

## PROJECT NEWS

For the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange

**April 2009**

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### Winter Snowstorm After-Action Review



**Gary Millsaps, GDOT gives an overview of STIX during the AAR.**

On March 1, 2009, a severe winter weather system moved across the Southeast, dumping snow in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The weather made travel difficult and resulted in long delays for motorists.

Because congestion in some areas crossed state lines and affected multi-state travelers, the weather event highlighted the importance of sharing information through STIX. While some communication between states did occur, STIX was not formally activated. To address

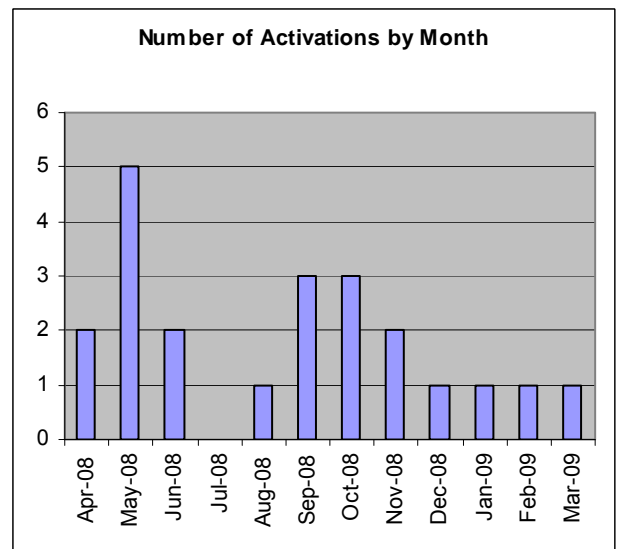
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### Successful Activations Improve Communication

STIX continues to facilitate communication to help states better manage incidents with multi-state impacts. There have been 22 activations since program implementation in April 2008, and the program works better and better with every activation.

On March 25, 2009, South Carolina activated STIX during an accident involving two Tractor Trailers and a passenger vehicle on I-95 Southbound at mile post 176. The incident, which lasted approximately 3 hours, closed all lanes and resulted in a detour to reroute traffic to SC 9 via exit 193.

“We posted messages on our overhead DMS at mile marker 197(state line) southbound, and CMS at mile



**STIX Activations by month**

*(Continued on page 2)*



Participants mingle to discuss STIX after the AAR

## Snowstorm AAR, Cont.

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questions of those involved in the incident as well as to explore ways to better manage such an event in the future, the Coalition scheduled an After-Action Review (AAR).

The AAR took place at the Metrolina TMC in Charlotte, NC on March 18, 2009. Participants included representatives from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Georgia Department of Transportation, South Carolina Transportation, North Carolina Highway Patrol and South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Each state recounted the incident from its perspective, shedding light on the many small incidents (such as a Tractor Trailer becoming stuck) that led to the hours of backup. There was some confusion about whether STIX can be activated when there is no one major “incident” but rather small incidents that lead to congestion. In fact, STIX should be activated during major weather events, particularly when congestion results. While the 50-miles-per-hour rule is generally used, TMCs may activate STIX when they start to see major backups occurring or when there is a road closure. The Atlanta TMC will determine the necessary notifications by using its map.

The AAR concluded with an overview of STIX procedures, and participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the program.

## Successful Activations, cont.

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marker 183 southbound—both suggesting alternate routes,” stated Michael Bowman, SCDOT Incident Response Management Coordinator.

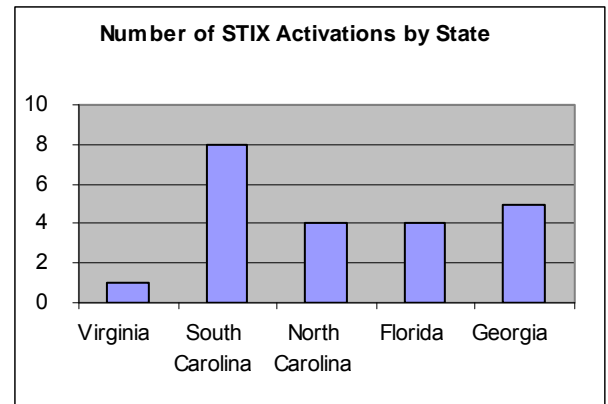
The Atlanta TMC notified North Carolina’s Statewide Transportation Operations Center at Raleigh.

“Things went very well on our end,” stated Brian Purvis, NCDOT State Incident Management Engineer. “We were kept up [to date] with updates and alerted motorists headed south on I-95 via DMS and 511.”

South Carolina provided the Atlanta TMC with proper notifications—even at the crucial conclusion of the event, which is sometimes overlooked.

“Everything was done extremely well,” stated Jennifer Ganzy, Supervisor for the GDOT TMC.

Successful activations like this one highlight the value of the STIX program. Motorists traveling Southbound on I-95 were warned well in advance of the closure and given the opportunity to take alternate routes to avoid long delays.



## Tool helps TIM Personnel Share Ideas

Interested in what other Traffic Incident Management (TIM) professionals around the country are doing to improve incident management? Need advice on developing a new initiative within your program or agency? You’re in luck. The I-95 Corridor Coalition maintains an “Incident & Traffic Management Email Group” that allows TIM personnel to exchange topic related incident management information at the click of a mouse.

Email group participants can ask questions, seek advice or simply share ideas with their peers throughout the Coalition states and even around the nation. Everyone is invited to participate (both Coalition and non-Coalition members), and STIX stakeholders are encouraged to sign up.

Those interested in subscribing to the group can sign up at <http://www.i95coalition.net/i95/Committees/IncidentManagement/EmailGroup/tabid/80/Default.aspx>

### Stakeholder Input

Do you have regional news or pictures to include in the next STIX Newsletter?

Has your TMC expanded its coverage area?

If so, please contact Christine Macaulay at [c.macaulay@delcan.com](mailto:c.macaulay@delcan.com).

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