



## PROJECT NEWS

For the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange

**June 2010**

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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?

Do you think your TMC could benefit from an AAR or additional outreach?

If so, please contact  
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### GA, NC, SC personnel meet in Columbia



**STIX stakeholders meet at SCDOT Columbia Transportation Management Center.**

Thirteen STIX representatives met in Columbia, South Carolina on Thursday March 11, 2010, as part of the effort to continually foster communication and improve coordination among the Southern States. State representatives from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina included the State's ITS Coordinators, Incident Management Managers, State Operation Engineers, Safety and Systems Engineers, and TMC Operations Managers and Supervisors.

After a brief overview of the program, the group discussed current happenings in each of the states and ideas for improved coordination. Specific points discussed included new Tollways in

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### Sinkhole results in emergency road work on I-85

The Columbia, SC TMC recently assisted the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in warning motorists when a large sinkhole occurred on I-85 Southbound, just inside the Georgia state line with South Carolina.

The incident, which occurred on February 16, required immediate emergency road repair due to the location and size of the sinkhole—20 feet long, by 40 feet wide. The road work closed the one right lane and the shoulder at mile post 178.

The Atlanta TMC received re-

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**The 20 ft. X 30 ft. Sinkhole on I-85 Southbound at MM 178 in Georgia, at the South Carolina/Georgia state border.**

## Columbia Meeting, Cont.

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North Carolina, Interoperability, Towing and Recovery, Software, and Evacuation operations.

The group also reviewed four incidents in which the Columbia TMC was involved. Transportation Management Personnel from both Columbia and Atlanta participated in the meeting and were able to bring a new perspective to the incidents discussed. They were also able to talk about issues encountered during communications as well recognize good points in the coordination.

Throughout the life of the program, it has been shown that these face-to-face meetings are invaluable to establishing relationships among the states. All representatives at the meeting agreed that STIX has greatly improved Traffic Incident Management coordination in the region.

“The benefits of STIX are far reaching,” said Mike Bow-

man, SCDOT Incident Response Management, “Until STIX [was implemented] in April ‘08, there was not a formal coordinating mechanism in place to ensure multi-state information was being shared.”

The Coalition continues to sponsor face-to-face meetings to strengthen the program and to reinforce the purpose of STIX—keeping the roadways safer and motorists better informed through organized multi-state coordination.

“To have a process in place that transcends the “planning in a vacuum” that often unintentionally occurs, is priceless, in my opinion,” Bowman said. “Kudos to [the Coalition] for helping make travel safer for the motoring public.”

As often is the case when a group of people get together, new ideas spring up. At this meeting, the group came up with the idea for Hurricane Evacuation Coordination as announced in this newsletter.

## I-95 Corridor Coalition publishes report on TIM Team Best Practices

In March, the I-95 Corridor Coalition published the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Teams Best Practices report. The comprehensive report introduces Best Practices from TIM teams and organizations throughout the I-95 corridor and around the country.

The report is designed to be used by TIM stakeholders to help determine how to improve their programs and see which Best Practices would most benefit their region.

Along with documenting the Best Practices, the report contains information on how to implement the practices. There is also a contact database to facilitate information sharing and communication among TIM stakeholders throughout the country. Readers of the report are encouraged to directly contact representatives from teams that have implemented a practice of interest.

The report, which includes all of the STIX states, can be found at <http://www.i95coalition.org/i95/Projects/ProjectDatabase/tabid/120/agentType/View/PropertyID/240/Default.aspx>

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## Sinkhole, Cont.



**The completed repair to the sinkhole.**

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ports of six to seven miles of backup resulting from the closure. TMC Operators activated STIX and contacted the South Carolina DOT TMC in Columbia to notify them about the incident and backup into South Carolina.

The Columbia DOT assisted GDOT by posting message signs as well as issuing a web alert to warn motorists about the backup.

Jennifer Ganzy, Atlanta TMC Supervisor, noted the Columbia TMC was quick to notify Greenville, SC and post warning signs.

“The coordination with South Carolina was great,” Ganzy said. “[The Operators in Columbia] did an excellent job.”

South Carolina’s diligence proved to be of even more assistance to GDOT when they received a complaint about the lack of notification from a Georgia motorist. GDOT was able to provide the motorist with the text from the signs posted in South Carolina to show that notifications to warn motorists had been posted. Unfortunately, this particular motorist had simply missed the signs.

While the roadwork was originally estimated to take two weeks, GDOT crews completed the work in just five days.

“Because GDOT was able to complete the work quickly, the congestion felt along the Georgia / South Carolina bordered was alleviated in less time than we had thought — always a good thing,” Ganzy said.

### Hurricane Evacuation Coordination Sponsored by STIX

Representatives for all four Southern States will hold a webinar in June to coordinate hurricane evacuation plans in each state and discuss ways for better inter-state coordination during such evacuations. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters!