

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)

FREEWAY MANAGEMENT:

- A service patrol pilot program on I-5 in both Seattle (NW Region) and Tacoma (Olympic Region) will start in July. The legislature restored funding for this project which was cut by Initiative 695.
- Traffic Management Center personnel are exploring the use of Audio-Video Interleave (AVI) technology to enable 5 second CCTV video clips to be distributed over the Internet. The technology allows viewers to see traffic in motion, which they've requested so that they can assess vehicle speeds. They need to click on a button to get a fresh video segment. The video pictures are smaller (about 120 pixels) than the current snapshot video and the files are larger (100 vs 10 kilobytes.)
- The Traffic Management Center has archived a year of traffic congestion maps. They've captured a map every 10 minutes and have archived them. The map shots are stored on the web servers and are accessed via a web page. Users can pick a date and time and the map pops up. There are buttons that allow the user to scroll to the next map, previous map, day or week. The web site address is:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/PugetSoundTrafficArchive/

OLYMPIC REGION (INCLUDES TACOMA)

FREEWAY MANAGEMENT:

- The performance of the CCTV cameras installed on I-5 through Tacoma has deteriorated. The cameras were replaced by the contractor but the problems continue with some cameras failing in less than one hour.

EASTERN REGION (INCLUDES SPOKANE)

FREEWAY MANAGEMENT:

- The Region is exploring use of the TransPort (ODOT) freeway management system software for the Spokane Traffic Management System. They are investigating what arterial signal control systems can be integrated with the software.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (INCLUDES YAKIMA)

FREEWAY MANAGEMENT:

- The Region has installed two HARs on I-82 at Ellensburg and Selah. This allows motorists to be diverted to/from SR 821 when incidents or bad weather cause problems.

STATEWIDE

RWIS

- Phase I of this project to develop a statewide road condition and weather information system is available for review. It can be accessed at <http://test.wsdot.wa.gov/rwis>. It makes all of the weather sensor data collected by the University of Washington's Department of Atmospheric Sciences from over 350 sites around the state available on the Internet. The University's weather model has been upgraded to give a forecast

resolution of 4km for the entire state. Most of the installation work on the 12 new RWIS sites and 7 ferry weather stations is complete. A beta version of Castle Rock Consultant's CARS software that allows incidents, road closures, construction work, etc. to be displayed with icons on an Internet map is being tested.

- The second issue of an FHWA funded RWIS newsletter is available at www.wsdot.wa.gov/eesc/atb/atb/default.htm A third issue is planned for distribution in June.

LIGHT LANES

- WSDOT and UCN have signed an agreement to exchange access to freeway right of way for fiber optic communications capability. The project is called Washington Light Lanes. The network would cover over 700 miles of freeway on I-5, I-90 and I-82. WSDOT would receive 48 fibers and the network would have an OC-12 capacity. The Olympia Service Center and all WSDOT regional offices, except the North Central Region office in Wenatchee, would be connected to the network and 350 access points for traffic devices would be provided. A fund of about \$3 million would be provided for WSDOT to use for connections. The agreement would last for at least 25 years. UCN is currently in the final stages of securing financing for the project.

MISCELLANEOUS

NORTHWEST FREEWAY OPERATIONS GROUP

- The seventh meeting of the Pacific Northwest Freeway Operations Group was held in June at the WSDOT NW Region office in Seattle. Representatives of five WSDOT regions, ODOT and British Columbia, (Vancouver), Canada attended the meeting. The group exchanged information on the status of freeway operations projects which was used to prepare this report.

For further information on these projects, please contact:

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