

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

Vehicles as Traffic Probes

Overall goal:	Collect accurate and timely traffic data about current road conditions through non-intrusive means.
Technical approach:	The TRANSMIT system uses transponders issued as part of the EZ Pass electronic toll-collection systems. TRANSMIT has installed a number of readers along specified roadways with the capability of identifying the vehicles equipped with transponders at periodic intervals.
Current status:	Operational. Due to extreme success of system, it will be expanded.
Location / geographic scope:	New York, New Jersey and Connecticut Tri-State area. Garden State Parkway, I-87/287, Sprain Brook Parkway, Hutchinson Parkway, I-95, I-278, Route 440
Agencies involved:	TRANSCOM, New York/New Jersey/Connecticut transportation agencies
Cost information:	Phase I: \$2.3 million. Phase II: \$1.2 million
Key contacts:	Tom Batz, TRANSCOM, (201) 963-4033
Have goals been achieved?	TRANSMIT provides a fast and efficient method for detecting incidents and measuring travel times. NJ Transit bus dispatchers at the Port Authority terminal are making a greater number of correct dispatch decisions when armed with bus location data. More travelers use travel time data to modify their route.



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Solution timeline:

Phase 2 will provide transit vehicle locations in real time to Port Authority Bus Terminal personnel. Information on bus locations from strategically located TRANSMIT readers will enable improved routing and dispatch decisions. Phase 3 will consist of expanding TRANSMIT to include reader installations on missing highway locations and in NJ Transit garages.

