

CORRIDOR



PROJECT NEWS

For the Southern Exchange Program

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STIX implemented on April 1, 2008

After months of preparation and anticipation, the Southern Traffic Information eXchange (STIX) was implemented on April 1, 2008. The coalition is excited about the implementation and highly optimistic about the success of the program.

As of June 18, there had been six STIX activations. All of the incident notifications received met the STIX criteria, showing that participating TMCs have a good understanding of when to activate. During these 6 incidents, approximately 13 notifications were made, meaning key information was communicated to TMCs

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STIX program logo design

Hurricane season highlights value of STIX Program



The 2008 hurricane season is here, and states throughout the Southeast are preparing for what has been forecasted as an “above average” season. Hurricanes and tropical storms often have multi-state impacts on traffic and transportation—particularly when evacuations and/or closures are necessary. STIX will be an important tool during these major weather-related events as it allows states to communicate efficiently and effectively to manage incidents and get accurate information to the public.

During hurricanes, it is crucial to get information the motoring public about road conditions, detours, evacuation routes and closures. This information crosses state lines and is important to

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Hurricanes, cont.

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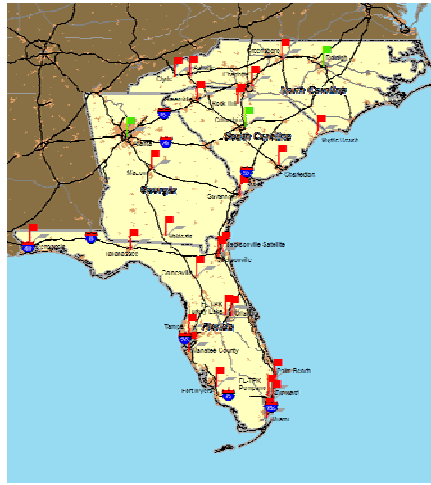
multi-state travelers, which means states need to communicate with each other. STIX will be the key to this communication.

“We have a unique opportunity to use this new program to better manage hurricane evacuations and other weather-related events,” said Gary Millsaps, GDOT Incident Management Manager. “I want to encourage all TMCs to use this tool and demonstrate to the public that we are committed to working together to provide them better service and keep them safe and informed during major incidents.”

STIX is easy to use—a simple phone call or email away—and has the potential to drastically improve coordinated traffic management efforts during major incidents. The coalition anticipates that this hurricane season will exemplify the need for such an important program in this region.

“The Southern states can truly be an example to other states around the country if we continue to utilize STIX to work together to improve Traffic Incident Management in the region,” Millsaps said.

STIX implemented on April 1, cont.



STIX Program Boundaries (TMC Locations)

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throughout the region.

On May 13, STIX was activated during wildfires in Orlando. The Atlanta TMC notified the TMC in Jacksonville, FL of the event and corresponding closures.

“The STIX worked just as advertised,” stated Derrick Odom, TMC Operations / 511 Supervisor for the FDOT District 2 TMC in Jacksonville. “We were notified of the Wildfire situation and kept updated in a timely manner.”

This successful activation was a good indicator of the value of STIX during major emergencies around the region.

Odom described STIX as “a valuable tool!”

Outreach spreads word about program

The STIX project team has been working diligently over the past months to help promote the STIX program and its value.

Along with helping stakeholders learn about the program, the outreach activities spread the message about the importance of this program.

At the I-95 Corridor Coalition Annual Coordinated Incident Management conference in Orlando, Gary Millsaps, GDOT, gave a presentation about the STIX program to a group of incident responders and transportation personnel from around the country. This successful presentation elicited positive feedback and enthusiasm about the program from participants.

On May 20, the project team held an outreach workshop in Savannah, GA with law enforcement officials to introduce them to STIX and give them information on how to notify STIX during incidents. On May 31, the team met with the Southeastern Traffic Enforcement Network (S.E.T.E.N.), where they gave a presentation on STIX and encouraged participation. Law enforcement and 911 were present at this meeting. Both outreach sessions went extremely well, and participants seemed willing and eager to begin participating in the program.

The project team will continue to conduct outreach activities around the Southern States.

Project Activities and Updates...

- STIX was implemented on April 1.
- The six following STIX implementations have occurred:
 - April 2: Overturned Chemical Truck on I-26 near Charleston, SC
 - April 12: Tractor Trailer overturned with a fire on I-95 in Virginia
 - May 9: Overturned Tractor Trailer on I-95 at I-26 WB in South Carolina
 - May 13: Wildfires in Orlando, FL
 - May 13: Vehicle Fire in Columbia, SC
 - May 22: Overturned tractor trailer on I-85 NB in Georgia.
- Program officially named the Southern Traffic Information eXchange (STIX), and a logo was designed (pg. 1)
- The interactive map and corresponding contact information for STIX TMCs is complete, and GDOT Operators were trained in STIX program protocols.
- Outreach across the southern states continues.