

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

Pre-Defined Action Plans for Traffic Control Database

Overall goal:	To improve response times and interagency coordination in the event of an emergency at the power plant that requires roadblocks.
Technical approach:	<p>In the event of an emergency at Palo Verde in Arizona, it is critical that the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) can quickly determine which roads in the area must be closed due to their proximity to the power plant. Furthermore, this information must be rapidly disseminated to the public.</p> <p>In response to this need, the Information Technology department at MCDOT put together an Access database of pertinent emergency response information. The database returns road closure locations in response to an operator entering the sector and radius (up to a ten-mile radius from the plant) affected by the emergency.</p>
Current status:	Since implementing the database, the department has linked it to their geographic information system (GIS). The GIS map shows the affected roads with the location of the roadblocks in green. The roadblock icons are turned to red once workers have gone out and actually closed the road. The maps are then posted on the Internet for the public.
Location / geographic scope:	Maricopa County, Arizona.
Agencies involved:	Maricopa County Department of Transportation.
Cost information:	Cost was minimal, since the departments own staff created the database, using software they already had. A new computer was eventually purchased to house the system, and training sessions are held once per



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Key contacts:	month. John Rose, Chief of Surveys, 602.506.4679.
Have goals been achieved?	Yes. The system is considered a success and has improved efficiency.
Solution timeline:	The database took approximately six months to set up and fine-tune. Implementing the GIS system took another year. The project is now deployed but continues to grow.

