



Operational Guidelines for Coordinating Traveler Information with Other States along I-90/I-94

Introduction

I-90/I-94 function as major corridors for commercial and recreational travel among the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. These states are predominantly rural and face similar transportation issues related to traffic management, traveler information, and commercial vehicle operations. Recognizing the value of coordinated, cross-border collaboration for ITS deployment to address these issues, the states established the North/West Passage Transportation Pooled Fund in 2003 through the Federal Highway Administration. The states work together to develop effective methods for sharing, coordinating, and integrating traveler information and operational activities across state and provincial borders.

Purpose

These guidelines are intended to help TMC/TOC operations staff coordinate with other states when a major event occurs. Traveler information may be coordinated among nearby states when it is determined that an incident will severely impact travel.

It is important to note that these are general guidelines and coordination will be negotiable and tailored to the event. It is also recognized that these guidelines will be used in conjunction with other relevant operational guidelines governing transportation management in each state.

Operational Guidelines

1. Determine if the event will have a significant impact on travel in nearby states using the following threshold for major events.
 - a. Full closure of all lanes in one or both directions with a duration greater than two hours
 - b. Bridge or border closure, or other significant delays
 - c. Widespread hazardous condition such as significant winter weather or flooding in progress
 - d. Evacuations or other high-profile significant event that would impact interstate corridor (must have supervisor or manager approval)
2. Provide staff in nearby states with location, description, impact(s) and anticipated duration of the major event. Telephone calls are preferred for initial contact and e-mail is desired thereafter to verify event details (i.e., city or route spelling).
3. Work cooperatively with nearby state(s) to determine what message(s) to post. Messages should include location and description of the event at a minimum. For example, I-94 AT BISMARCK ND – ROAD CLOSED – USE ALTERNATE ROUTES.
4. Post messages on relevant transportation information resources including but not limited to dynamic message signs (DMS), highway advisory radio (HAR), social media, 511 telephone, smart phone apps, and web sites.
5. Notify nearby states when event clears and messages may be removed from traveler information services.
6. Participate, as requested, in after-action reviews of the major event.

Maintenance of Operational Guidelines

These operational guidelines will be reviewed annually among TMC/TOC operations staff to ensure awareness and identify changes as necessary. Following is a record of the dates and details of the original and revised versions of the guidelines.

Original: August 18, 2011

Revision 1: June 11, 2013

- Added threshold for major events to step 1 under Operational Guidelines.

Revision 2: October 17, 2018

- Removed reference to a map of traveler information resources, including TMC/TOC operational contacts, available in nearby states.
- Updated list of North/West Passage member states
- Added additional transportation information resources to step 4 (social media and smart phone apps)