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

Traveler Warnings for Spot Hazard Conditions

Overall goal:	To increase the safety of drivers on a bridge prone to icy conditions.
Technical approach:	Ice tends to form on bridges and overpasses before it does on other portions of the roadway. Given that the main roadway may not be icy, drivers often do not anticipate icy conditions on bridges, etc., and are therefore not prepared. This simple solution equips those sites most susceptible to icing with detectors connected locally to a device that warns drivers to slow down and use caution on the icy surface. Ice sensors were installed on the bridge. When these detected ice on the pavement, flashing beacons were activated on a sign reading "ICE ON BRIDGE WHEN FLASHING".
Current status:	The system was intended as an experimental system and was used for a limited period. There were concerns over liability should an accident occur on an occasion when the sensors failed to detect icy conditions.
Location / geographic scope:	The system was tested on Highway 101 near Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State.
Agencies involved:	Washington State DOT
Cost information:	None available. The technologies used were widely available and low-cost.
Key contacts:	Bill Legg, Washington State DOT. (206) 543-3332 Toby Rickman, Washington State DOT. (360) 357-2670

U.S. Department of Transportation
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Have goals been achieved?	The technology proved to operate satisfactorily, however, liability concerns may prevent permanent deployment.
Solution timeline:	Intended as experimental system only and will not be permanently deployed.

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