

Operations in the 21st Century Meeting Customer Needs and Expectations

(L31)

May 2014



INTRODUCTION

This document is the presentation guide in support of the accompanying PowerPoint presentation entitled "Operations in the 21st Century – Meeting Customer Needs and Expectations."This is an update to the presentation developed under SHRP 2 Project L31, Reliability Workshops for State and Public Sector Managers. The update to the presentation reflects the requirements contained in MAP-21, recent enhancements in various operational strategies (e.g., Active Transportation and Demand Management – ATDM), and the needs of the joint FHWA / AASHTO deployment of SHRP2 Organizing for Reliability, including "lessons learned" from the pilot Capability Model (CMM) activities.

With respect to the latter, an Implementation Assistance Program (IAP) is underway to help transportation agencies in deploying new products developed under the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2). Twenty seven "lead adopters" were selected for the first round of assistance opportunities for the SHRP2 Organizing for Reliability. The process and activities associated with this 2-3 year implementation assistance is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 – Overview of Activities: CMM Assistance for Lead Adopters

These presentation materials are intended to help support these CMM activities in all four phases, starting with the initial engagement and subsequent meetings with an agency's senior leadership and decision makers (e.g., DOT Secretary / CEO, chief engineer, budget and programming director, maintenance head, other executive staff) during the Outreach and Assessment phases. The presentation materials may also be used as one of the activities and supporting "tools" during the implementation phase to help mainstream operations into the agency's institutional framework. The presentation materials, along with a companion presentation geared more towards MPOs, are included in the Tool Kit developed for this CMM-related effort.

The material is geared towards for presentation to the chief executive officers (CEOs) and senior managers of state departments of transportation (DOTs) about the value of mainstreaming operations as a core mission, business practice, and investment priority in their respective agencies. Not only can senior leadership provide valuable input to the process; but they are also the ones that must ultimately approve and subsequently promote any changes to the institutional framework – and the associated staffing and budgets – in support of enhanced operations. Additionally, the presentation materials may also be used as a tool to discuss the importance of operations to middle management and other DOT staff (e.g., maintenance staff, planning and budgeting, design) during the implementation phase as may be appropriate. It is



also envisioned that the presentation materials will prove useful in other efforts to advance operations (e.g., for communicating with the public and other stakeholders).

GOAL

The overall goal of these presentation materials is two-fold. The first is to promote an understanding and appreciation for what Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO – simply referred to as "operations" in the presentation) can do to help a DOT meet today's many challenges and improve the transportation network. The executive audience needs to understand policy-related issues and basic concepts in order to become advocates for operations.

The second hoped-for result is that the executive(s) will then task their senior staff to formalize operations as a core DOT program and an on-going focus within the agency and the region. In this context, the executive should:

- Establish someone to be responsible for identifying needed changes to the DOT institutional framework. (The CEO doesn't need to identify specifics.)
- Indicate support for reasonable resource allocation based on the business case.
- Identify what measure of success would be.
- Set a time line for achievement and reporting back

PRESENTATION APPROACH

This presentation has been created to address transportation operations at a high level that is relevant to most, if not all, state DOTs. The presentation slides are sequentially ordered in this document and include the following information for each¹:

- *Description of the slide*—a brief narrative setting up the key points to be made during the presentation of the slide. This may be an introduction to the slide subject putting the key points in context, a definition, or some combination.
- *Key points*—a bulleted list of key points to be articulated while the slide is displayed;
- Other Additional information and guidance for the presenter to consider, such as identifying and including examples specific to the DOT / audience. (An "Other" note is not provided for all slides).

The presenter should use and convey the information included in the "Description" and "Key Points" as appropriate to the audience. Local examples and updates as a result of on-going activities should also be considered as identified in "Other".

The executive sessions should be planned for opportunities that relate to elected/appointed officials natural "turf" and appropriate time – for example, state DOT senior staff and directors' meetings, state legislature transportation committee meetings, or conference venues (AASHTO, NCSL, NACO, APWA, etc.).

¹ This same information is also provided on the notes page of each slide within the presentation



The presenter(s) should have credibility with the target audience. This suggests some sort of peer relationship (e.g., the presenter was once a DOT executive) or acknowledged leader in the field of operations. The presenter should also interject personal anecdotes and local examples as appropriate (e.g., "You are already providing this operations strategy.") As such, it is important in preparation for the session that the presenter(s) familiarize themselves with a general understanding of the state or region of interest (target), as well as offering real-life examples from other states/regions.

PRESENTATION ORGANIZATION

The presentation slides are organized as follows:

Торіс	Slide Numbers
Introduction and Purpose of Session / Definition of "Operations"	1 - 4
The Changing Transportation Environment and Associated Challenges to DOTs, and How Operations Can Help	5 - 12
Examples of Operations Strategies and Benefits	13 - 24
Importance of "Mainstreaming" Operations and Overview of the Various Dimensions Within a DOT Where This Should Occur	25 – 31
Overview of Operations from a Regional Perspective, Including "Planning for Operations"	32-33
Summary and Next Steps for Executives, Including Contacts Within FHWA and AASHTO	34-35
"Questions" – To stimulate a dialogue and interactive discussion	36
"Parking Lot" of slides that the presenter may include depending on the specific interests and needs of the audience.	37-41

A key point to make is that of all the states that have embraced operations, not a single state has been able to do it without the CEO's support. They do not need to be champions; but they do need to be enablers of a proactive formal operations program with a goal of continuous improvement.

MODIFYING THE PRESENTATION

The presentation, as described herein, will likely take 40 – 45 minutes followed by questions and discussions (i.e., an hour). However, experience has shown that DOT executives are often very busy with many other issues and priorities demanding their attention. It may be that only 15 to 30 minutes is available for the presentation and subsequent discussion. Accordingly, this presentation should be viewed as a "menu" of slides that can be modified, edited, rearranged, and otherwise tailored such that it is relevant to the audience, the DOT's operational situation, the presentation environment, and the allotted timeframe.



One potential example of a shorter presentation is provided below, showing the most essential slides and other potential slides, some of which may be added depending on the specific operations programs within the agency and the interest of the target audience.

Торіс	Essential Slides	Other Potential Slides
Introduction and Purpose of Session / Definition of "Operations"	1-3	
The Changing Transportation Environment and Associated Challenges to DOTs; and How Operations Can Help	5, 12	A few from 6 - 11
Examples of Operations Strategies and Benefits	13	A few from 14 - 24
Importance of "Mainstreaming" Operations and Overview of the Various Dimensions Within DOT Where This Should Occur	25, 26, 28	29,30, 31
Summary and Next Steps for Executives, Including Contacts Within FHWA and AASHTO	34, 35	

Given that transportation systems management and operations is constantly evolving, this presentation is intended to be a "living document", with updates provided as may be required to reflect the state-of-the-practice (e.g., changes in Federal legislation and policy, findings and lessons learned from the on-going CMM activities, evaluations of operations strategies). Moreover, should any presenter identify materials and information that should be included in the presentation materials, or develop a modified order of the slides that has proven beneficial, please contact Steve Clinger of FHWA at <u>Stephen.Clinger@dot.gov</u>. These additional tools will also be included in subsequent updates as appropriate.

A history of the presentation versions and the major changes made for each version update is provided below.

Version	Date	Changes and Updates
1.0	April 2014	Initial version of DOT CEO Presentation

DOT CEO Presentation Version Control

SLIDE 1: Operations in the 21st Century DOT



Description of the Slide

Cover: This presentation is geared towards DOT executives regarding the increasingly important role of transportation systems management and operations (TSMO) – hereinafter simply referred to "operations" – in the effective management and delivery of transportation services to DOT's customers. In other words – how operations can help DOTs to meet their customer needs and expectations in a rapidly changing environment.

Key Points

- Hello and thank you for taking time from your busy schedule(s) to discuss transportation system management and operations, what operations can do to help DOT improve customer service, and some actions you can take to improve operations in your agency
- Introductions

Other - Depending on the audience and time, considerations should be given to prompting the audience to ask questions at any time during the presentation.



Our presentation and discussions today will focus on three key areas as shown here.

- The role of the a DOT has evolved over the past 75 years in response to the changing needs of customers. From an initial mandate that centered around building and preserving the transportation infrastructure, the transportation environment has changed such that a DOT's responsibilities have expanded To also include actively managing and operating the network as effectively as possible so as to meet customers' demands for safety, mobility, and reliability; and to do so in the most cost-effective manner.
- Operations and the supporting technologies are valuable tools for meeting these challenges and optimizing the transportation system.
- Operations cannot succeed in a vacuum it must be understood and become a core function throughout the agency; in other words, operations must be mainstreamed into the entire DOT programming and planning processes.



Before getting into any more discussions, it is perhaps worthwhile to define just what is meant by "operations".

Key Points

- The current federal transportation reauthorization Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, or MAP 21 – defines "Transportation Systems Management and Operations"
- A key phrase in this definition is the notion of "integrated strategies." The goal of integration is to bring the management and operation of the surface transportation network into a unified whole, thereby making the various transportation modes and facilities perform better and work together.
- There are many aspects of integration for example:
 - Technical integration in terms standards and system architectures that support information sharing between ITS-based systems; and also
 - Institutional integration such that operations are mainstreamed into a transportation agency's institutional framework and corresponding business processes; and also coordination and collaboration between various agencies and jurisdictions in the region to achieve seamless interoperability

Other - MAP-21 expires in September, 2014. The presenter should check the subsequent reauthorization for any change in the definition of TSMO or emphasis.

SLIDE 4: Example Operations Strategies and Solutions



Description of the Slide

This slide lists several of the operations strategies that's have been applied by DOTs and transportation agencies across the country; and in doing so, they have made substantial positive impact on the safety, mobility, and reliability of the surface transportation network.

Key Points

- Operations consists of a wide array of possible strategies and opportunities, from every-day activities to cutting edge solutions and technologies.
- Many of these strategies can be applied to both urban and rural environments.
- We will touch on some of these in more detail, including potential benefits later.

Other - If possible, perhaps highlight a few of these strategies in terms of what the specific DOT has done / is doing.

SLIDE 5: The Transportation Environment is Changing

The Transportation Environment is Changing

- Increased reliance on
 information and technology
- Increasing customer needs
 and expectations
- Growing emphasis on measuring performance
- Reduced financial resources
- Technology also offers opportunities – multiple operations strategies and regional integration of various modes



Description of the Slide

It should come as no surprise to you that the transportation environment in which DOT's conduct their business has been and continues to change, often quite rapidly.

Key Points

- We are living in an information revolution, brought about and supported by new and emerging technologies. In today's connected world, customers are regularly introduced to new ways of obtaining and using real-time information to save time and money; and DOTs are expected to take advantage and use these technologies.
- The DOT's customers that is, the traveling public expect that the products they use and the technologies they encounter will be "smart" and will ultimately improve their travel experience, They also expect that the information received will be accurate and reliable—regardless of who "owns" the road or the information.
- There is also an increased emphasis on accountability and transparency on how DOTs conduct their business; and this requires that the performance of the transportation network be regularly measured and compared to established metrics.
- Moreover, the increased expectations and accountability are coming at a time when government agencies are expected to do more, but with fewer financial resources.
- These same technologies can also help DOTs meet these increased expectations through the execution of operations strategies. However, it is important to remember that operations is more than merely implementing technology along the roadway.

Other - The key points listed above are for a shorter version. If a longer version is being presented (including the next 4 slides), then the key points can be skipped, and lead into the next slide with "there are several reasons behind this changing environment"

SLIDE 6: Technology is Transforming Our World



Description of the Slide

We are living in an information revolution. The internet and wireless communications, coupled wide-spread use of mobile devices and related technologies, have transformed the way business is done and how value is delivered.

- In today's connected and information-rich world, customers are regularly introduced to new ways of using real-time information to save time and money; and DOTs are expected to take advantage of and use technology to improve efficiency and service.
- The DOT's customers that is, the traveling public expect that the products they
 use and the technologies they encounter will be "smart" and will ultimately improve
 their travel experience, They also expect that the information received will be
 accurate and reliable—regardless of who "owns" the road or the information.
- Moreover, technology will likely have an even greater impact on the transportation network in the future. We are watching a new era of transportation emerge through the Connected Vehicle program that that allows cars and infrastructure to communicate with one another. And a week doesn't pass with out some news article on the future of autonomous vehicles. How these future technologies may impact how we manage and operate the transportation network is mind-boggling.

SLIDE 7: Customer Expectations and Needs are Changing



Description of the Slide

As already noted, advances in technology and the availability of real-time information have increased DOT's customers' expectations.

Key Points

- Technology has been harnessed by the private sector to improve productivity; and the same is expected (and is well underway) for government entities.
- A part of these increased expectations is a greater demand for accountability that customers are receiving value for their tax dollars and tolls.
- Additionally, DOT customers are expecting improvements in mobility, safety, information, and reliability.
- With respect to the last point; congestion is an accepted and even predictable reality in major urban areas. So the real source of frustration for users and lost productivity for businesses comes from unexpected delays that are encountered because of crashes, special events, unanticipated work zones, extreme weather, and the like. The reliability of the transportation system has come to be at least as important as travel time itself.

Other - There is a "reliability" slide in the "parking lot" at the end of the presentation, and can be used next if the audience may not be aware of what the term "reliability" actually means.

SLIDE 8: Performance Measures



Description of the Slide

The increased emphasis on government accountability and transparency has focused more attention on measuring and reporting on performance. MAP-21 and FHWA emphasize the use of measureable objectives and associated performance metrics.

Key Points

- Performance measurement for transportation has been gaining traction the past several years. In essence
 - If you don't measure results, can't tell success from failure.
 - If you can't see success, can't reward it.
 - If you can't see failure, can't correct it.
 - o In other words, you can't manage it unless you measure it!
- Under the requirements of MAP 21, we are beginning the process of "keeping score". Goals and associated performance measures are being developed for several transportation categories.

Other -Prior to the presentation, the presenters should check on the current status of the effort to develop and publish (e.g., in the Federal Register for comment) the performance measures being developed by FHWA under the MAP 21 requirement.

SLIDE 9: Increasing Financial Constraints



Description of the Slide

The need to meet growing customer expectations for mobility and safety, increased accountability, and the associated performance management requirements is occurring at a time of reduced financial resources for most DOTs.

Key Points

- The Highway Trust Fund, which was so instrumental in the construction of the Interstate Highway System and other transportation improvements, is running out of money, with current predictions that the transportation fund will become insolvent next year, if not sooner.
- There are several reasons for this
 - The last increase in the federal gas tax was over 20 years ago, and inflation has significantly reduced its purchasing power.
 - Cars have become more fuel efficient, and will continue to do so in accordance with current Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards (average 35.5 mpg in 2016; average 54.4 mpg in 2025). This means less tax paid per miles driven, with electric vehicles paying no gas tax at all.
 - Technology allows many of us to be virtual commuters. The recent recession and high gas prices also reduce the amount of driving, further reducing the amount of gas tax taken in.
- Several initiatives are underway to find a long-term solution to the declining gas tax revenues; but for the foreseeable future, many DOT's will likely need to do more and satisfy rising customer expectations with less.

Other - It would be worthwhile to determine the state gas tax where the DOT is located, the history of increases, and any initiatives underway to provide a more sustainable funding mechanism.

SLIDE 10: Operations Can Help Address These Challenges

<section-header> Operations Can Help Address These Challenges Leverage Technology Preserve and maximize existing capacity Enhance safety Promote mobility and customer outreach Improve reliability for commuters and freight Manage bottlenecks Monitor performance Implement quickly at relatively low cost

Description of the Slide

Given the many challenges facing DOTs – increased customer expectations and accountability, financial constraints, and the limitations on the provision of significant new capacity – it is increasingly important to leverage technology and operate the existing network to its fullest service potential, essentially "taking back" the available capacity lost to congestion, incidents, construction, weather, etc. A robust transportation systems management and operations program can help a DOT to address all of these challenges; turning them into opportunities for meeting customer needs in a cost-effective manner.

- A major selling point for an increased emphasis on operations is that these strategies and supporting ITS technologies go to the heart of what DOTs want and need to deliver today. Operations investments lead to:
 - o More efficient and effective use of the existing capacity
 - $\circ~$ A safer system for travelers and responders to traffic incidents,
 - Enhanced customer mobility and outreach via state-of-the-art technologies
 - More-reliable service for commuters and shippers, thereby enhancing economic competitiveness
 - And in many instances, the opportunity to alleviate bottlenecks without new construction (e.g., ramp metering, hard shoulder running)
- The same data collected to support operations can also be used as part of a performance management program
- The benefits from operations can happen more quickly than from planning for and building new lanes, at a relatively low cost with great benefit–cost ratios

SLIDE 11: Traditional Approach to Managing Transportation



Description of the Slide

Historically, DOTs have focused on relieving the causes of recurring congestion, such as bottlenecks and other capacity constraints. However, in large metropolitan areas over half of the total delay, and most of system unreliability, results from disruptions and incidents— what is referred to as non-recurring congestion – which is not substantially dealt with by adding new capacity

- The relationships among types and causes of congestion and mobility may not be widely appreciated.
- The traditional approach of adding capacity to meet current and future demands only addresses part of today's mobility, reliability and safety issues.
- Most congestion and delays are the result of "non-recurrent" causes as shown, such as crashes, weather, and construction activities – events that additional capacity does not directly address.
- Additionally, it is becoming more difficult to provide new capacity given current financial constraints and environmental concerns.

SLIDE 12: Providing Effective, Safe and Reliable Transportation



Description of the Slide

Providing an effective, safe, and reliable transportation network may be likened to a 3-legged stool, with each leg representing the DOT functions of building the necessary infrastructure, preserving that infrastructure through maintenance and reconstruction, and operating and managing it on a daily basis so the available capacity can be utilized to its fullest extent. The transportation network cannot effectively serve customer needs if any of these three legs is missing or is underemphasized (i.e., too short) relative to the others.

Key Points

- There is no doubt that adding physical capacity to our transportation infrastructure through basic construction projects, and then preserving and rehabilitating this infrastructure to keep in a state of good repair, will remain significant missions for state DOTs. But we can't build our way out of congestion.
- Operations strategies and the supporting ITS technologies must therefore become a formal core program with the same emphasis in the planning and programming processes as the other two.

Other - It might be worthwhile to mention, if appropriate, that the SHRP2 effort has developed:

- Products to improve the quality of decision making and shorten project delivery time for new construction.
- Technologies and institutional solutions to support systematic rehabilitation of highway infrastructure in a way that is rapid, presents minimal disruption to users, and results in long-lasting facilities.

SLIDE 13: Benefits from Operations



Description of the Slide

Many DOT vision or mission statements include mobility, reliability, safety, and environmental goals. This is also the case for long range regional transportation plans.

Key Points

- The various operations strategies can significantly contribute to the achievement of all of these and other related transportation goals and objectives.
- A filled circle indicates that the specific operations strategy fully contributes to the associated goal, and an open circle indicates a partial (and still positive) contribution.

Other - Perhaps check the vision / mission statement of the DOT where this slide is being presented, and use the exact language vis-à-vis mobility, reliability, safety, etc. The next 11 slides (#14 - #24) provide more detailed information and example benefits on specific operational strategies. It is not necessary to use all of these or, depending on time, any of them. The presenter may consider choosing a subset of strategies that are of particular interest to the specific DOT and its management, providing a few local anecdotes of operations successes that the DOT has achieved.

SLIDE 14: Work Zone Management



Description of the Slide

Work zone activities are a good example of the fact that every state is already performing basic elements of an operations program. This program may for years have been labeled "maintenance." But how it's done today is a true measure of how improved operations thinking is taking root. For example, many of these maintenance activities are now completed during off-peak hours because of their impact on the traveling public.

Key Points

- Working at off peak periods and the use of cones, barrels, arrow signs and related equipment is just the beginning of the operations concept as applied to work zone activities.
- Work zone management may be one of the most visible activities that a DOT does; and your performance in terms of providing up-to-date relevant information, keeping traffic moving, and minimizing backups is judged every day. Of course, the safety of the workers and of the drivers travelling through the work zone is also of primary importance.
- Proactively applying operations strategies such as traveler information on delays and alternate routes, variable speed limits and warning signs, and lane merge systems to work zone management activities can result in significant benefits.
- These benefits may include reduced crashes in and along the approaches to the work zones, reduced traffic through the work zone, and reduced delays by using alternative routes an modes.

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/

SLIDE 15: Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

- Planned and coordinated process to detect, respond and clear incidents and crashes quickly and safely
- Multi-disciplinary activity involving DOTs & emergency service providers
- TIM reduces the duration of traffic incidents (30-50%)
 - Reduces congestion
 - Improves reliability
 - Improves safety reduces secondary crashes



Description of the Slide

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is defined as the systematic, planned, and coordinated use of human, institutional, and technical resources to reduce the duration and impact of incidents, and improve the safety of motorists, crash victims, and incident responders.

Key Points

- By systematically reducing the time to detect an incident (such as a crash); implement the appropriate response; and safely clear the incident, while managing the affected flow until full capacity is restored, TIM increases the operating efficiency, safety, and mobility of the transportation network.
- Successful traffic incident management requires a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach. It helps develop strong partnerships across multiple departments within the agency, and also between transportation and enforcement agencies, fire and rescue, emergency medical services, towing services, and environmental agencies in both rural and urban areas.
- Traffic incident management has proven time and again to be one of the easiest and most direct paths to significant reduction in delay, an improvement in travel time reliability, and improving the standing of DOT with its customers

Other - Perhaps mention the SHRP2 National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training program, which is building a cadre of well-trained responders who can work together as a team in a coordinated manner.

Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/

SLIDE 16: Safety Service Patrols/ Incident Response Trucks



Description of the Slide

Incident response trucks – also known as safety service patrols – are among the most visible goodwill ambassadors a DOT can have. What citizen won't say that tax money is well spent when a service truck operator comes along to help fix a flat tire, give a couple of gallons of gas, or provide a bit of stability during an otherwise dangerous roadside stop?

Key Points

- An integral part of a broader TIM program:
 - For addressing minor incidents such as stranded motorists and debris on the roadway,
 - o To direct traffic around incidents, and
 - To provide the human touch to travelers in need.
- Helping with traffic control at a crash scene also enhances safety for other responders.
- Significant benefits for the dollars spent, plus the positive public relations aspect

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/

SLIDE 17: Planned Special Event Management



Description of the Slide

Major sporting events, festivals, concerts, street fairs, and the like can be great for the regional economy; but they can also back up ramps and intersection, block lanes, and cause significant congestion. The concept of managing event traffic to minimize delay and disruption is a time-tested powerful tool that can also bring a lot of good publicity and visibility to the transportation agency.

Key Points

- This is an area in which collaboration with other transportation agencies, and often including enforcement agencies and homeland security, is especially critical and the collaboration payoffs are high.
- Preplanning and "day of" execution for events makes for good operations, followed by post event debriefs and lessons learned.
- Effective event management such as the benefits achieved in Phoenix can involve the combined use of multiple operational strategies and technologies, including incident management; traveler information using radio, dynamic message signs, and mobile applications; lane control; and ramp management techniques.

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/

SLIDE 18: Road Weather Management



Description of the Slide

Good operations mean providing the best functioning transportation network even under adverse weather conditions –scenarios that often threaten or haunt the public perception of a DOT's performance.

Key Points

- This a clear example of rural areas depending on operations just as much as do congested urban areas.
- Road weather information systems have proven themselves to be very effective in reducing the variability in speeds and crashes during adverse weather conditions, be they low visibility, wet or icy pavement, or strong winds.
- Road weather information systems (RWIS) include three major activities:
 - o Collecting real-time data on roadway and atmospheric conditions
 - Assimilating this information with other data sources (such as weather forecasts) to determine the appropriate operational plan
 - o Implementing the plan through information dissemination
 - $\circ~$ Much, if not all of this process, can be automated

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/. Another source of information is <u>http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/weather/faq.htm</u>

SLIDE 19: Emergency Management



Description of the Slide

Some weather events are extreme with regional and statewide impacts, such as hurricanes, major snow events and blizzards, and flooding. Unfortunately, we also live at a time when major emergencies are often man-made, such as security threats. Operations has a role to play in the management of such emergencies.

While large-scale and catastrophic incidents are rare, it is clear that even seemingly small improvements in efficiency or effectiveness that are mastered in traditional incidents can translate into dramatic life-saving strategies when implemented in catastrophic events.

- Such emergencies have wide area impacts, and so the associated collaboration and coordination needs to be regional, state-wide, and often multi-state, involving numerous transportation and transit agencies along with enforcement entities, fire and rescue, FEMA, and homeland security, just to name a few.
- The time to plan for any specific emergency, location, and duration is very limited or nonexistent. It is therefore necessary to plan for several potential emergency scenarios in advance.
- Whether or not segments of transportation infrastructure are directly affected, their use may still be vital.
- The emergency scenarios need to address operations prior to the event (e.g., evacuations in the event of a hurricane), during the event (e.g., quick access to the impacted area by first responders and other emergency service providers), and following the event (e.g., diversions to avoid damaged or unusable segments of the transportation network, evacuated individuals getting back to their homes and work to resume some semblance of normality as quickly as possible.

SLIDE 20: Traffic Signal Synchronization

Traffic Signal Synchronization Timing adjacent traffic signals to minimize stops Can be based on time of day, traffic flows, special events Example Benefits Reductions in traffic delay ranging from 15-40% Reductions in travel time up to 25% Very high benefit – cost ratios, sometimes exceeding 50:1 Cult National Traffic Signal Report Card gave an overall grade of D+

Description of the Slide

Poor traffic signal timing contributes to traffic congestion and delay. Conventional signal systems use pre–programmed, daily signal timing schedules. Adaptive signal control technology adjusts the timing of red, yellow and green lights in real time to accommodate changing traffic patterns and ease traffic congestion.

Key Points

- Customers understand that it can be done. They are happy when they see it and grumpy when they don't.
- The improved arterial operations and benefit—cost returns in this area are very favorable. But well-synchronized signals need close attention and the ability to make dynamic adjustments.
- Synchronization across jurisdiction boundaries can also be very important, but this requires collaboration to achieve integration across different hardware and software platforms.
- While study after study has shown significant benefits from improved synchronization of traffic signals, there is industry-wide information indicating that we are not doing as well as we should, as demonstrated by the last National Traffic Signal Report Card (2012), which reported an overall grade of D+. This report card should give us pause. The industry is *not delivering at the level it* should be.

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/



Traveler information has been around for a very long time. Remember highway advisory radio and reflective flip-disc variable message signs?

The field of traveler information has evolved as newer technologies have been developed, and is now rapidly expanding with the emergence of smart phone applications, private vendors, social media, and visualization tools.

Key Points

- There has been a virtual explosion in customer interest, acceptance, and expectations in the area of traveler information.
- Social media and applications for mobile devices are taking over the realm of traveler information like so many communication areas
- DOTs have been partnering with radio and TV traffic reports for years. Now, private vendors are seizing the opportunity.
- Traveler information provides numerous benefits, and is an essential component of many other operations strategies such as incident management, special event management, variable speed limits and queue warnings as part of active traffic management and integrated corridor management for diverting traffic between parallel networks within a corridor.
- Research has shown that travel information can influence not only the choice of routes but the choice of modes, which in some cases saves 20 minutes in travel time.

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the traveler information approaches being used by the DOT.

SLIDE 22: Ramp Management

Ramp Management

Metering - traffic signals on ramps to dynamically control the rate at which vehicles enter a freeway

• Smoothes the flow of traffic onto the mainline

Example Benefits

- Metering increases freeway throughput 13 26%
- Metering decreases crashes 15 - 43%

Greatest benefits occur when applied corridor-wide



Description of Slide

Ramp management includes ramp metering as well as ramp closures. Ramp metering – which represents the widest application of ramp management strategies – involves the deployment of traffic signals on ramps to dynamically control the rate at which vehicles enter a freeway facility. This, in essence, smoothes the flow of traffic onto the mainline, allowing efficient use of existing freeway capacity. Ramp metering provides mobility and safety benefits.

Key Points

- Ramp metering has been successfully deployed in over 20 metropolitan areas in the US, providing significant benefits in terms of reducing overall travel delays and reducing crashes, particularly those occurring in the merge and weaving areas.
- The greatest benefits come with a corridor-wide implementation of metering, where the metering rates are based on real-time traffic flows along the entire stretch of the freeway, not just in the vicinity of individual ramps.
- The introduction of ramp metering can be controversial; but there are approaches to minimize this potential issue, such as changing the metering rates such that ramp queues do not back up onto arterial streets, providing bypass lanes for transit and HOVs, and a public outreach program.

Other - Perhaps provide a local / near-by example of the benefits. Information in this regard is available at http://www.itsbenefits.its.dot.gov/

SLIDE 23: Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM)

Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM)

Broad operational philosophy – an integrated approach for dynamically and pro-actively managing and influencing travel demand and traffic flow

Uses a combination of the realtime operational strategies:

- Those previously noted
- Managed Lanes
- Active Traffic Management
- Integrated Corridor Management
- Dynamic pricing



Description of the Slide

Active Transportation and Demand Management (or ATDM) is the new frontier of operations – the next step in congestion management. ATDM is not a specific operational strategy, but a broad operational philosophy incorporating an integrated approach for dynamically and pro-actively managing and influencing travel demand and traffic flow.

Key Points

- ATDM is a overall approach to operations, encompassing several existing and recentlyintroduced strategies applied in an integrated and dynamic manner. Some of the more recent operations strategies that fall under the ATDM umbrella include:
 - Managed Lanes, such as the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes in Minneapolis shown in the top picture – in which non-HOVs can use the designated lane by paying a toll, with the toll adjusted in real time to manage demand.
 - Active Traffic Management (ATM), including variable speed limits and dynamic lane assignment such as shown in the bottom picture as recently deployed in the Seattle area.
 - Integrated Corridor Management (ICM), which involves the operational coordination of multiple transportation networks and cross-network links within a corridor
 - Dynamic pricing of parking , roadways, bridges and tunnels.
- ATDM is not some future vision. These strategies are being deployed in Europe and the United States with substantial benefits in terms of safety, mobility, and reliability.

Other - If desired (e.g., the DOT is specifically interested or is pursuing some of these advance operations strategies), individual slides on Managed Lanes, ATM and ICM are provided in the parking lot at the end of the presentation. Additional information on ATDM may be obtained at: <u>http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/atdm/about/index.htm</u>

SLIDE 24: Connected Vehicles and the Future

Connected Vehicles and the Future Vehicles "reading" the roadway and one another Collisions reduced; reliability improved Smarter operational decisions (possibly predictive) Smarter operational decisions (possibly predictive) The Future? Technology transformation changes mobility What might be the impact of autonomous vehicles? DOT role in supporting development

Description of the Slide

"Connected vehicles" is a program focusing on technologies that makes vehicles aware of one another as well as of important roadway features so they can work together to avoid crashes and improve traffic flow.

Key Points

- This is the new frontier where the Internet and wireless technologies will have major transformative effects in how traffic operates and the associated mobility and safety issues.
- Connected Vehicles provide the capability to identify threats and hazards on the roadway, including other vehicles, and communicate this information over wireless networks to give drivers alerts and warnings.
- This connectivity offers the opportunity to know much more about traffic and roadway conditions than ever before. This information could lead to improved traffic signal control, ubiquitous traveler information, better transportation planning, and reduced cost for existing transportation data collection methods,
- It may enable a paradigm shift in the way DOTs leverage resources into better maintenance and asset management practices.
- This is a "frontier" that is not very far away in time. Many connected vehicle components are already being tested and implemented.
- Transportation agencies should be aggressive in preparing for the Connected Vehicle future, as well as for the next potential future of automated vehicles.

Other -Additional information may be obtained at http://www.its.dot.gov/connected_vehicle.htm



Reaching the full potential for operations is more than having an understanding of various operations strategies and supporting technologies, or implementing a number of often disparate ITS-related projects. Operations needs to become a formal core function of the DOT in the same manner that construction and maintenance activities currently are.

- The key to having a successful operations environment is to integrate or "mainstream" operations strategies into the agency's institutional framework and corresponding business processes.
- In order for this to happen, planning, funding, design, contracting and implementation, and on-going management must consider and include operations in daily activities across all divisions of the agency, and at all stages of the process.
- This mainstreaming is also necessary at the regional level with operations being an integral part of the formal transportation planning and congestion management planning processes.
- MAP 21 requires this agency and regional integration of operations into the planning processes

SLIDE 26: Key Leadership Questions for Mainstreaming Operations



Description of the Slide

To mainstream operations and enhance the contribution of operations to your organization, you must address five basic questions as matters of executive leadership.

- The five basic questions:
 - What are your customer's expectations?
 - Who is responsible for managing operations?
 - Where are you today?
 - Where do you want to go?
 - How are you going to get there?
- The answer to the last questions involves identifying:
 - What areas should this DOT target for improvement, and
 - $\circ~$ Which capabilities does the DOT have to improve to get there
- Once you have the answers to these questions, you can then develop a plan for continuous improvement and moving from where you currently are to where you want and need to be.
- Every state DOT will have its own unique mix of needs and opportunities for its operations program that makes sense for that particular state. No matter how good you are, you can always improve.
- This may not always be simple to do; but it will be a very rewarding investment of your leadership time and energy.



Mainstreaming operations is all about developing and putting into place a supportive institutional framework and organization that leads to the establishment of business and technical processes to create an effective and sustainable operations program

- This is all about continuous improvement in the operation of the transportation network.
- It requires an assessment of organizational issues, and putting into place the supporting business and technical processes within the agency
- It also requires performance measures and metrics to gauge just how well you are doing.
- This is not done in a vacuum; the operations program should be integrated with other programs such as the congestion management process and asset management (for example, of the supporting ITS hardware and software)



The SHRP2 L01 and L06 products provide a formal procedure to integrate and mainstream operations into an agency's program. These products focus on orienting and improving key business processes within the agency in order to facilitate effective management and operations programs and projects.

Key Points

- Six dimensions of organizational capability have been identified:
 - o Business Processes formal scoping, planning and programming, and budgeting
 - Systems and Technology use of systems engineering, systems architectures, standards (and standardization) and interoperability
 - Performance defining measures, data acquisition and analytics, and utilization
 - **Culture** understanding, leadership, outreach, and program legal authority
 - Organization / Staffing programmatic status, organizational structure, staff development, recruitment and retention
 - **Collaboration** relationships and partnering among levels of government and with public safety agencies, local governments, MPOs and the private sector
- These six dimensions are interrelated, supporting one another.
- Continuous improvement cannot happen without executive support and leadership.

Other - The next two slides define and list the components and activities identified for the six dimensions in the key points (sub-bullets) above. If these next two slides are used, it is not necessary to identify these components and activities as part of this slide; just to mention that six interrelated dimensions have been identified for mainstreaming operations into the institutional framework.



Identifies some of the key components and activities associated with the dimensions of Business Processes, Performance, and Systems and Technology

- Business Processes planning and programming, budgeting (resources), and project scoping
- **Performance** defining measures, data acquisition and analytics, and utilization including presentation of the results
- Systems and Technology use of systems engineering, systems architectures, standards (and standardization) and interoperability

SLIDE 30: Operations Capability Dimensions (cont.)



Description of the Slide

Identifies some of the key components and activities associated with the dimensions of Culture, Organization and Staffing, and Collaboration

- Culture technical understanding, leadership, outreach, and program legal authority
- **Organization / Staffing** programmatic status, organizational structure, staff development, recruitment and retention
- **Collaboration** relationships and partnering among levels of government and with public safety agencies, local governments, MPOs and the private sector

SLIDE 31: Levels of Capability Maturity



Description of the Slide

For each of these six dimensions, four levels of maturity have been defined – where the term "maturity" is related to the degree of formality and optimization of these processes in support of effective operations.

- Level 1: Performed Activities and relationships largely ad hoc, informal and champion-driven substantially outside the mainstream of other activities within the transportation agency.
- Level 2: Managed Basic strategy applications understood; key processes and support requirements identified; key technology and core capacities under development; but limited internal accountability and uneven alignment with external partners. This is where most DOTs are today.
- Level 3: Integrated Standardized strategy applications implemented in priority contexts and managed for performance; operations-related technical and business processes developed, documented, and integrated into the agency and the regional transportation planning process; partnerships aligned.
- Level 4: Optimized This represents the ultimate goal, in which operations is addressed as a full, sustainable core agency program, established on the basis of continuous improvement with top level management status; part of the region-wide program and planning process with formal partnerships will all involved agencies.

SLIDE 32: Operations Collaboration for a Region



Description of the Slide

Much of the discussion has focused on mainstreaming operations into an individual agency such as a DOT. But to achieve continuous improvement and to get your agency's operations program and projects funded, the mainstreaming effort must also address regional planning processes and multi-agency collaboration.

- The FHWA refers to this a "planning for operations" a joint effort between planners and operators to support improved regional transportation system management and operations. It involves the consideration of operations strategies in regional transportation planning – including the integration of operations strategies in the metropolitan transportation plan.
- It requires coordination and collaboration between a number of regional partners, including planning staff and operations staff from metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), State Departments of Transportation, transit agencies, highway agencies, toll authorities, and local governments.
- The approach to planning for operations is objectives-driven and performancebased. Rather than focusing on projects and investment plans, planning for operations means first developing objectives for transportation system performance, and using outcome-based performance measures and targets as a basis for identifying solutions and developing investment strategies to achieve the operational objectives.
- These same performance measures are used to evaluate how well the strategies are working, make adjustments as may be appropriate, and demonstrate accountability

SLIDE 33: Objectives-Driven Performance Based Approach



Description of the Slide

This shows an objectives-driven based approach. Traditionally, transportation planning and transportation system operations have been largely separate, independent activities.

- Planners focused on long-range transportation investments, including development of metropolitan transportation plans and programming of projects.
- Operators were concerned with addressing immediate system needs—incident response, traffic control, traveler information, and work zone management.

Planning for operations and the objectives-driven approach connects these two vital components of transportation, and integrates operations considerations into the planning process.

- Regional goals form the basis for developing operational objectives
- A systematic process is used for developing and selecting operations strategies based on needs (as can be identified from the Congestion Management Plan), performance measures, and an evaluation of the candidate strategies
- The selected operations strategies are included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plans and TIP
- This leads to the implementation of the operations strategies and supporting technologies and staffing. Implementation is a crucial part of achieving the objectives.



This slide summarizes the key points from the previous slides and discussions.

- Operations is a critical component for actively managing the transportation network on a daily basis, providing several benefits to a DOT including:
 - Preserve and maximize existing capacity
 - o Enhance mobility, reliability, safety, and the environment
 - Provide customer service via a performance-based approach
 - Achieve quick and cost-effective implementation (with large benefit cost ratios
- To be successful, operations needs to be "mainstreamed" into the agency's institutional and organizational framework.
- Such change and adaptation cannot be achieved without your enthusiasm and leadership.



As a DOT CEO or senior manager, the ball is in your court:

- Demonstrate your own commitment.
- Empower the people on your team who you will rely on for results.
- · Provide top direction and insist on accountability.

Key Points

- Get engaged and develop champions within your organization, and provide them with the necessary resources to help make this happen.
- Feel free to contact FHWA or AASHTO at any time if you have any questions or need additional assistance.

Other – The specific names and contact information for FHWA may be changed or additional names listed depending on the DOT / agency for whom the presentation is being given.



• Solicit and respond to questions and comments

Key Points

• Make sure to follow up to any questions that can't be answered immediately, and to requests for any additional information.



This is a "parking lot" for slides providing additional details on selected areas and operations strategies. These may be included in the presentation as indicated in the "Other" notes for previous slides.



What we mean by reliability – is the ability for travelers and transporters to depend on getting from point a to b in an expected amount of time. The more reliable a route is the less tolerance is given for unexpected delays. If we can decrease the opportunities for delay we can decrease the need to budget for variable travel delays thereby saving money for travelers, transit operators, freight transporters and their end users.

- Reliability focuses on the consistency of travel times.
- The past focus was on average travel times; reliability is concerned with the variability of individual travel times from day to day.
- Optimal operations fine tunes travel reliability on the system and reduces amounts of unexpected delays.
- Less need to budget in time and money for "inevitable" travel delays saves money for users and end users.



Managed Lanes are defined as highway facilities or a set of lanes where operational strategies are proactively implemented and managed in response to changing conditions. Managed Lanes are based upon flexible operating strategies and active management of the transportation system.

Key Points

- The managed lane concept is typically a "freeway-within-a-freeway" where a set of lanes within the freeway cross section is separated from the general-purpose lanes.
- The principal management strategies can be categorized into three groups: vehicle eligibility, pricing and access control.
- Demand and available capacity of the managed lane is pro-actively managed based on changes in price and eligibility requirements

Other - Additional information can be obtained at <u>http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freewaymgmt/mngd_lns_hov.htm</u>

SLIDE: Active Traffic Management (ATM)

Active Traffic Management (ATM)

Dynamically manage congestion based on prevailing traffic conditions

- Variable speed displays
- Dynamic lane control
- Queue warning
- Hard shoulder running





Relatively new to US -European Experience

- Throughput increased by 3–7%
- Decrease in incidents of 3–30%
- Emissions decreased 2-8%
- Benefit/Cost ratio of 3.9 : 1

Description of the Slide

The two fundamental concepts of ATM are active management of the capacity and direct interaction with drivers to encourage them to make tactical driving decisions (e.g., stopping, slowing down, and changing lanes).

- Active traffic management includes several strategies that are often deployed and integrated together, including:
 - Variable Speed Displays : This strategy adjusts speed limits based on real-time traffic, roadway, and/or weather conditions. Dynamic speed limits can either be enforceable (regulatory) speed limits or recommended speed advisories
 - Dynamic Lane Control: This strategy involves dynamically closing or opening of individual traffic lanes as warranted and providing advance warning of the closure(s) in order to safely merge traffic into adjoining lanes.
 - Queue warning: This strategy involves real-time displays of warning messages to alert motorists that queues or major slowdowns are ahead, thus reducing rear-end crashes
 - Dynamic Hard Shoulder Running: This strategy enables the use of the shoulder as a travel lane(s) based on congestion levels during peak periods and in response to incidents or other conditions as warranted during non-peak periods.
- ATM strategies have been widely used in Europe with very positive results. The initial deployments of ATM in the US in Seattle and Minneapolis have also shown positive benefits, such as:
 - 11% reduction in crashes for the Seattle system
 - 9 % reduction for fatal plus injury crashes, and greater than 20 % reduction for property damage only (PDO) and total crashes in Minneapolis
 - In both cases, the roadway segments were already actively managed and operated via robust incident management, traveler information, and ramp metering programs.

SLIDE: Integrated Corridor Management



Description of the Slide

Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) consists of the operational coordination of multiple transportation networks and cross-network connections comprising a corridor, and the coordination of institutions responsible for corridor mobility.

Key Points

• Corridors, consisting of parallel roadway networks and modes, offer an opportunity to operate and optimize the entire system as opposed to the individual networks.

• Several ICM approaches exist, consisting of the integrated management of multiple operations strategies across the shoulder. Basic approaches include:

- o Integrated traveler information
- Improve Operational Efficiency of Network Junctions: such as signal priority for transit, multi-modal electronic payment, transit hub connection protection
- Accommodate / Promote Cross-Network Route and Modal Shifts; such as modify arterial signal timing to better accommodate traffic diverting from freeway, modifying transit priority parameters to accommodate more timely bus operation, promoting route shifts between roadways and modal shifts (from roadway to transit) via traveler information
- Manage Capacity Demand Relationship within Corridor such as dynamic lane use control (including reversible lanes / contra-flow) and variable speed limits via ATM), convert regular lanes (and / or shoulders) to transit only or emergency only, add transit capacity by adjusting headways / additional vehicles, add capacity at parking lots (temporary lots), increase roadway capacity by opening HOV / HOT lanes / shoulders, restrict ramp access, modify toll / HOT pricing.