

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

Automation of Radio Communications Paper Logs

Overall goal:

To automate the recording of information received by radio communication operators by entering it directly into the computer.

Technical approach:

Currently, most of the information received by radio communication officers via radio or telephone is handwritten on paper logs. Minnesota State Patrol (MSP) has plans to develop computer software to enable radio communication officers to enter information directly into a computer at the time of the call, enhancing information access among radio operators, and integrating data into the MSP's Wide Area Network (WAN). The software would allow operators to attach information from the radio log and queries to the report forms. There would also be a series of customized reports developed for radio operators, districts, and central office to access targeted information.

Current status:

A prototype has been developed, but plans for implementation have been put on hold as the MSP hopes to obtain funding for a CAD 9-1-1 system for the Twin Cities metro area which would meet the same need as this automated logging system.

Location / geographic scope:

Initial plans were to pilot test the system in the metropolitan area of the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in Minnesota. The system could be applied to any police force needing to streamline their call logging and response.

Agencies involved:

Minnesota State Patrol.



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Cost information:

There are some commercially available packages, which perform these functions, varying in price. It is estimated that having a customized package developed would cost in the region of \$40,000 to \$60,000. This application is of interest as it could provide a lower cost alternative to a CAD 9-1-1 system.

Key contacts:

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Have goals been achieved?

System has not yet been implemented.

Solution timeline:

N/A

