

The NTIMC held its fourteenth full Coalition meeting in Crystal City, Virginia on March 4, 2009. Coalition members emphasized opportunities to link public safety and transportation communities to define, standardize, and advance the state of traffic incident management practice.

Coalition Forms Three Working Groups to Address Strategic Plan and National Unified Goal

NTIMC members identified three working groups that will facilitate implementation of the strategic plan and work plan. The groups will be conceptually formed prior to the June 2009 meeting, and convened shortly thereafter. The Practices and Procedures working group will offer leadership in the development of multidisciplinary best practices, guides, standards, and performance measures in support of sound traffic incident management activities. The Research working group will develop and recommend appropriate research problem statements to take advantage of multiple research avenues. The Communications and Training working group will promote and support the successful development and conduct of local, regional, and statewide TIM programs and training through peer networking, mentoring, and knowledge exchange among public safety and transportation professionals.

NTIMC Foundation

The NTIMC Foundation held its first meeting on March 3, 2009 to elect officers, adopt bylaws, and initiate Foundation operations. Two committees were formed, a Grant Making Committee and a Fund Raising Committee, which will seek to generate funding for Foundation and Coalition operation. The Foundation will meet again in June to continue efforts to improve conditions for responders to traffic incidents.



Coalition Chair John Corbin presents Jack Sullivan with a certificate of recognition for his efforts to increase awareness of the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management

National Committee for Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Jack Sullivan (ESRI/CVVFA)

Serving as formal liaison Jack Sullivan participated in the National Committee for Uniform Traffic Control Devices meeting in November 2008. While there Jack emphasized the challenges faced by first responders in complying with potential federal rules regarding incident scene vehicle positioning and traffic control. The National Committee's recommendations for revision to the MUTCD are being considered by FHWA along with public comments. Public safety responder groups are anxious to receive updated guidance for implementation.

Upcoming Events:

May 18-19, 2009 – NCHRP 20-7 Draft document review, TRB Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

June 3, 2009 – Full Coalition meeting in National Harbor, Maryland

June 22, 2009 – NTIMC/TSAG Executive briefing to DOT

Research

SHRP II

The project under SHRP II, implemented by the Reliability Panel will result in a draft list of responder actions, based around four incident types; the draft will be vetted through this group.

FHWA

The project team for the FHWA TIM Handbook thanked Coalition members for their comments on the first three chapters, and mentioned a fourth chapter will be distributed soon for review and comment.

Research Suggestions

Steve Austin suggested research on rear facing lights is needed; suggest we look for ways to provide input into the new authorization bill. Doug Noble suggested research is needed on incident management within work zones.

Transportation Safety Advancement Group

The Coalition and TSAG continue to benefit from a strong partnership. Coalition members participated in a TSAG a Case Study exercise which examined the I-35 Bridge collapse in Minneapolis, MN. The case study exercise will examine emergency response practices and procedures employed, seeking improvements and lessons learned from the actions of responders to that unfortunate event. The Coalition will continue to work with the TSAG on future case studies, and seek out opportunities to collaborate with emergency response and traffic incident management partners at all levels.

Meeting with DOT Executives Being Planned

Leadership from the Coalition and the Transportation Safety Advancement Group is seeking a meeting with executives at the Department of Transportation to discuss their context within the broader traffic incident management and emergency response communities, to offer perspectives on the contributions each group has made, and to highlight mutually understood opportunities for future collaboration.

FHWA TIM Self Assessment

The FHWA Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Self Assessment (TIM SA) was developed in 2002 and first implemented in FY 2003. Annual assessments have been made through 2008. The Coalition will encourage member organizations to participate in 2009 assessments with state and local transportation agencies. Participating jurisdictions have used the TIM SA cycle as benchmarks to remind themselves of where they started and what they have achieved. Since 2003 developments in other major incident management initiatives have shown that the basic objectives and lessons learned through the TIM SA process improves a jurisdictions ability to deal incidents regardless of size or complexity. The TIM SA is a tool for local, regional and statewide active TIM programs to assess themselves and identify parts of their programs that needed to be strengthened. For those areas starting TIM programs, the tool provides a template/foundation from which to build. At a National level, the composite results provide FHWA and other federal agencies with a sense of national needs in order to strategically focus limited resources to strengthen TIM nationally. The SA is an evaluation tool only. It is not the purpose of the SA to compare one urban area or State to others and the FHWA understands that to do so may undermine the integrity of the SA. FHWA encourages multi-agency team assessment of programs whenever possible as this affords an opportunity to not only identify where program attention is needed but might also provide an opportunity to identify specific actions needed.

Industry Links and News

Highway Safety Groups Hope DVD Will Save Lives

Link to story and video report on WAKE-TV:

<http://wake.mync.com/site/Wake/news/story/29383/highway-safety-groups-hope-dvd-will-save-lives/>

Link to video from the North Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshall:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/RPD/rpd_resources_HighwaySafety.asp

Service Patrol Handbook (FHWA-HOP-08-031)

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/incidentmgmt/publications.htm>