



## I-80 Winter Operations Coalition 2012 Spring Webinar Summary

March 22, 2012      2:00 – 3:00 PM PST/3:00 – 4:00 MST

### ATTENDEES

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)	Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)
<i>Steve Kirkpatrick</i> <i>Bob McNew</i>	<i>Denise Inda</i> <i>Lisa Schettler</i> <i>Joe Ramirez</i> <i>John Wells</i> <i>Kevin Lee</i> <i>Michael Murphy</i> <i>John Talbott</i> <i>Sondra Rosenberg</i>	<i>Lisa Miller</i> <i>Scott Jones</i> <i>Leigh Sturges</i>
Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT)	Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR)	Consultants
<i>Vince Garcia</i> <i>Nicole Davies</i> <i>Kevin Kobbs</i>	<i>Jim McGee</i>	<i>Lisa Burgess – Kimley-Horn</i> <i>Deanna Haase – Kimley-Horn</i> <i>Molly O'Brien – Kimley-Horn</i> <i>Ralph Patterson - NarwhalMet</i>

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this webinar is to discuss various activities of the Coalition since the Fall Workshop in 2011.

### 2. RECENT ACTIVITIES

#### **Multi-State Corridor Grant Application Update**

The FHWA grant application was submitted in January 2012. FHWA is reviewing the applications, and grants are anticipated to be awarded in March 2012. If any states have not been copied on the final grant application, contact Lisa Burgess for a copy.

#### **I-80 Coalition Now a Member of NTOC**

The I-80 Coalition is now a member of NTOC and the I-80 Coalition website link will be provided on the NTOC website under the members list.



### **3. UPDATE ON UDOT TRAFFIC SMARTPHONE APPLICATION (IPHONE AND ANDROID)**

Lisa Miller (UDOT) provided an update of the UDOT Traffic smartphone application for iPhone and Android markets. The application was released in November 2011. As of last week, there have been over 46,000 downloads, and the application has a 4 star rating on the Apple Online Store. Downloads spike during events and after news specials making mention of the application. The App is less costly than 511 as a fixed cost, because 511 is based on the number of calls.

UDOT is working on an addition to the App for the mountain pass sections. UDOT may try to start citizen road condition reporting (similar to Wyoming), and may try to incorporate this information into the App. UDOT also is exploring the feasibility of freight-specific content.

### **4. IMO/NCAR PROJECT UPDATE**

Denise Inda (NDOT) provided an update on the IMO/NCAR project. This phase of the project is nearing completion with an anticipated final report to be completed by May 2012. NDOT has been able to collect real-time data from snow plows and light duty trucks such as GPS (time, location, bearing, altitude), atmospheric conditions (temperature, pressure, wind, humidity, etc.), and vehicle and equipment data (braking, engine intake, plow spread, etc.) The relatively mild winter has resulted in less data collection than planned.

The real-time information has been shared with NCAR to combine with their other weather products to get better weather information to the public.

An e-mail will be sent out to the partner states to set up a conference call to discuss opportunities for partnering for the Phase II IMO/NCAR project.

### **5. WYDOT CVO WEBSITE**

Vince Garcia (WYDOT) presented the new commercial vehicle operator (CVO) website that WYDOT has launched as a result of the I-80 Coalition meetings. This website was developed with the input of CVOs that attended the workshop last fall. The website provides tactical (current) and strategic (future) forecasts with relation to wind, visibility, and surface conditions. The conditions are displayed on a map and color coded, as well as, coded with icons for the color blind.

WYDOT has also been using the website internally for staffing and resource planning based on anticipated road weather conditions.

WYDOT has received positive feedback from the CVOs and hopes to make the website open to the public in the future. Currently the site is viewable through a registration process at: <https://apps.wyoroad.info/cvop>.



## 6. RWIS STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Ralph Patterson (NarwhalMet) provided an overview discussion of RWIS-ESS Strategic Planning. An RWIS strategic plan will reduce RWIS costs and provide a powerful system for DOTs. As part of the I-80 Coalition program support, the Consultant team will be preparing templates, best practices, recommended strategies and other tools to help the I-80 partners develop more consistent plans and processes for RWIS operations and maintenance. Ralph will provide templates for maintenance plans and strategic plans in the next few months.

## 7. RECAP OF WINTER 2011/2012

In general, the partner agencies agreed that the winter 2011/2012 was a very mild winter. Most weather problems were related to wind rather than snow. This was also an opportunity for agencies to provide others in attendance with updates from their states' activities since the September 2011 workshop.

### **Caltrans:**

California is launching a new "QuickMap" website that will show statewide information (700 CMS and over 1000 CCTVs). Weather information is not included in the existing website, but hopefully will be included in future versions.

There have only been 6 major storms on Donner Pass, and current snowfall is approximately 250" (the average is 429" and last year was 818").

### **NDOT:**

NDOT noted that it has been a relatively uneventful winter.

### **UDOT:**

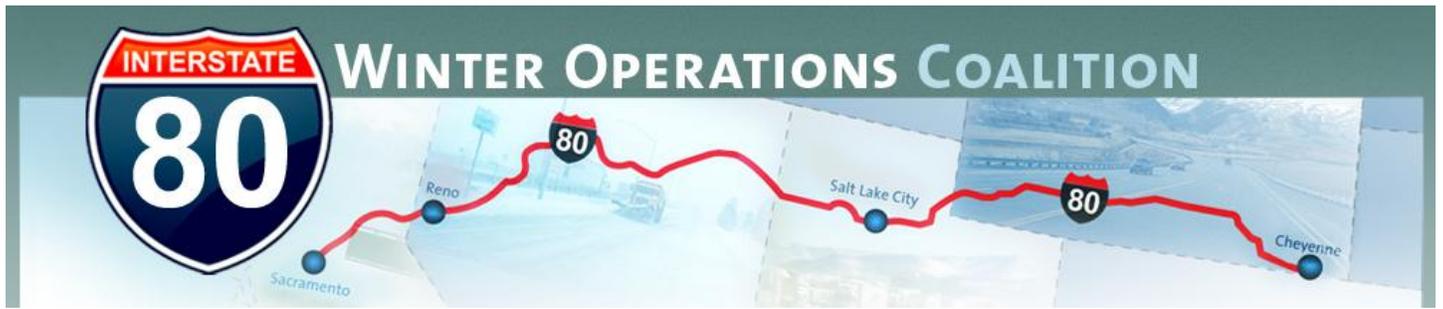
Utah's biggest storm was a wind event, where gusts were recorded at 102 mph and 12 semi-trucks overturned. Utah assessed their reaction to the event in an after action review.

### **WYDOT:**

Wyoming has also had a mild winter where the majority of issues were wind that caused blowing snow and visibility issues on the roadways. There was a closure on I-80 due to wind that lasted 2-3 days. WYDOT notified NDOR and UDOT during the weather event.

### **NDOR:**

Nebraska has had a mild winter. They are working on getting their quick clearance policy for I-80 approved in the legislature, and have been training emergency responders on the policy. NDOR



has been doing a lot of training of first responders with regards to traffic delays and impacts. Information about the quick clearance policy and training materials will be provided to Coalition partners on the I-80 website as collected.

#### **8. NEXT COALITION WORKSHOP – FALL 2012**

The next Coalition workshop is planned to be held at the same location (Reno, Nevada) and will be a 2-day format similar to the September 2011 workshop. Potential dates/weeks for this workshop will be emailed to the Coalition members in the next few months; however, we anticipate a mid-late September meeting.

#### **9. NEXT STEPS**

Information from this webinar will be posted on the I-80 Coalition Website. There will be another webinar occurring in the late July/August timeframe scheduled for 90 minutes.