

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

Low-Cost Real Time Conditions Cameras

Overall goal:	To keep travelers around Portland up-to-date on road conditions so that they can make more informed route decisions.
Technical approach:	A camera is installed at an existing weather station. An image capture device triggers the camera to take a picture every 5 to 15 minutes, depending on need. The device then dials an internet service provider (ISP) and, once the connection is made, sends the image to the Oregon Department of Transportation, where it is posted on the Internet.
Current status:	Cameras are in use. The images are sent to a web site that allows a user to specify which image they want to view, based on location.
Location / geographic scope:	The cameras are located statewide.
Agencies involved:	Oregon Department of Transportation.
Cost information:	ODOT is using the cameras as part of their TripCheck traveler information project (http://www.tripcheck.com), which is a large-scale endeavor. However, it is possible for a community to purchase one or two cameras just for primary trouble spots. Total cost for one camera, the image capture/dial out device, and required cabling is around \$2,100. Cost will be higher if the camera is to be installed at a site that does not have power, phone, or housing for the equipment.
Key contacts:	Robert K. Fynn, ODOT ITS unit, 503.986.3588.
Have goals been achieved?	The cameras are functioning well. ODOT is still gathering feedback from the public regarding the TripCheck Web site.
Solution timeline:	Project is deployed.



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