

Rural ITS Solutions



Rural ITS Toolbox

March 2001

Prepared for:
Federal Highway Administration

Prepared by:
U.S.DOT Rural ITS Consultant Support Team –
SAIC, TransCore, CRC, & WTI

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In recent years, it has become increasingly common for states and regions across the country to consider the potential of developing and deploying ITS solutions for their rural and small urban areas. Some of the most progressive states have also examined these opportunities from a statewide perspective.

However, while there is a body of experience developing in this area, it has not been shared effectively with all potential users. As such, each group that embarks on efforts such as these typically has to start with limited information of past installations and has to develop their own techniques for accomplishing the goal of regional or statewide ITS deployment.

1.2 DEVELOPING RURAL INTERIM BASIC GUIDANCE

In order to assist with making this body of experience more accessible to potential new users, the U.S. DOT commissioned the development of what has become known as “Interim Basic Guidance” on the deployment of rural ITS. The development of this guidance was undertaken by the U.S. DOT’s rural ITS support contractors Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Castle Rock Consultants, Transcore and the Western Transportation Institute within the framework of the Rural ITS Support Services contract.

The development of this guidance has leveraged earlier and parallel investments to identify and catalogue rural and statewide ITS initiatives that have been performed across the country. These have included the FHWA’s Simple Solutions project, the New York State rural toolbox, press releases, and interviews. It is also intended that information gathered; as part of developing this guidance will be shared to support other initiatives such as The State of the ARTS proposed by ITS America.

It should be noted, however, that the examples presented in this document do not represent the full extent of rural ITS deployment. Indeed, other rural ITS deployments may be identified elsewhere. Agencies or other organizations should email ITShelp@fhwa.dot.gov if they wish to submit their rural ITS deployment for inclusion in future updates to this document.

It should also be noted that the toolbox, in and of itself, does not constitute the guidance but is simply a resource for the guidance.

The guidance is designed to assist a broad range of users who have or who may have a stake in the deployment of rural ITS. These users include:

- State transportation agencies;
- Transit properties
- Local government agencies; and
- Non-traditional stakeholders such as fire and rescue groups, law enforcement agencies, the emergency medical community and tourism groups.

1.3 THIS DOCUMENT

The guidance is intended to support those agencies and groups that are beginning the process of rural or statewide ITS deployment plans. This toolbox is intended to assist public agencies and private organizations with rural and statewide ITS deployment plans. It consists of two components:

- A **toolbox** or **resources document** that identifies successful rural ITS projects statewide applications from across the nation; and
- A **guidance document** that guides users through proven processes for the preparation of a rural or statewide ITS deployment plan.

This document represents the first of these components, the toolbox or resources document.