

# Public Safety & Security Program



## *Keep America Moving Through Emergencies & National Security Events*

When disaster strikes, America's transportation system is its lifeline. The transportation system conveys those at risk away from danger, and provides access to emergency response and recovery units. If your community is not actively planning to optimize the operation and coordination of its transportation system during natural disasters or national security events, there's a missing link in your emergency preparedness plans.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration  
Office of Operations

<http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/OpsSecurity>

# Transportation Systems Are America's



**Safe, continuous movement of people and goods during emergencies depends on well-coordinated operations plans and policies. The full capability of the transportation system must be harnessed and optimized. Where they are available, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) can be an enormous benefit, particularly when they are integrated with the information and communication systems of local public safety agencies.**

## Before an Incident

- Transportation and other emergency response agencies need to interact regularly in preparing emergency plans, and they need to practice joint response activities in exercises.
- Transportation agencies need to prepare for their emergency response roles, and they need to be prepared to deliver their full disaster response capabilities. Other responders need to have a full understanding of transportation's role and capabilities.



# Lifeline

## During and After an Emergency

- Transportation agencies must be a full and equal partners with other emergency responders...
  - ◆ at the incident scene;
  - ◆ in the Transportation Management Center; and
  - ◆ at the Emergency Operations Center.

## What is FHWA Doing to Ensure Transportation Emergency Preparedness?

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Operations is working to ensure that surface transportation agencies throughout the Nation have the necessary tools and techniques to prepare for, prevent, manage, and recover from both natural and man-made disasters. Partnering in this effort are other U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) administrations, other Federal agencies, State and local agencies, industry, and university research organizations. Objectives include:

- Fostering public safety/ transportation agency partnerships;
- Encouraging improved inter-agency communication;
- Providing best practice information;
- Providing education, awareness, & training programs;
- Research & Development;
- Coordinating with DOD to ensure



that transportation system will support military deployments; and

- Advocating improved emergency-preparedness planning to include transportation operations.

## Current FHWA Public Safety & Security Projects and Activities

- Regional Emergency Management Workshops;
- Cargo security field operational tests;
- Telecommunications vulnerability reduction;
- Emergency management case studies;
- Blue Ribbon Panel on Bridge Security;
- Military deployment table-top exercises;
- Homeland Security Advisory System information for

transportation agencies;

- National demonstrations of voice / data / video integration; and
- Integration of security into the National ITS Architecture.

## Planned FHWA Public Safety & Security Projects and Activities

### Emergency Transportation Planning

FHWA's Public Safety and Security Program is planning new programs, activities, and publicaitons to help your community's transportation agency plan for:

- New threats, including chemical, biological, and chemical weapons;
- Evaluation routes and alternate routes;

- Incorporation of the Homeland Security Advisory System into your emergency preparedness plans;
- Public information and media relations during emergencies and national security events;
- Coordination with other agencies; and
- Preparedness exercises.

### ***Operational Tools and Technologies***

FHWA is planning to produce new tools, technologies, and training programs to help transportation agencies upgrade operational equipment and procedures:

- Integration of ITS with state Emergency Operations Centers;
- Use of ITS to improve and support homeland security;

- Modeling emergency scenarios;
- Voice and data interoperability of transportation and public safety agencies;
- Training transportation agency personnel in Incident Command System and Unified Command;

### ***Defense Preparedness***

FHWA is developing information and guidance to help your community support the Nation's military transportation needs here at home:

- Information on planning for support of movement of military equipment and personnel on the highway system;
- Effective coordination among military, state, and local transportation agencies;
- Effective mobilization plans.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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