Concept of Operations and Action Plan

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1. PROJECT INTRODUCTION

This section provides an overview of the overall project and this document.

1.1. Project Purpose

The goal of the overall project is to identify and implement various technologies that will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of individual transportation providers in rural California counties, and increase the coordination between the various transportation providers. It is anticipated that one of the technologies to be implemented will be a Rural Trip Planning Tool (Rural TPT). The project will also likely include the establishment of a Mobility Management Center (MMC) that would provide a "one stop shop" for transportation information within the given region.

The initial phases of the project would focus on Inyo, Lassen, Modoc, Mono and Plumas counties in the eastern Sierras of California (Figure 1). Once the technologies (systems) have been evaluated in these counties, the systems could be expanded to benefit all rural counties in California, and possibly all counties within the state. The Western Transportation Institute - Montana State University (WTI) worked with the following organizations/individuals to create this initial document:

- Pam Couch, Modoc County Transportation Commission/Modoc Transportation Agency
- Eric Holm, Alliance for Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), University of New Mexico
- Doug Anderson, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Los Angeles, California

This initial timeline for this project is three years, and includes the following major milestones:

- Develop initial scope of work and identify beneficial technologies
- Obtain identified technologies and modify as necessary
- Test technologies
- Implement technologies
- Evaluate project (including technologies)

1.2. Document Overview

This document contains a description and analysis of the existing situation and proposed system. This information is organized into four chapters. Chapter 1 provides the introduction of this project. Chapter 2 describes the current situation related to coordination and the use of technology, and describes the justification for implementing changes to the current system. Chapter 3 describes the concept for the proposed system, including the benefits and limitations of the proposed system. Chapter 4 provides the conclusions and recommendations, including an action plan (next steps) for the next phases of this project. In addition, detailed information on the current transportation systems and specific technology systems, are included in the various appendices.