

The North/West Passage Program

The North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund is a multi-state program focused on utilizing effective methods for sharing, coordinating, and integrating traveler information along the I-90 and I-94 corridor from Washington State to Wisconsin. The eight North/West Passage states are predominantly rural and face similar transportation issues related to travel.

Many trips performed along the North/West Passage Corridor involve travel through multiple states. For example, if you live in Northern Idaho and commute to Spokane you may call 511 as you prepare to leave in the morning to receive information about Idaho roads. At that time, without some form of access to Washington state road information, you would not be able to get information about your entire commute.

Weather or driving conditions that impact travel do not stop at state borders. Similarly, roadwork, closures, or other obstructions across state boundaries can significantly impact travel, and there is a need for advanced notice of these. You can dial the 10 digit number of an adjacent states' systems; however this requires you to know the adjacent state's number. Similarly, the you can simply dial 511 once they cross the state border, however this may not give much advance notice of events.



The North/West Passage Program completed a project investigating the potential to implement access to adjacent state's information between the 511 phone systems operated in each state. The report concluded that there were many physical limitations to the phone systems that make it difficult to add considerable call forwarding functionality. However, the group has identified next steps to implementation if funding becomes available.

North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund Study

511 Traveler Information



Member States

- Idaho Transportation Department
- Minnesota DOT
- Montana DOT
- North Dakota DOT
- South Dakota DOT
- Washington State DOT
- Wyoming DOT
- Wisconsin DOT

Contact

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Program Website

www.nwpassage.info

Access 511 Across the Entire North/West Passage Corridor

511 is a free, easy to remember phone number for traffic and travel information which is available across the entire North/West Passage corridor 24 hours a day. Each of the states across the corridor operates a 511 phone system which provides access to important information that may impact your trip. You can reach the system that covers the state you are traveling in by simply dialing 511. You can also access each of the 511 systems for all of the states across the corridor by dialing these toll free numbers (cell phone and roaming charges may apply).

Washington	800.695.ROAD (800.695.7623)
Idaho	888.432.ROAD (888.432.7623)
Montana	800.226.ROAD (800.226.7623)
Wyoming	888.WYO.ROAD (888.996.7623)
North Dakota	866.MY ND 511 (866.696.3511)
South Dakota	866.MY SD 511 (866.697.3511)
Minnesota	800.542.0220
Wisconsin	866.511.9472

Helpful Hints when calling 511

- The voice recognition system can be confused by background noises. If the system is having a hard time understanding your request try moving to a quieter location, turn your radio down, roll your window up.
- Motorists are urged to use their cell phones only when parked, unless a hands-free device is available.

More information about 511 can be found at the 511 Deployment Coalition website: www.deploy511.org



Access to Adjacent State's 511 Phone



Each state developed a 511 phone system independent of neighboring states traveler information phone systems. The current status of from multiple state 511 systems from a single call includes:

- Access to adjacent state's information on the western portion of the corridor, between Washington and Idaho;
- Access to adjacent state's information among and between the middle four North/West Passage states (Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota);
- There is one way information exchange on the eastern portion of the corridor, between Minnesota and Wisconsin; and
- There is a one way data exchange where callers to the middle four states can receive information about Minnesota roads.

Corridor-Wide Traveler Information Website

www.i90i94travelinfo.com



The North/West Passage states developed a corridor-wide traveler information website for travelers on the I-90/I-94 corridor from Washington to Wisconsin. The website provides users with camera images, weather conditions, and other information along the corridor to serve as a comprehensive source for traveler information relieving the need to check each state's website. Feedback from users has shown that the website is a beneficial resource for those traveling within the corridor. The North/West Passage member states would like to continue moving toward seamless boundaries by providing the option to hear 511 traveler information from adjacent states.