



PROJECT NEWS

For the Southern Exchange Program

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Stakeholder communication strong

As the program matures, communication among STIX stakeholders is becoming stronger. Atlanta TMC operators have begun to establish working relationships with personnel at TMCs throughout the four southern states (FL, GA, NC, SC).

The establishment of these relationships and strong communication has led to better coordination among the states during STIX incidents.

Nine months after program activation, many of the programs wrinkles have been ironed out thanks to stakeholders' diligence and strong lines of communication. Of course there is always room for improvement, and stakeholders will continue to find ways to strengthen the program as time goes on. But those involved in the program are impressed with the level of coordination.

"As we broaden the horizon and work through the early hiccups of the I-95 STIX program, we at the [Atlanta] Transportation Management Center are now beginning to see the hard work paying off," said Jennifer Ganzy (GDOT TMC Shift Supervisor).

Perhaps most impressive is the fact that TMC personnel who have had little or no face-to-face contact are truly working like a team. As was part of the STIX mission, TMC and DOT staff are blurring state lines—seeing the benefits of sharing information and making sure motorists in any state get the information they need as soon as possible.

"When devastating forest fires struck southern Georgia and northern Florida in the summer of 2007, no such system ex-

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21 STIX incidents to date

STIX has been activated 21 times since implementation, helping spread the word about major incidents that affect the region. TMC personnel are not the only one making STIX notifications. The Atlanta TMC has also received notifications from 911 dispatch, law enforcement and Transcom. The program is expanding to include other stakeholders to make sure incidents are reported to the system as soon as possible. It is expected that additional outreach will expand the program further.

The program has been activated during a variety of major incidents, including hurricanes, wild fires, lane blocking crashes, hit and run incidents and Haz-Mat situations.

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Orlando Florida Bridge Fire

21 STIX incidents to date, cont.

One incident that resulted in several notifications actually occurred in both South Carolina and Georgia. The accident occurred on I-24 Westbound at Riverwatch Parkway. The vehicle hit the guardrail on the South Carolina side but slid into Georgia's jurisdiction, ejecting passengers on the Georgia side. Two injuries and one fatality resulted. The Atlanta TMC

notified both South Carolina and North Carolina about the incident that blocked all Westbound lanes for investigation.

This incident in particular demonstrates how several states can be effected by one incident, necessitating STIX to help states work together more efficiently and effectively.

Stakeholder Communication, cont.

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isted. As major interstates and highways in Florida shut down for days, Georgia was left with inaccurate and out of date information. Traffic back up proved to be catastrophic and the traveling public suffered," Ganzy said. "As STIX continues to strengthen month after month, we are now prepared to engage these incidents proactively instead of being caught off guard. By having a constant stream of updated information, and with the help of all the I-95 Stakeholders, we are poised to provide an invaluable service to our biggest client—the motorist."

Inauguration activities a success

An estimated 1.8 Million people attended the Presidential Inauguration on January 20 in Washington, DC. STIX stakeholders were asked to participate in inaugural planning and management due to the possible 600 mile radius of affected traffic. Stakeholders helped coordinate regional traveler information advisories throughout the Southern states. The overall event was a success thanks to careful planning and good multi-state, multi-regional coordination. The success illustrates what can be accomplished when states work together to inform travelers and manage events.

"Being a border state to such an enormous and well publicized event, it was important to North Carolina DOT to have access to timely and accurate information for travelers to the Inauguration," said Brian Purvis (State Incident Management Engineer). "I was extremely impressed with the flow of information, both before and during the events. Thanks to STIX, Transcom, the I-95 Corridor Coalition and Maryland and Vir-



NCDOT Inaugural Travel Advisory

ginia DOTs for all the planning and coordination that went into this event."

The coalition is preparing a report to document the activities and encourages any stakeholders with documentation such as photos, anecdotal or quantitative benefits to send them to DottyD@aol.com.



Capt. Tom Martin new Operations Program Coordinator

Captain J. Thomas (Tom) Martin, of the Virginia State Police, is the new Operations Program Coordinator with the I-95 Corridor Coalition. Tom has 34 years of experience with the Virginia State Police and is currently commander of the Criminal Intelligence Division. He is considered an expert in traffic incident management. You may know him from his "Hats of Incident Management" video, which is a popular training video for incident management responders. As Operations Program Coordinator, Tom will work closely with the STIX program. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the STIX program under his leadership and are excited about the new ideas and point of view he brings with him. Welcome, Tom!

Project Activities and Updates...

STIX will soon begin Phase II, which will conduct more outreach to STIX Stakeholders. Managers are considering hosting a STIX workshop to give stakeholders an opportunity to meet face-to-face. The next several months will include updating our contact list and stakeholder maps.

For More Information, Contact:
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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 @ c.macaulay@delcan.com.