

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed and implemented by local transportation professionals. One of the solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Emergency Public Warning and Alert System

Overall goal:	To find a way to keep the public up-to-date on hazardous weather conditions (such as tornadoes) that often strike with little prior notice using electronic mail and pagers.
Technical approach:	This free service, “Weather Warn”, is co-sponsored by Orange County and a local television station. The service is free and sign-up is available through the station’s home page. Weather updates from the National Weather Service are filtered through an information system that disseminates alert messages through email accounts and alphanumeric pagers. Users are offered the option of receiving information on several counties or just one. Users may also select from a variety of notifications, such as Civil Emergency, Winter Weather Update or Non-Precipitation Warning.
Current status:	Project has been deployed.
Location / geographic scope:	Warnings are available for counties across Florida. This program was modeled after a warning system in Oklahoma.
Agencies involved:	Partnership between the county emergency management agencies and local television station.
Cost information:	Cost was minimal, due to sponsorship by local television stations. The station benefits from using the service as a promotional aide, demonstrating their commitment to keeping the public informed of weather warnings.
Key contacts:	Preston Cook, Office of Emergency Management, 407.836.9157.
Have goals been	Yes. Public feedback on the project has been overwhelmingly positive.



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achieved?

Solution timeline:

Several months were spent planning and testing the system.

