



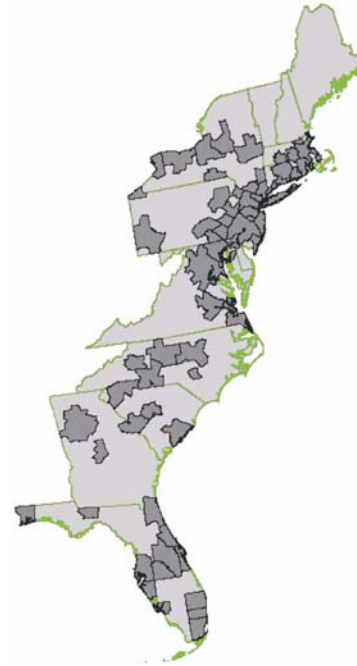
I-95 Corridor Coalition

Improving Rural Travel

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, port, transit 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.

According to the year 2000 census, 70% of the land area and 24% of the population of the Coalition region is located in smaller cities, towns and rural areas outside of the major metropolitan areas. The trip-making characteristics of these residents are significantly different than those of the residents of the region's 65 major metropolitan areas. For example, they generate auto trips at a rate over 50% higher than the residents of the major metropolitan areas.



The Coalition is working to improve travel in rural areas in a number of ways:

- Rural travel information systems in the region will be an integral component of a region-wide information-sharing network being developed by the Coalition that will enable transportation management agencies throughout the region to quickly learn of major accidents and emergencies in other jurisdictions so that they can inform en-route travelers and enable them to avoid these major bottlenecks.

For more information about the I-95 Corridor Coalition, please contact Noreen Hazelton, Member Services & Outreach Coordinator, at i95nhaze@aol.com or visit the Coalition Connection at www.i95coalition.org.

Safety and Security with Mobility

➤ The Coalition is supporting the development of web-based systems that will enable travelers to plan their long-distance trips with full knowledge of door-to-door options and costs considering all modes of travel. Travel options between airports, rail stations, and long-haul bus terminals and residences and destinations in rural areas will be a component of these web-based systems.

➤ The role of rural transportation facilities in moving people and freight long distances through the region will be analyzed as part of the Coalition's region-wide multimodal transportation network and analysis tool system development.



➤ The Coalition is working with member agencies and national organizations to develop the capability that will enable people to obtain information about traffic conditions and public transportation options on both urban and rural routes to their distant destinations through use of the 511 national travel information telephone number.

➤ The Coalition is supporting a Northern Shenandoah Valley Public Mobility Program initiative to implement a computer-aided dispatch system to coordinate human service transportation in the northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The system will enable demand-responsive services and flexible routing and provide an electronic bridge to the Commonwealth's Medicaid billing/payment system.

➤ The Coalition continues to support the operation of a rural traveler information system in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont known as TRIO. The system provides travelers and tourists in the Tri-State area with accurate and real time information on road conditions, lodging and recreational activities. Travelers are able to avoid congested areas and make informed decisions before and on their trips by obtaining information from a variety of media including the Internet and a 511 travel information telephone number, and eventually through highway advisory radio systems and variable message signs.

