

[I-95 Corridor Coalition Update](#)

Note: The Coalition's next edition of the newsletter will be out shortly and will provide additional information on the news items in this Update. If you have any questions, please contact Noreen Hazelton at i95nhaze@aol.com.

[1. Coalition News](#)

New Leadership Revitalizes the Coalition - The Coalition has welcomed two new additions to the Executive Board Committee: Brian Rowback, the Chief Operating Officer of the New York State Department of Transportation, and David King, the Deputy Secretary for Transit of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

We also welcome new leadership in the Coordinated Incident Management Program Track Committee, including the addition of a Program Track Committee Co-Chair Karl Ziemer, and the addition of several Co-chairs of the Committee's Regional Groups including: Sergeant Michael Crosby, Massachusetts State Police/New England HOGs; Dave Wolfe, PennDOT/Delaware Valley HOGs; Rob Stone, North Carolina DOT/Potomac HOGs; and Major Charles Carden, North Carolina State Highway Patrol/Southern HOGs. For additional information, see the Coalition's organization chart at: <http://www.i95coalition.org/orgchart.html>

Coalition Connection Web Site a Popular Source of Traveler Information - A new link has been added to the Coalition Connection web site's home page to provide direct access to Travel Information. This link, as suggested by Karl Ziemer (Delaware River Port Authority, and Co-chair of the Coalition's Incident Management Committee), is a segmented map allowing the user to click on the state or region of interest. Usage statistics on the Coalition website show 8 of the 10 most visited pages in January to be the traveler information pages for Maryland, the Alert Map, Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, in that order. Check it out at <http://www.i95coalition.org>!

[Check the Website Calendar for Upcoming Coalition Meetings](#)

In an effort to assist members in planning and travel approval, Coalition meetings are posted on the website calendar at: <http://www.i95coalition.org/calendar.html>. As agendas are prepared, they are linked to the calendar item to provide more details on the event. Upcoming events include:

- May 17 – Southern HOGs – Charleston, SC
- May 18 – Coordinated Incident Management Training – Charleston, SC
- May 24 – Executive Board – Philadelphia, PA
- June 2 – Delaware Valley HOGs – King of Prussia, PA
- June 14 – Inter-regional Multimodal Travel Information Committee – Philadelphia, PA
- June 15 – Intermodal Transfer of People and Goods Committee – Philadelphia, PA
- June 16 – Potomac HOGs – Harrisburg, PA
- June 21 – Electronic Payment Services Committee – Portland, ME
- Sept. 13 – Inter-regional Multimodal Travel Information Committee – Manchester, NH
- Sept. 14 – Intermodal Transfer of People and Goods Committee – Manchester, NH
- Sept. 15 – Commercial Vehicle Operations Committee – New Hampshire
- Oct. 19 – Steering Committee – Charleston, SC
- Dec. 13 & 14 – Coalition Annual Meeting – Saratoga Springs, NY

Performance Measures and Safety Task Forces Established – The two Task Forces were formed to respond to priorities developed by the Executive Board, and activities will cut across all Coalition Program Tracks. The Performance Measures Task Force is busy at work responding to the Executive Board's charge to develop recommendations which could be used to assess the effectiveness of Coalition programs. The Safety Task Force is more recently formed and already has over 30 volunteers. For information on the Performance Measures Task Force, contact

Noreen Hazelton at i95nhaze@aol.com. If interested in the Safety Task Force, contact Capt. Henry de Vries at hdevries@dot.state.ny.us.

Information Systems Projects Under Development – Two information systems projects are being developed by the Coalition and include:

- **Integrated Corridor Analysis Tool (ICAT)** – ICAT is a geographic information system (GIS)-based transportation network for the 16 state region and a linked database with information about the region's roads, traffic volumes and travel patterns. This new tool will help Coalition members coordinate multi-state transportation planning, investment and operations planning.
- **Information Systems Network (ISN)** – ISN is an architecture that will support real-time data sharing throughout the Corridor. The vision is that all related systems throughout the Corridor will be able to connect to the ISN to provide information that is relevant to other systems. Traveler information systems, such as 511 services, will have access to information about major events and incidents in adjacent regions.

For information on these projects, contact Bill Stoeckert at wsteockert@snet.net.

Southern Region Highway Operations Group Established - The Incident Management Program Track Committee established a new regional Highway Operations Group – the Southern HOGs. The states that comprise the region are North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Mr. Gary Millsaps (Georgia DOT) and Major Charles Carden (North Carolina State Highway Patrol) are the Co-Chairs of this new group, and will be working with fellow regional HOGs counterparts in New England, New York City Metro, the Delaware Valley, and the Potomac Regions to coordinate corridor-wide activities and interests. If you would like to join the Southern HOGs, make a recommendation for a recruitment candidate, or get more information, please contact Co-Chair Gary Millsaps at Gary.Millsaps@dot.state.ga.us or Coalition staff, Capt. Henry de Vries, at hdevries@dot.state.ny.us.

Northeast Rail Operations Study Kicks-off with Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting - The Intermodal Program Track Committee's (IMPTC) Northeast Rail Operations (NEROps) Study is well underway with the first gathering of public and private stakeholders taking place in Worcester, Massachusetts on March 30th. Steering Committee members and invited stakeholders met to discuss their role in this Coalition study of rail operations in the northeast and the issues facing freight and passenger movements throughout the region. More information on the project can be found on the Coalition's website at: <http://144.202.240.28/pman/ViewProject.asp?pid=183>.

Coalition Chairman Recognized for Outstanding Public Service and Leadership - The Road Gang - an informal group of transportation leaders – presented Coalition Chairman Neil J. Pedersen with the "Lester Lamm" Award at its January annual meeting in Washington, D.C., citing his 25 years of public service and involvement with industry initiatives. Chairman Pedersen's outstanding public service, leadership and dedication to the U.S. highway transportation system was recognized during the award ceremony. Congratulations Chairman Pederson and thank you for your work on behalf of the Coalition!!

2. Recent Coalition Events

First Annual Meeting is a Great Success - The Coalition is most thankful for North Carolina DOT for hosting the Coalition's First Annual Meeting, held in Raleigh in December. The logistical and planning assistance provided made the meeting possible and the North Carolina Showcase that kicked-off the meeting contributed significantly to our success. Following the North Carolina Showcase, Lyndo Tippett, Secretary, North Carolina DOT, and Ken Philmus, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, provided enthusiastic and informative lunch presentations. Also included in the two-day agenda was an Executive Board meeting, a poster session highlighting current projects, an award dinner, a Steering Committee meeting, three Information Exchange

Forums (Evacuation Planning and Emergency Preparedness, Safety, and Security) and Program Track Committee meetings. Additional information, including minutes and presentations can be found on the Coalition Connection website at: <http://www.i95coalition.org/meeting-minutes2004.html>.

Coalition/ Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee (GCM) Videoconference Held – The Coalition conducted a videoconference with members of the GCM on April 21st to catch up on each others activities, share challenges, and explore solutions. Topics included our recent efforts to prioritize multi-state issues, work plan efforts, and current initiatives and projects. The videoconference also provided the Coalition an opportunity to experience the Access Grid technology as part of our research into applicability and usefulness to the Coalition.

Steering Committee Proposes Annual Work Plan – The Steering Committee met on April 22nd to review project ideas proposed by the Program Track Committees. Following lively and detailed discussions, the resulting work plan contains an impressive array of projects. That work plan will be forwarded to the Executive Board, at the May 24th meeting, for consideration and approval.

I-95 Corridor Coalition Sponsored 511 Peer-to-Peer Sessions - In cooperation with the FHWA Peer-to-Peer Program and under the auspices of the 511 Support Project, two successful peer to peer sessions were held in Atlanta, Georgia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 8 and March 1, 2005, respectively. In all more that 50 Coalition members and their guests representing more than half the Corridor states found out what it is like to begin, operate and maintain a 511 system. Peers from Virginia, New Hampshire, Utah, Kansas, Washington State and the USDOT were on hand to present their experiences and lessons learned. Many thanks to Bob Rupert (USDOT), Scott Cowherd (Virginia and Committee Chair), Subramanian Sharma (New Hampshire), Barb Blue (Kansas), Eldon Jacobson (Washington State) and Bryan Chamberlain (Utah). Meeting minutes and presentations can be found on the Coalition's website at: <http://www.i95coalition.org/511p-to-p.html>.

3. Member Agency News

NJDOT Commissioner and Coalition Executive Board Member Jack Lettiere named AASHTO President - John F. "Jack" Lettiere Jr., Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), has officially begun his tenure as President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Lettiere is the first President of the nationally respected organization that hails from the State of New Jersey and served as AASHTO Vice-President until being named president. Commissioner Lettiere also recently received the "Cabinet Member of the Year" Award from the New Jersey Conference on Mayors. Congratulations Commissioner Lettiere!

NYSDOT Commissioner Boardman Nominated to Serve as Federal Railroad Administrator – President George W. Bush has submitted Commissioner Boardman's nomination to serve as the Federal Railroad Administrator for USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration. The confirmation process may take several weeks and he will continue to serve as NYSDOT's Commissioner during that time. Congratulations Commissioner Boardman!

VDOT's Smart Traffic Center Ready for Test – Staunton's Smart Traffic Center is the first to be installed in a rural area of Virginia. The center has operators to monitor cameras on I-81, and messages can go up instantly on message boards and 511 systems.

VDOT Launches Statewide 511 System for Traffic and Travel Information – On February 15, Virginia's 511 system became available on a statewide basis. In addition to road and traffic reports, 511 also provides information on gas, food, lodging and transit connections.

VDOT Website Shows Incident Management Videos – Two new videos are available for viewing on the VDOT site at <http://www.virginiadot.org/infoservice/is-IncidentManagement.asp>. The videos are “Incident Management Response Plan” and “The Hats of Incident Management.” The second video stars Capt. Tom Martin, Virginia State Police, and former Co-Chair of the Coalition’s Incident Management Committee.

TRIPS 123 Project Highlighted in the New York Post – Called the “MapQuest” for bus and train riders, the TRIPS123.com website was noted in a recent article in the New York Post. The site combines buses, subways and commuter trains operated by 18 transit agencies – including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New Jersey Transit and Port Authority – to give riders direction to various destinations.

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission Launches New Procurement Section of Website – The Commission has launched a new section of its website to inform firms of the commission’s anticipated need for professional services related to its capital improvement program. Notice of requests for qualifications, letters of interest, and other procurement information related to professional services will be posted on the site on a regular basis. The link to the site is: <http://www.drjtbc.com/default.aspx?pageid=191>.

Vermont Agency of Transportation Launches Use of Dynamic Message Signs to Provide Motorists Updated Road Conditions – The signs have been placed on roads that regularly present hazardous conditions to drivers in winter weather. Throughout the winter, the Agency will use the signs to alert drivers to reduce their speed due to weather related conditions that will affect traffic.

E-ZPass to be Installed Statewide in New Hampshire – By the end of May, E-ZPass will be statewide in New Hampshire and could be the beginning of the end of tokens as a means of payment at state tollbooths.

MassHighway Uses Screens to Avoid Accident-Gawkers – The Massachusetts Highway Department, tired of traffic jams caused by accident-gawkers, has begun using large, portable screens to shield car wrecks from passers-by. Highway officials said they have assembled 27 traffic screens for use statewide at a cost of about \$38,000.

Georgia DOT Web Site Can Help Motorists Dodge Traffic Snags – GDOT’s website, <http://www.georgianavigator.com>, has real time traffic updates, as well as snapshots from traffic cameras in the Atlanta area. Much of the site focuses on Atlanta and Georgia interstates, but construction and traffic accidents are frequently updated across the state.

Massachusetts Debuts New Web Site – Massachusetts transportation officials unveiled a redesigned web site to help citizens track road projects, find bike paths or get an update on the bridge work along their commutes. The site – <http://www.mass.gov/eot> - also has links to the Registry for Motor Vehicles, the MBTA, Massport and a host of other state and regional transportation agencies.

Rhode Island DOT Launches 511 Traveler Info Line – Drivers in Rhode Island can dial 511 from home or cell phones to receive information such as directions, anticipated travel time for different routes, bus and train schedules, lane restrictions and even tourist information. RIDOT Director James Capaldi said the goal is to keep roadways safe and to encourage drivers to take alternate routes in jammed traffic.

North Carolina DOT Launches New Website for Travelers – NCDOT’s new website maps out all 62 rest areas throughout the state. The website also provides photos, directions and amenities of each facility. Link to rest area map: http://www.doh.dot.state.nc.us/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/rest/

South Carolina Unveils New Highway Signs to Kickoff Awareness Campaign – South Carolina DOT, FHWA – SC, and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety have teamed up to educate the public about an important new highway safety law. The “Steer It and Clear It” campaign is aimed at informing motorists of a new law requiring motorists involved in minor traffic crashes with no injuries to move their vehicles to the highway shoulder.

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