

Integrating Weather in TMC Operations

Submitted to the Federal Highway Administration Office of Operations



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Chris Cluett and Deepak Gopalakrishna (Battelle), Kevin Balke		
(Texas Transportation Institute), Fred Kitchener (McFarland		
Management, LLC), Leon Osborne (Meridian Environmental		
Technology, Inc.)		
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16. Abstract

This report presents the results of a study of the integration of weather information into Transportation Management Centers (TMCs). Based on an earlier report that examined the nature and extent of weather integration experience across the country and identified best practices, this study examines the efforts of two selected TMC to evaluate their weather integration needs and develop a detailed weather integration plan. The project team selected these TMCs based on their motivation to participate and worked closely with them as they executed a self-evaluation process developed as part of this project. A Self-Evaluation Guide was designed and implemented in an electronic database format to assist the TMCs in working through a series of steps that identified their weather conditions, the impacts weather has on their operations, their current level of weather integration in the TMC, and their expressed needs for enhanced integration. The Self-Evaluation Guide then offered a set of possible integration strategies that the TMC could select and incorporate into their weather integration plan that would serve to meet their indicated integration aspirations. The study reviewed relevant literature on weather integration, incorporated insights from the review into the development of the Self-Evaluation Guide, and identified lessons learned from the experiences of working with the two TMCs. Based on this experience the Self-Evaluation Guide was further refined several times, and a set of recommendations are offered for a possible future course of action of the Federal Highway Administration's Road Weather Management Program.

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