

# 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](mailto:to@crc-corp.com)

## Integrated Data Monitoring/Prediction Systems

<b>Overall goal:</b>	Create a self-sustaining road and weather information system fully integrated within a wider basket of ITS services, enhancing safety and facilitating travel throughout North America.
<b>Technical approach:</b>	Utilize state-of-the-art National Weather Service data sources, models and technical/human resources to provide basic nowcasts and forecasts and linking this energy balance models for pavement condition forecasting, greater detail for weather and road condition information than is currently available.
<b>Current status:</b>	Testing and operations within the Upper Mississippi Valley is scheduled for the winters of 1999-2000 and 2000-01. North American expansion of the system is planned within 5 years.
<b>Location / geographic scope:</b>	Upper Mississippi Valley, with expansion to a continent-wide system within 5 years.
<b>Agencies involved:</b>	Iowa DOT, Missouri DOT, Wisconsin DOT, Illinois DOT, FHWA, Castle Rock Services, Colorado Research Associates.
<b>Cost information:</b>	\$4.45 million using funds and in-kind matches from federal, state and private participants. States involved in the initial operational test contributed \$300,000 each. States wishing to join FORETELL for the remainder of the operational test should contact the individuals listed below.
<b>Key contacts:</b>	John Whited, Iowa DOT, (515) 239-1411 and Peter Davies, Castle Rock



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**Have goals been achieved?**

Services, (603) 431-2152.

Initial user feedback has been extremely positive and system operations and testing during the winter season will provide further details on the success of the system.

**Solution timeline:**

System is currently concentrating on the Upper Mississippi Valley region. User needs definition and initial system architecture work has been completed. System development is completed, with minor modifications continuously made to further improve the system. Initial user feedback for the system occurred during the spring of 1999 with full-scale testing and operations during the winter of 1999-2000.

