

# CORRIDOR PROJECT NEWS



For the Southern Traffic Incident eXchange

March 2011

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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  
Carey Garrett @  
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## Heavy-duty towing & recovery program pays off for Georgia

The GDOT TMC recently released a study that evaluated the benefit of the Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP). Introduced in early 2008, TRIP provides monetary incentives to qualified towing operators for the safe, quick clearance of large commercial vehicle incidents on metro Atlanta's interstates.



Responders at a TRIP incident

The study calculated the benefit of TRIP, from inception to the end of 2009, as \$9,153,431 of avoided delay, wasted fuel, and excess emissions. The average savings per incident is \$456,216—compared to not using the program, TRIP has reduced the incident cost by 71%.

With a benefit-cost ratio of 10.96 to 1, TRIP saves nearly eleven dollars for every dollar invested. For more information about TRIP or this study, [contact](#) Christine Simonton. ■

### Quick Clearance in action:

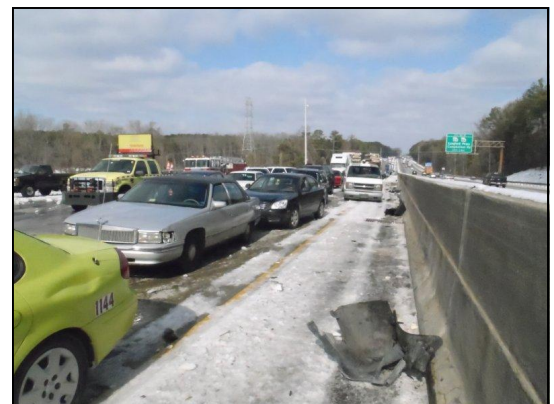
Fifty-six responders, including Guilford County Fire chiefs and personnel, attended a Quick Clearance Workshop held in Greensboro, NC, on January 27. Read about the I-95 Corridor Coalition [Quick Clearance Program](#).

### Looking ahead...

- In the coming months, Tennessee will join STIX. This will allow them to quickly and easily communicate with the other southern states.
- Two Quick Clearance Responder Workshops are scheduled for Southern HOGs states: May 23 in Atlanta, and May 25 in Greer, SC. Session announcements, including times and locations, will be issued about a month in advance.
- The I-95 Corridor Coalition is assisting in planning an Incident Management Day during the 2011 ITS World Congress to emphasize the importance of incident and emergency management. Read more about the Coalition's plans at ITS World Congress (held October 16 - 20 in Orlando; visit their [website](#) for details) on page 2 of this newsletter. ■

## STIX winter webinar a success

On February 22, more than twenty representatives from the southern states participated in a webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to explore how each state uses STIX when coordinating with their EOCs and TMCs, particularly during inclement weather. Paul Clark from FDOT, Hugh Colton from GDOT, Brian Pruvit from NCDOT, and Mike Bowman from SCDOT all gave presentations. Minutes are available [online](#). To learn more, [contact](#) Gary Millsaps, the webinar host. ■



An icy I-285 in January 2011

### 3D Virtual Transportation First Responder Training at 2011 ITS World Congress

Immersive simulation software has traditionally been used for the elite training of military personnel, fighter jet training, and high-tech NASA astronaut simulators. This type of advanced training technology is now available for transportation first responders in the new I-95 Corridor Coalition's Massively Multiplayer Virtual Incident Management program.

This multi-player, 3D, networked gaming system allows first responders from all disciplines—law enforcement, fire & rescue, transportation, medical, and towing & recovery—to become “avatars” in a virtual world of urban, suburban, and rural environments complete with ITS devices, systems, traffic simulations, transit, and all the hazards and chaos that a first responder

might face on the scene of an incident. This highly visual demonstration will showcase this exciting new software with live scenarios involving actual first responders from each discipline.

Between scheduled demonstrations, exhibit hall guests will be able to test the system for themselves and interact with first responders who will be remotely participating from other states and countries around the world. Sample scenarios could include everything from a small fender bender to a massive HazMat incident with vehicles engulfed in flames, virtual victims, and explosions.

The demo will be certain to attract attention as expert trainers discuss the merits of virtual training environments, including its

cost-effectiveness, portability, safety, effectiveness, and its ability to show the impacts of ITS traffic control strategies and incident management practices on safety and mobility. ■



### New Florida Traffic Incident Management Team



Danny Page, Emergency Coordination Officer for Florida DOT District 3, conducted the first Escambia/Santa Rosa County TIM team meeting on January 20. The meeting was held at the Escambia County Emergency Operations Center in Pensacola. Approximately 25 people attended this kick-off meeting, including representatives from the following agencies:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Emergency Response Division
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Infrastructure Corporation of America (ICA)
- Santa Rosa County Emergency Management
- TransField Services
- University of West Florida PD

including representatives from the following agencies:

- City of Gulf Breeze PD
- City of Milton PD
- City of Pensacola Fire
- Escambia County Emergency Management
- Escambia County Emergency Medical Services
- Escambia County Fire/Rescue
- Escambia County Traffic Operations
- FDOT District Safety
- FDOT Milton Operations
- FDOT Office of Motor Carrier Compliance
- FDOT Traffic Operations

In addition to the agencies who had representatives in attendance, the Escambia/Santa Rosa TIM team invited (and continue to invite) participants from all fire departments, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, and local towing and recovery companies.

The TIM team, which will be an excellent tool for enhancing coordination, communication, and cooperation among all responders, plans to meet every other month. Contact Danny Page at 850-415-9370 or [daniel.page@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.page@dot.state.fl.us) for more information.

Congratulations, Danny, for your successful efforts in establishing a second TIM team in District 3. ■

### Commercial Vehicle Infrastructure Integration at ITS World Congress

The I-95 Corridor Coalition, in partnership with the New York State DOT and Commercial Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (CVII) Project Team Members (Volvo Technology North America, Southwest Research Institute, and Kapsch), will be demonstrating elements of the CVII Program at the 2011 ITS World Congress in Orlando.

The CVII Program, initiated in 2009, focuses on developing, testing and deploying 5.9 GHz dedicated short range communications (DSRC) technology for heavy vehicles. One of the major initiatives in the national connected vehicles development effort, the CVII activities to be exhibited include safety and mobility applications between vehicles and roadside infrastructure (V2I/I2V) and vehicle to vehicle (V2V) communication including:

- In vehicle signage and traveler information (I2V) including traveler advisories
- Vehicle probe data including location, heading, speed and time (V2I)
- Commercial Vehicle driver credential verification including vehicle enabling/disabling for security purposes
- Enhanced mainline screening of commercial vehicles for wireless safety inspections including driver credential information and vehicle safety systems' status (brakes, lights, seat belt, tires)
- Maintenance vehicles broadcasting location and plowing/work zone operations to other vehicles
- V2V driver warnings enabled via the exchange of Basic Safety Messages (a.k.a. "Here I Am") including blind spot, tailgating, emergency braking ahead, and safe to pass/safe to merge.