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Accelerating Traffic Incident Management: ITS Council Forms Traffic Incident Management Committee

"Traffic incident management remains foundational, if not pivotal, to the successful implementation and ongoing effectiveness of ITS tools at the local level."

The ITS Council has formed a Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Committee to promote successful deployment of regional traffic incident management programs. The TIM Committee will also seek to facilitate a Traffic Incident Management Network to link traffic incident management professionals, and to promote and support existing national incident management groups. The ASCE Traffic Operations Subcommittee has also formally supported formation of the Traffic Incident Management Committee. The TIM Committee is currently seeking members, and would like input from ITE members.

Traffic incidents such as crashes, stalls, and spilled loads create traffic disruptions and currently cause over half of all highway congestion. More effective traffic incident management can clear traffic incidents more quickly, making highway operations safer and more efficient. Traffic incident management has been most effectively improved through regional multagency traffic incident management programs, typically in metropolitan areas. These programs provide for ongoing communications and collaboration among emergency service and highway operation professionals to improve all phases of traffic incident management.

Many organizations, including ITE, recognize the need to support and enhance traffic incident management, and the need to encourage development of traffic incident management programs. There is, however, limited awareness of informational resources and no formal national peer network for traffic incident management professionals.

Initial objectives of the TIM Committee will be to:

- Attract and involve a diverse group of traffic incident management experts, including those from the emergency services community.
- Locate, organize, and summarize available information resources on current traffic incident management programs.
- Inventory national traffic incident management activities and groups, including those related to the ITS National Architecture and related standards to complete an informational report.
- Promote successful formation and ongoing implementation of traffic incident management programs.
- Establish a Traffic Incident Management Network to support communications and coordination between national committees and working groups involved in traffic incident management. Groups may include:
 - ASCE Traffic Operations Subcommittee
 - TRB Freeway Operations Committee
 - ITS America - Emergency Services Committee
 - National Incident Management Coalition
 - AASHTO - Traffic Engineering Subcommittee
 - IEEE/FHWA/AASHTO - Incident Management Working Group
 - Others



INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS
TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM) COMMITTEE
1999-2000 ACTION PLAN
July 1999
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Committee Objectives:

1. Involve a diverse group of traffic incident management experts.
2. Summarize available information resources on traffic incident management programs.
3. Complete an informational report on ITE Traffic Incident Management Committee activities, accomplishments and future direction.
4. Promote ongoing implementation of traffic incident management programs.
5. Establish a Traffic Incident Management Network to support communications and coordination between national committees and working groups.

Proposed Actions and Associated Objective(s):

A. ESTABLISH A TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT WEB SITE, Summer 1999, (Objectives 1,2,4,5) www.trafficincident.org

Introduce & administer a web site dedicated to sharing information about traffic incident management. Include other traffic incident management links and chat capabilities in partnership with ICDN. Support FHWA web-based ITS inventories and peer network resources.

B. INITIATE KEY ISSUES AND PRACTICES (KIP) SERIES, Early 2000, (Objectives 1,3,4,5)

Facilitate teleconferences, videoconferences, webcast events to focus on specific issues and topics in traffic incident management. These topics may include Safety Patrols, Incident Clearance Legislation, Crash Investigation Sites, Staff Training & Education Programs, Public Awareness Programs, and others.

C. INFORMATIONAL REPORT, Late 2000, (Objectives 1,2,3)

Develop an informational report on TIM committee activities, accomplishments and future direction. Include summary updates on ITS Architecture and Standards development groups and activities that are relevant to traffic incident management.

D. TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT NETWORK SUPPORT PROPOSAL, Late 1999, (Objectives 1, 4, 5)

Draft and submit a proposal to enable contractor support of the Traffic Incident Management Network. The Network Support would consist of contracted engineering and administration services to support TIM Committee volunteers in:

- Managing the web site;
- Coordinating and publicizing TIM training and technology transfer;
- Scheduling and facilitating teleconferences, videoconferences, in-person meetings;
- Coordinating tasks between the Committee and other partner volunteer organizations; and,
- Maintaining Committee mailing lists, email distribution network and fax server.

E. TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY COALITION PROPOSAL, Mid 2000, (Objectives 1, 4, 5)

Draft and submit a proposal to establish a national Transportation and Public Safety Coalition to support Traffic Incident Management program deployment and ITS standards development. The proposal will be developed in collaboration with ITS-America, the IEEE Incident Management Working Group, FHWA, and other TIM stakeholder organizations. The proposal will offer the conceptual interorganizational structure and implementation strategy to establish an active coalition between national organizations in the law enforcement, emergency service, and transportation communities. The Coalition would provide a forum for strategic dialogue on issues affecting public safety and transportation communities. The Coalition would also serve as a source of cross-functional expertise on ITS architecture and standards development, as well as broader public policy issues.