

California and Oregon Advanced Transportation Systems Phase 3:

Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report discusses the various activities that did and did not occur during the course of the COATS Phase 3 project. As Phase 3 evolved, its focus gravitated toward the completion of two activities: technology transfer and leveraging. Technology transfer activities were centered on the establishment, growth and continuation of the annual Western States Forum. Leveraging activities focused on the development of Integrated Corridor Management for rural areas, in line with the emerging U.S. Department of Transportation ICM initiative.

The Western States Forum served as a technology transfer platform where informative, in-depth technical presentations could be given by rural ITS practitioners. Presenters delved into how solutions were developed, focusing on applications that have been deployed in the field and are being used in live traffic situations. Success stories have been shared along with failures and problems so participants could learn what does and doesn't work and why. The Forum eventually expanded to include live demonstrations of rural ITS technologies and "hands-on" question and answer periods. Participants brought actual ITS equipment and performed informal "show and tell" sessions during the breaks. In addition to a live demonstration of ITS communication technologies, short briefings on specific Rural ITS research projects and product development were also conducted.

Integrated Corridor Management examined what may be required to reach the deployment stage for a rural ICM plan, as well as the development of a web-based data clearinghouse to support it. This effort represented a blueprint for what may be required to create a rural ICM. Based on the work completed, it was concluded that the concept of ICM is applicable to rural areas and expected to yield a number of benefits. These included improved traveler safety and mobility, enhanced goods movement, and the availability of information to agencies in a timelier manner. In addition, the work completed under this portion of COATS Phase 3 will ultimately assist other Caltrans efforts, namely the development of One Stop Shop.

During the course of the Phase 3 effort, a number of deliverables were produced, including:

- Quarterly progress reports;
- Meeting minutes (Steering Committee meetings and conference calls);
- Organization and conduct of the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum from 2006 through 2008;
- Annual reports summarizing the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum;
- Development of the Integrated Corridor Management Clearinghouse website (<http://www.weathershare.org/ICM/>);
- Development, support and final documents associated with Integrated Corridor Management;
- Conference presentations:
 - o Applying Integrated Corridor Management to the Rural COATS Region - 2007 National Rural ITS Conference;
 - o Rural Integrated Corridor Management in the COATS Region - 2008 Northwest Transportation Conference;
 - o Application of Integrated Corridor Management to Rural Areas - 15th World Congress on ITS.