

## FHWA Report to TRB Committee on Freeway Operations

For further information on topics mentioned briefly below, visit the FHWA Operations web site ([www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov)) or the ITS Joint Program Office web site ([www.its.dot.gov](http://www.its.dot.gov)).

TMC Web Site: Working closely with ITE, a web site (<http://www.tmcite.org>) was developed for practitioners to access, interact, and share information on TMC related activities or issues. This site provides links to technical references and manuals, publications and documents, case studies, best practices, training resources, and inventory of ITS deployment and TMC's. Have a question or need information related to a specific TMC issue? This site contains a listserv to allow practitioners to ask their peers a question directly. For additional information, contact [jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov).

TMC pooled fund study: 21 States, the District of Columbia, I-95 Corridor Coalition, and FHWA are participating in a pooled fund study to pursue TMC-related projects that address issues of common interest. The following six projects have been initiated: TMC operator requirements matrix; TMC maintenance concept and plans; Guidelines for CMS messaging; configuration management for transportation management systems; coordinated freeway and arterial operational plans and procedures; and TMC operational concept and requirements are being initiated. To join the TMC PFS or obtain additional information, contact [jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov).

Freeway Management Handbook Revision: The update of this handbook was initiated in the fall of 2001 with a final document expected to be available in 2003. The TRB Freeway Operations Committee has volunteered to serve in an "editorial review board" capacity associated with the update of this handbook. Other individuals interested in participating in the process of updating this handbook, or to obtain additional information, contact [jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov).

HOV Pooled Fund Study: FHWA issued a solicitation in November for agencies to participate in a pooled fund study focused on HOV Systems. This study is intended to provide a forum to identify issues and address problems common among agencies or other interests that plan, manage, use, or provide services that support HOV systems. For additional information, contact [jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov).

Revised FHWA HOV policy: FHWA issued a revised version of its policy on making significant operational changes to existing HOV facilities, including conversion to facilities to general purpose lanes, on March 28, 2001. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/policy/hovmemgd.htm>). For additional information, contact [jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov).

NHI Course Revisions: The following NHI courses are under development or being updated in 2002: Incident Management ([david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov)), Traffic Control Software and Signalization ([pam.crenshaw@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:pam.crenshaw@fhwa.dot.gov)), Configuration Management for Transportation Management Systems ([jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov)), and Freeway Traffic Operations ([jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:jon.obenberger@fhwa.dot.gov)). Individuals interested in participating in the development of these courses should contact the appropriate FHWA staff person to obtain additional information.

A National Conference on Traffic Incident Management will be held on March 11-13, 2002 in Irvine, CA. This is a two-day invitation only conference designed to bring together practitioners and senior level leaders from state and local transportation organizations, law enforcement agencies, fire and rescue departments, the towing and recovery community, the emergency medical community, and technology providers. By exchanging ideas in plenary and small group sessions, participants will develop recommended actions to implement a national agenda for traffic incident management. For additional information, contact [david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov).

Technical and Program Resources: The following resources are available to assist individuals obtaining information or assistance related: the Operations/ITS Help Line 888-367-7487, ITS Peer-to-Peer Program 888-700-PEER, publications and document library <http://www.its.dot.gov/itsweb/welcome.htm>, and ITS Resource Guide <http://www.its.dot.gov/guide.html>.

Traffic Incident Management Performance Measures: FHWA has initiated a study to investigation of what performance measures are being used for traffic incident management programs and who is collecting the data. The preliminary results of this work is expected to be available in the summer of 2002. For additional information, contact [david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov).

Model Procedures Guide for Traffic Incidents: FHWA and the National Fire Service Incident Management System Consortium (NFSIMSC) began work in the fall of 2001 on the development of a Model Procedures Guide for Traffic Incidents. This will be the seventh in a series of Model Procedures Guides produced by the NFSIMSC that formulate Incident Management (Incident Command) on scene command and control procedures for various types of incidents. The six previous guides have been produced primarily for firefighting community. This new guide will cover command and control procedures for highway incidents, addressing in more detail the concept of Unified Command. The guide will be of value to all responding organizations in public safety and transportation. Work is expected to be completed early in 2003. For additional information, contact [david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:david.helman@fhwa.dot.gov).

511 – America’s Traveler Information Telephone Number: The 511 Deployment Coalition, created in response to the July 2000 FCC Report and Order assigning the 3-digit number for traveler information, developed the “511 Implementation Guidelines,” which are available at [http://www.its.dot.gov/511/511\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.its.dot.gov/511/511_Guidelines.htm). The guidelines address the content and consistency of the user interface for 511 services. In November and December of 2001, AASHTO and APTA passed resolutions adopting and embracing the initial 511 Implementation Guidelines. ITS America and ITE are also expected to pass resolutions related to the 511 Implementation Guidelines in early 2002. A 511 Deployment Conference will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona on March 19 – 21, to help provide information to those who are planning or will be starting 511 traveler information services. More information about the conference will be available at <http://www.itsa.org/511.html>. In the July 23, 2001 edition of the Federal Register, FHWA announced the 511 support assistance program. This program offers up to \$100,000 to States to develop statewide approaches or plans to deploy 511 services. The States that have received funding so far are: Arizona, California, Kentucky, North Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. Three areas have implemented area-wide 511 systems: metropolitan Cincinnati including northern Kentucky, and statewide in Nebraska and Utah. Other locations that expect to have 511 services in early 2002 include: statewide services in Arizona, Kentucky, and Minnesota; the San Francisco Bay area; Southeastern Florida (Miami area); and the I-81 corridor (“Travel Shenandoah”) in Virginia. The USDOT issued a solicitation for a 511 Model Deployment in December, seeking to demonstrate a robust, state-of-the-art 511 traveler information service. Visit the ITS (<http://www.its.dot.gov/511/511.htm>) or Operations Travel Management (<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel>) web sites for further information.

Roadway Operations Self-Assessment Tool: FHWA has developed an easy-to-use self-assessment tool that state and local transportation agencies can use to assess their own roadway operations performance, and to find ideas of how to achieve better operations. The self-assessment covers a broad range of traffic operations areas, including traffic signal timing, incident management, work zones, and freeway service patrols. The self-assessment tool can be downloaded at [http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/Deployment\\_Task\\_Force/registration.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/Deployment_Task_Force/registration.htm). For additional information contact [vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov).

MUTCD Millennium Edition: The initial version of the 2000 MUTCD was published on the FHWA MUTCD web site in December 2000 (<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>). On June 14, 2001, the errata for the December 2000 MUTCD were published. Until just recently, this was the official version of the MUTCD. However, on December 28, 2001, FHWA published on the FHWA MUTCD website Revision No. 1 to the 2000 MUTCD. This now is the official version of the MUTCD and the effective date of the Revision No. 1 changes will be published in the Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register shortly.

HOT lane guidance: FHWA is developing a technical reference on implementing and operating High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. This technical reference will be available in 2002. For additional information contact [vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov).

Traffic Signal Timing Video: FHWA has released a popular video on the benefits of optimally timing traffic signals. The 13-minute video features testimonials from senior agency and elected officials on their experiences and the public's reception to improved signal timing. The video also covers the benefits of optimally timed traffic signals such as reduction in travel time, savings in fuel usage, and reductions in delay. For a copy of this video contact Pamela Crenshaw of FHWA at [pam.crenshaw@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:pam.crenshaw@fhwa.dot.gov)

ITS Architecture Consistency: The final rule on this, which implemented the ITS architecture consistency language contained in TEA-21, was published in the Federal Register on January 8, 2001. The FHWA Rule and FTA Policy for conformance with the National ITS Architecture & Standards, and all related materials, are available at <http://www.its.dot.gov/aconform/aconform.htm>. Since April 2001, FHWA Division Offices have been in the process of implementing Final Rule outreach activities throughout each state; this outreach phase should be completed by April 2002. In addition, a Regional ITS Architecture Guidance document has been completed and will be distributed in early 2002. This guidance document will be the basis for the Regional ITS Architecture Process Workshop that is being developed and will be piloted on January 10. The first of 30 CY02 offerings of this workshop will be in Pennsylvania on Jan 23-24. Also, there will be 30 CY02 offerings of the Introduction to Systems Engineering course throughout the country. All CY02 sessions of both the architecture workshop and systems engineering training will be offered tuition-free to participants. Scheduling will be done through FHWA Division Offices. Visit the ITS web site (<http://www.its.dot.gov>) for further information.

TTI Freeway Performance Measures Study: FHWA is working closely with the Texas Transportation Institute to develop and calculate areawide, travel-time based performance measures using archived data from freeway management systems in 10 metropolitan areas. Visit the mobility monitoring program web site at <http://mobility.tamu.edu/mmp>. For additional information, contact [vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov).

Regional Transportation Operations: The report on Organizing for Regional Operations has been released and is available online at [http://www.ite.org/library/reg\\_trans\\_ops.htm](http://www.ite.org/library/reg_trans_ops.htm). The report contains six case studies of regions in which groups of agencies have worked together to improve the effectiveness of transportation operations. For additional information, contact [vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov).

Traffic Simulation Model Development: FHWA has announced its plan for the next generation of traffic modeling and microsimulation. The announcement describing the program in which FHWA desires to work cooperatively with industry to develop the data and algorithms needed for essential travel conditions is available at [http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/Traffic\\_Analysis\\_Tools/ngsim\\_program.htm](http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Travel/Traffic_Analysis_Tools/ngsim_program.htm). For additional information, contact [john.halkias@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:john.halkias@fhwa.dot.gov).

Traffic Operations Security: FHWA has extensive work underway to support transportation operations security efforts of State and local agencies. This work includes a surface transportation vulnerability assessment tool, case studies, an emergency preparedness checklist, and technical guidance. Five workshops are planned around the country in 2002. For additional information, contact [vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:vince.pearce@fhwa.dot.gov).