

Washington State Department of Transportation

leggb@wsdot.wa.gov



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