



I-95 Corridor Coalition

Alleviating Congestion

The I-95 Corridor Coalition is a partnership of state departments of transportation, regional and local transportation agencies, toll authorities, and related organizations, including law enforcement, transit, port and rail organizations, from Maine to Florida, with affiliate members in Canada.

The Coalition undertakes activities to improve mobility for people and goods, enhance safety for all travelers, and advance the economic vitality of the region. Coalition activities focus on management and operation of the region's transportation system, with emphasis on issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries.

Congestion in the Corridor:

In the 24 metropolitan areas in Coalition states recently studied by the Texas Transportation Institute, over 1.2 billion hours of travel time were lost to congestion in the year 2001, resulting in a region-wide cost of almost \$24 billion per year in wasted time and fuel and degraded air quality. The problems of congestion are distributed widely over the region. The economic cost accrues not only to local residents, but also to long distance travelers, and to those moving freight through the region.



The region's congestion is not only a highway or passenger phenomenon. For example, growing demand for both passenger and freight rail movements is leading to rail delays in areas such as Baltimore and New York City. A new generation of megaships may double the amount of intermodal container traffic and create surges of demand within the ports and on the connecting highway transportation systems.

Helping to Reduce Congestion:

The Coalition is working to alleviate congestion in a number of ways:

- The Coalition produces and distributes more than 300,000 copies of a Travelers Alert Map twice a year at rest areas and welcome centers and through member agency public affairs offices. The Map provides the public with information on construction zone activity throughout the region so that they can plan their long distance trips better.

“The Coalition provided the forum, funding support, and credibility that enabled us to work successfully with Norfolk Southern, Amtrak, and 5 states in the Mid-Atlantic region to study the potential reduction of highway congestion by moving more freight and people on the railroads. They helped identify the need for this effort, and get the resources needed to produce a quality product on an accelerated schedule.”

*-Randy Evans,
CSX Transportation*

Safety and Security with Mobility

➤ The Coalition will continue to enhance and expand its electronic information-sharing network. This will allow member agency operations personnel to obtain information on major accidents and construction activity far enough in advance that they are able to alert the traveling public to plan trip times and routes to avoid significant delays.

➤ The Coalition is working with its members to coordinate the implementation of the 511 travel information telephone number across state boundaries to enable long distance travelers to easily obtain current travel information to better plan their trips.

➤ The Coalition is improving coordinated response to and quick clearance of traffic accidents by transportation and emergency management agencies in neighboring jurisdictions. Through a variety of projects, training courses, technology demonstrations and evaluations, and information sharing sessions, the public experiences less unnecessary delay and fewer secondary accidents resulting from stop and go traffic movement.

➤ The Coalition sponsors regular meetings of five Highway Operations Groups: New England, Metro New York, Delaware Valley, Potomac and Southern. These Groups promote coordination and cooperation among all organizations that work together to save lives, maintain public safety and manage congestion when a major traffic accident occurs.

➤ The Coalition is encouraging the development of web-based systems that will allow travelers to plan long-distance trips with full knowledge of door-to-door travel options and costs considering all modes of travel.

➤ The Coalition is developing a region-wide multimodal transportation network and analysis tools that will enable analysts to assess system performance, study long-distance passenger and freight movements, evaluate the impacts of significant bottlenecks on movement in the corridor that crosses state boundaries, and serve as a repository of historical travel time data.

➤ The Coalition is supporting the development of information systems that provide information on ship arrival and departure schedules and container/cargo availability to terminal operators, customs brokers, and others. Information will also be shared with feeder ports and inland distribution hubs. The use of short sea feeder services is also being explored to mitigate congestion and effectively increase the capacity available for freight shipments.

➤ The Coalition partnered with three railroads (Amtrak, CSX, and Norfolk Southern) and five states (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) to produce a report identifying improvements needed to rail infrastructure to reduce congestion. Two follow-on studies are being conducted – one in the Northeast, the other in the Southeast. The Coalition also continues to work with the railroad industry and state departments of transportation to explore financing alternatives.



For more information about the I-95 Corridor Coalition, please contact Noreen Hazelton, Outreach Coordinator, at i95nhaze@aol.com.