Pathfinder Update

A Joint Project Between State DOTs and the Weather Enterprise

Road Weather Management Stakeholder Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT 2014
Who are the players?

- Weather Enterprise
  - NWS
  - Private Sector
  - Universities
- State DOTs
Identified 5 Cases that Capture the Working Relationships

- Case 1
  Private Sector in the TMC
- Case 2
  Private Sector outside the TMC
- Case 3
  No Private Sector
- Case 4(a)
  Private Sector Met and DOT Met
- Case 4(b)
  Private Sector Met and DOT Met embedded in the TMC
Project Description and Goals

• Evaluate Current Practices of State DOTs’ Interactions and Relationships with the Weather Enterprise
• Document These Interactions
• Provide State DOTs With a Guidance Document Including:
  - Differing Methods of Operations
  - Good Practice
  - Play book
Participants
I-80 Coalition

NWS WFOs
• Sacramento, Reno, Elko, SLC, Riverton, Cheyenne

Private Sector
• Schneider Electric, Weathernet, Iteris, Day Weather

State DOTs
• Cal Trans, NDOT, UDOT, WyDOT
Why the I-80 Coalition States?

- Mix of metropolitan and rural areas
- Main commercial trucking corridor
- Meets all 4 of the identified cases
- Range from 1 to 3 WFOs for each state along the corridor
- I-80 corridor has established communication protocols
What Does Success Look Like?

• Improved and Consistent Traveler Information Messaging Along the Corridor
• Clearly Defined Alignment Among the Weather Enterprise
• An Engaged and Communicative State DOT and Weather Enterprise
Documentation Process For The 2014-15 Season

- Log all interactions
  - NWSChat
  - Phone calls
  - Social media
  - Broadcast media
  - In person meetings
  - etc...

- Collect weather data

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  - Analyze traveler behavior (based on clear consistent messaging)
    - Travel time
    - Delays
    - Changes in AM/PM peaks

- Document any additional resource costs accrued

- Document benefits to:
  - State
  - Public
  - Private Sector
  - NWS

- Archive all public messaging including alerts, traveler advisories, 511, VMS and media interactions

- Note any discrepancies in the forecast messaging, and how they were addressed
Where We Are Right Now

- Held Kick-off meeting in SLC April 2014
- Created up to date hierarchal contact lists
- Met with each State DOT and their representative WFO and Private Sector group along the corridor
- Each Team is currently developing a game plan and methodology for the upcoming season
Where Are We Going?

Open Discussion