

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

Rural Freeway Access Management Project

Overall goal:	To direct traffic off Interstates and to prohibit access during unsafe driving conditions.
Technical approach:	Gates are used in the mainline to direct traffic off the Interstate and also on the on-ramps to prevent more traffic from entering the Interstates. Gates may either be manual swing gates, or remote controlled gates that may be lowered automatically from the roadside.
Current status:	Mn/DOT is planning expansion of the number of gates deployed and planning to coordinate operations of closure gates on a statewide level.
Location / geographic scope:	Original deployments were along I-94. Currently, 65 gates are in use along I-94, Highways 10 & 210, and along I-90.
Agencies involved:	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Cost information:	The costs for materials and installation of 43 gates was found to average approximately \$3,700 per gate.
Key contacts:	Farideh Amiri, Mn/DOT OATS Office, (651) 296-8602
Have goals been achieved?	The overall opinion of Mn/DOT and law enforcement personnel is that the gate systems offer an effective method for closing gates. The travelers noted that the gates provide a clear indication that the road is closed.
Solution timeline:	The first gates were deployed in 1996/97. Deployment of gates does not take considerable time, however Mn/DOT conducted a series of user needs



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and feedback discussions during the process to ensure proper placement of gates.

