

# I-80 Winter Operations Coalition

## Webinar Summary

June 8, 2010 1:00 – 3:00 PM PST

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM WEBINAR

- Deadline for comments on the Strategic Plan and Action List – **Friday, June 18, 2010**
- Literature Search and compile Standard Messages for Coalition to review.
- Compile ‘best practices’ info from partner states about new equipment, processes, etc.
- Finalize Contact/Communication List.
- Establish Freight Task Committee with members from partner states. Provide freight planners with strategic plan and freight plan to get input/comments. Get Freight contact from Wyoming. Tentative conference call with Committee last week of June.
- The presentation and white paper for the FHWA IntelliDrive<sup>SM</sup> project have been posted on the I-80 Coalition Website under the “Links” page in the “National Organizations and Associations” section.
- Put together a task force; further develop some planning grant concepts for I-80. Sondra and Lisa will distribute information after the TIGER II Grant Webinar. Preliminary application due July 15, Final application anticipated to be due mid August.
- Develop a preliminary agenda/workshop focus, NDOT will provide a synopsis and schedule to CalTrans to justify the travel. Members need to send their availability for these dates to [Deanna.Haase@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Deanna.Haase@kimley-horn.com). **KHA** will research potential venues.

### 1. PURPOSE

Bill Hoffman provided an overview of the January Workshop as well as major action items and outcomes of the workshop. The purpose of this webinar is to discuss various activities and the vision for the Coalition moving forward. Attendees to the webinar included:

<b>California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)</b>	<b>Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)</b>	<b>Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)</b>
<i>Steve Kirkpatrick John Talbott Jeff Waters Bob McNew Andrew Brant Bruce deTerra Dawn Cheser Sue Takhar</i>	<i>John Talbott Bill Hoffman Denise Inda Lisa Schettler John Domina Sondra Rosenberg Eric Glick Michael Murphy Kevin Lee Mike Fuess</i>	<i>Rich Clarke Dave Kinnecom Ralph Patterson Dan Kuhn Vern Keeslar</i>
<b>Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT)</b>	<b>Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)</b>	<b>Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA)</b>
<i>Ken Shultz Vince Garcia</i>	<i>Jim McGee</i>	<i>Lisa Burgess Deanna Haase Molly O'Brien</i>

## 2. I-80 OUTREACH UPDATE

Update on presentations given since January Workshop were given as well as upcoming presentations. Also included in the update was an overview of the Coalition website.

- *PIARC in Quebec City, Canada (February)*  
150 winter maintenance people from around the world listened to the presentation. Concept of rural, mountainous, winter focus is new concept, especially when you feed in the road weather management portion of it.
- *Discussions with FHWA*  
Bill Hoffman (NDOT) has been discussing this Coalition with FHWA to heighten the priority of including these stakeholders and this winter operations coordination mission into federal pilot program or test bed opportunities. Of note are the MDSS, *Clarus*, and IntelliDrive<sup>SM</sup> initiatives.
- *WASHTO Executive Level Meeting*  
Ralph Patterson (UDOT) will give the presentation to the WASHTO Executive Meeting in Bismark, ND in July.
- *ITE Western District Meeting*  
June meeting in San Francisco, California that Bill Hoffman (NDOT) will be attending to present to ITE.
- *ITS America*  
Presentation provided to ITS America attendees by Lisa Burgess (KHA). There was a good turnout in Houston for the presentation and some great questions asked. Session focused on rural and winter operations.
- *I-80 Coalition Website ([www.i80coalition.com](http://www.i80coalition.com))*  
The Coalition website has been enhanced with new pages, resources, information, and functionality since the January Workshop. An overview was provided of what is contained in the webpage. Freight is a new content area, and will continue to be built out with additional studies/plans/resources. Links and upcoming meetings also have been updated.

## 3. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Draft I-80 Strategic Plan provides I-80 Coalition members with recommendations regarding the priorities and direction for the Coalition for the next five years. A draft action list of near-term activities as well as a master list of activities and potential projects was distributed to member agencies for review prior to the webinar. This webinar provided a forum for reviewing the plan as well as discussing priority action items.

- a. Overview of Strategic Plan
  - b. Discuss comments on plan
  - c. Review of draft action list for near-term and master list of projects/activities
- *Need to take the Strategic Plan to the directors/exec level and get them involved.*
  - *Involve freight operations and planners from each state.*
  - *Add a freight planning contact list to the communications list.*
  - *Road conditions forecast on commuter link for UDOT. Met with weather forecasting offices across the corridor and people interested in having the NWS involved and taking information and putting it in one website.*
  - *Nebraska is working on closure coordination with other neighboring states.*
  - *Heavy interest in the consistency of messages. Get the TMCs hooked together so they can share information. Utah is working with highway patrol to come up with standard messages and volunteered to work with other states as well.*

- *Nebraska and Iowa are coordinating on putting Nebraska signs in Iowa and visa versa.. Recently conducted a survey that found that standard messages are often developed, but not often implemented.*
- *Northwest Passage has cooperative nomenclature and will share information.*
- *KHA will conduct quick Literature Search on standard messages that can be used.*
- *How can we provide a forum for using technology, leveraging funding, and best practices. How should we share this type of information in a forum setting?*
  - *Maybe an e-mail blast?*
  - *Website in members-only area?*
  - *Break up into 6-8 categories and list contacts and send to Members.*
  - *Include TMC, TIMs incident response*

***Next steps:***

*Deadline for comments on the Strategic Plan and Action List – **Friday, June 18, 2010***

*Literature Search and compile Standard Messages for Coalition to review*

*Compile 'best practices' info from partner states about new equipment, processes, etc.*

*Finalize Contact/Communication List*

#### **4. FREIGHT ACTION PLAN**

Lisa Burgess (KHA) provided an overview of the Freight Action Plan developed for the Coalition. Dan Kuhn (UDOT Railroad and Freight Planner) has reviewed the Freight Action Plan and offered guidance. He discussed his recommendations for the Coalition including considering strategies that incorporate the other routes (I-15, I-84, US-30) that feed large amounts of truck traffic onto I-80 since the I-80 freight industry encompasses a larger network than just I-80.

- *Dan Kuhn (UDOT) provided an overview of the trucking industry's view of the I-80 Corridor. He showed a series of maps showing how closures impact truck routes throughout the western US and the varying mileages associated with detours.*
- *Why was the Port of Oakland not included in the Freight Slides? The original coalition showed Sacramento to Wyoming. Winter weather delays were looked at using Sacramento as a starting point. Also, Port of Oakland truck traffic utilizes the I-80 route as well so it is included in the truck movement counts and studies, but not necessarily singled out from which Port or area they came from.*
- *Motor Carriers are listed in the Freight Action Plan as key partners to include in freight and goods movement discussions for this Coalition.*
- *Create a task force together for Freight Action Plan by the next workshop.*
- *Check the freight section of the I-80 Coalition Website. There has been information posted from Dan Kuhn (UDOT) as well as the Freight Action Plan and other resources.*

***Next Steps:***

*Establish Freight Task Committee with members from partner states. Provide freight planners with strategic plan and freight plan to get input/comments. Get Freight contact from Wyoming.*

#### **5. CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- a. **Rural ITS/IntelliDrive<sup>SM</sup> Webinar** – FHWA Office of Road Weather Management hosted a webinar on May 21st (Fri) to discuss an upcoming IntelliDrive<sup>SM</sup> demonstration project. The timeframe is not yet known, and it may be limited to certain established pooled fund programs. The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) is developing the requirements; site and participants will follow that effort.

**Next steps:**

*Vehicle data transmitter will be created by the NCAR.*

*The presentation and white paper for the FHWA IntelliDrive<sup>SM</sup> project have been posted on the I-80 Coalition Website under the “Links” page in the “National Organizations and Associations” section.*

- b. **TIGER II Planning Grant Opportunity** – Released April 26, 2010 is a TIGER II Discretionary Grant opportunity. This opportunity is for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area or a region. The potential for I-80 to submit for a planning grant was discussed during the webinar.

*The I-80 Coalition is probably not far enough along for a discretionary grant. However, the I-80 Coalition might qualify for a planning grant. Primary criteria include long term outcomes and economic stimulus and secondary criteria is innovation and partnership. Developing a concept of operations could allow federal grant opportunities. Should the I-80 Coalition pursue the TIGER II Planning Grant?*

- *Sondra Rosenberg (NDOT) has been looking into this opportunity. Will be part of the DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for sustainable communities. Need to identify how the Coalition will help/impact local communities along the corridor. Focus could be on freight and economic impacts/vitality.*
- *There is an 80%/20% federal/local funding requirement for this grant opportunity – Coalition must be prepared to provide the 20% match needed*
- *All states agree that it will be a huge effort to develop an application for this grant, but agree that the idea of the partnership is a good idea*

**Next steps:**

*Put together a task force; further develop some planning grant concepts for I-80. Sondra and Lisa will distribute information after the TIGER II Grant Webinar. Preliminary application due July 15, Final application anticipated to be due mid August.*

- c. **INRIX Traffic Flow Available for DOTs** – There was a recent announcement regarding the availability of traffic flow to DOTs. The potential for this information to support I-80 Coalition projects or activities was discussed during the webinar. Denise presented some initial information, and indicated that INRIX was hosting a webinar for state DOTs on June 10.

*This is a free web based service available to the DOTs. Can zoom and see directional flow speeds. Could be used to share information externally to other agencies or neighboring states.*

## **6. NEXT COALITION WORKSHOP – FALL 2010**

The next Coalition workshop is planned to be held at the same location (Reno, Nevada) and will be a 1.5 day format similar to the January workshop. Members will need to discuss potential dates/weeks for this workshop to occur in advance of the winter season for all member states. Potential topics include the strategic plan revision, action plan, selection of projects to move forward with, updates on funding/grant availability, etc. Comments from participants indicated an additional half-day would be valuable. The following dates are being considered:

- a. Tues – Wed, September 28-29, 2010
- b. Tues – Wed, October 5-6, 2010
- c. Tues – Wed, October 12-13, 2010

*Next steps: Develop a preliminary agenda/workshop focus, NDOT will provide a synopsis and schedule to CalTrans to justify the travel. Members need to send their availability for these dates to [Deanna.Haase@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Deanna.Haase@kimley-horn.com). KHA will research potential venues.*

## **7. AGENCY ROUNDTABLE**

This is an opportunity for agencies to provide others in attendance with updates from their states' activities since the January workshop.

### *WY*

- *Hit hard in the spring.*
- *Had some discussions with maintenance*
- *Trying to evolve snow removal*
- *Performance measures a key priority now*
- *Chain Law enhancement that was passed. Not used on I-80. WY cannot plow snow back onto road to save pavement.*
- *Strategic Plan might need some additions for Freight*

### *UT*

- *Changes on website focused on winter maintenance*
- *Anytime we get together and exchange ideas, good things happen.*

### *NDOT D3*

- *Information we obtained at the meeting from a technology that Utah has tested and successfully implemented changed our minds and helped us adopt that technology*
- *Tried to bring back information*
- *Look forward to building relationships with TMCs*

### *NDOT D2*

- *More DMS signs installed – some on I-80*
- *Wind event in late April*
- *Exploring piggy-backing off the National Weather Service*
- *Signed up for interactive NWS alerts*

### *NDOT HQ*

- *Main focus - trying to keep the Coalition moving forward*

### *CalTrans*

- *Winter lasted through Mi-May*
- *500+ inches of snow on the summit*
- *Move-Over Legislation passed*
- *Enhancing relationship with local law enforcement on the Corridor.*
- *Planning is more involved with the freight and goods movement*
- *Goods movement action plan for the state*
- *Revamp the goods movement action plan*
- *Successful in the Bobs Program*
- *\$2 Billion in State Funding \$8 Billion total funding*
- *Improvements to the tunnels in Donner for trains*