

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 email: to@crc-corp.com

Weather by Telephone

Overall goal:	To provide an alternative mechanism to acquire weather updates and forecasts.
Technical approach:	In order to allow access to National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and current weather information, individual NWS field offices offer telephone announcement systems. These messages are site-specific in nature and also provide special interest information, such as marine or agricultural data. Many of these systems also feature ring-through for direct contact with NWS personnel to obtain additional information.
Current status:	Since the mid-1980s, the NWS has been phasing out its participation in this effort in favor of private sector service provision, at the time when it is proven that the private sector can offer equal or better service.
Location / geographic scope:	The system is operational at all 300 field stations currently in operation by the NWS, with information provided on a regional basis. No information is presently available regarding the impact of the closing of approximately 150 of these stations on the Weather by Telephone system.
Agencies involved:	The National Weather Service has partnered with the Weather Radio Network Corporation (WRN Corp.) to maintain and operate the system.
Cost information:	No information is available regarding the system development and deployment costs. Costs for individual calls vary depending upon the location status (NWS or private sector maintained) and the information requested.



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Key contacts:

Weather Radio Network Corporation.

Have goals been achieved?

The system is a key element of the NWS multi-layered information dissemination program, designed to ensure that the general public can have ready access to weather information.

Solution timeline:

The system is gradually being phased out in favor of private sector weather providers that can provide the weather information over the Internet or via telephone.

