

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

Intrusion Alarm Warning for Work Crews

Overall goal:	To improve worker safety, especially in an area where curving roads and hills can obscure work zones and warning signs.
Technical approach:	<p>The model used by the Vermont Agency of Transportation uses an infrared beam sent from a transmitter unit to a receiver unit that also houses the siren. When a vehicle breaks this beam, the siren goes off. This gives the crewmembers a few seconds to move to safety.</p> <p>The research unit picked this model because it was the fastest and easiest to set up. The alarm is especially useful in temporary work zones where it may not be feasible to send out a flagger for just a few hours.</p>
Current status:	Device is in use.
Location / geographic scope:	State of Vermont.
Agencies involved:	Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT).
Cost information:	The model used by the AOT cost approximately \$3,000 per unit.
Key contacts:	Allan Schneck, Vermont AOT, 802-828-2561 or Peter Hatzi, FHWA, 202-366-8036.
Have goals been achieved?	Based on surveys gathered from residents, engineers and motorists, the automated horns appear to have achieved the goal of being less disruptive without compromising crossing safety.
Solution timeline:	Intrusion alarms were first used in Vermont in 1995.

