

WSDOT STATUS REPORT

The following are the significant freeway operations developments in Washington State during the past six months, listed by WSDOT Region.

NORTHWEST REGION (INCLUDES SEATTLE)

- A new page has been added to the WSDOT web site that provides travel times for 10 freeway commutes. The average and current travel times are posted. The travel times are estimated based on loop detector speed and occupancy data for the roadway segment.
- A media contact has been added to the TMC personnel during peak periods. That person will be responsible for preparing and distributing media alerts on incidents and for making HAR recordings.
- A TMC supervisor is now present in the TMC during the peak periods.
- A new TMC has opened in Bellingham, near the USA/Canada border. The center controls 4 CCTVs and 4 data stations on I-5 in Bellingham and one CCTV and one data station at the USA/Canada border. Several VMS and HAR will be connected to this center. Current staffing covers only weekday working hours.

OLYMPIC REGION (INCLUDES TACOMA)

- The following new devices, incident response equipment and personnel have been added in this region:
 - An Incident Response Supervisor has been hired.
 - New incident response trucks have been stationed in Olympia and Bremerton.
 - Several incident response "Lite" trucks with reduced capabilities have been deployed.
 - Two new traffic operations specialists have been hired to manage traveler information. They will provide double coverage during the peak periods, leaving the other operations specialists free to concentrate on dispatch operations.
 - Four additional HARs have been deployed; one on I-5 in Olympia and three on the Olympic peninsula. The Olympia HAR is the final step in providing complete coverage on I-5 between Olympia and Tacoma.
 - Four additional VMS are being installed. Two of these are on I-5 and two on SR-16.

EASTERN REGION (INCLUDES SPOKANE)

- Currently two traffic operations specialists are on duty from 8:00am to 4:30pm in the Spokane area TMC. In the near future, these people will go on staggered shifts to provide coverage from 6:00am to 10:00pm.
- Training in the ICONS software is starting this month.
- A project is starting next July to add 12 CCTVs to the system.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (INCLUDES YAKIMA)

- The TMC has been moved from the WSDOT region offices to the Washington State Patrol building in Union Gap, WA, near Yakima. It is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is located in the room adjacent to the Washington State Patrol's radio dispatch center.

SOUTHWEST REGION (INCLUDES VANCOUVER, WA)

- The system currently includes nine CCTVs and eight VMS. Detection is installed approximately every mile on I-5, I-205, SR-14 and SR-500 (4th Plain.)
- The Vancouver TMC is in the process of hiring staff to provide three full time, two part time and one intermittent traffic operations specialists, in addition to a supervisor.
- They are located in the same room as the Washington State Patrol dispatch center.
- A project should be finished next month that will connect freeway devices on I-5 to the TMC using a combination of City, County and WSDOT fiber.
- WSDOT has decided to use the Navigator Software that is currently being used by the Oregon DOT freeway management system that is just across the river from Vancouver in Portland, OR. WSDOT is planning to connect their fiber to ODOT's. WSDOT's software will operate in conjunction with ODOT's so that the Portland area system could be operated from either TMC. Besides providing back-up coverage for operations it will provide seamless traveler information to the public, many of whom make daily commutes from the Vancouver area to Portland.

STATEWIDE

- Projects are currently underway to develop a statewide ITS Architecture, a statewide WSDOT Communications Plan and to update the statewide ITS Strategic Plan.
- A statewide Incident Response Coordinator has been hired to assist with the implementation and evaluation of WSDOT's incident response program and service patrols.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

- The 11th meeting of the Pacific Northwest Freeway Operations Group was held in July at the Washington State DOT, South Central Region TMC in the Washington State Patrol building in Union Gap, WA. Representatives from five WSDOT regions attended the meeting and representatives from the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation participated by teleconference. The focus of this meeting was to exchange information on operations, particularly hours of operation, staff levels, standard operating procedures, etc.

For further information on these projects, please contact:

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