

Success Stories

Geospatial Information Making a Difference

CHALLENGE:

Reducing Traffic Congestion

In 2002, traffic congestion in the 75 largest U.S. metropolitan areas is estimated to have resulted in 5.7 billion gallons in wasted fuel and \$67.5 billion in lost productivity. Roughly half of that congestion is caused by traffic incidents and road work. To reduce traveler delay, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has developed an innovative GIS-based solution to expedite incident response and improve public safety.



Caltrans personnel can locate resources and expedite incident response using the BAIRS GIS information displayed above.

ACTION

Caltrans teamed with the California Highway Patrol and the San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to develop the Bay Area Incident Response System (BAIRS). BAIRS uses wireless and GIS technology to provide field maintenance personnel with real-time incident information. This allows dispatchers to quickly locate and mobilize the closest and most appropriate personnel and resources to clear incidents faster and reduce associated traffic delays and allows responders to coordinate the most efficient incident response. Through the use of standardized data development and documentation of metadata, information can be easily shared among the agencies.

RESULTS

- Reduced average incident response time from 4 hours to 90 minutes or less for 75% of traffic impacted incidents.
- Saved approximately one billion dollars in increased productivity over nine month period.
- Standardized dispatching processes and improved access to critical resources.
- Decreased travel time and exposure to accidents.
- Increased productive field time for responders.
- Improved Homeland Security/Disaster Recovery capabilities.



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