

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these 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

Incident Management using Variable Message Signs (VMS)

Overall goal:

The primary goal is to enable corridor incident management.

Technical approach:

The Colorado Department of Transportation is installing VMS on interstate corridors statewide. The signs will be controlled from a central hub, with an on-screen visualization of the network being available to the operator. The objective is to strategically place signs at interchanges where alternate routes can be taken to enable travelers to bypass congested areas and any incidents that occur.

Current status:

CDOT has installed signs in both rural and urban areas and are working to link all VMS over the state of Colorado by fiber optic lines to a central location.

Location / geographic scope:

The signs are located on the I-70 corridor between Utah and Vail Pass, Colorado and other rural areas of the state.

Agencies involved:

Colorado Department of Transportation.

Cost information:

\$15,000 per sign plus communications and integration costs.

Key contacts:

Jim Nall, Colorado DOT. (970) 248-7213

Have goals been achieved?

The system is being fully implemented and more VMS are being installed. Anecdotal reports from travelers have been positive.

Solution timeline:

CDOT is currently linking the system to a central location via a fiber optic



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[REDACTED] network. There are no intentions to use the system for anything else besides incident and congestion management.

