



TECHNOLOGY TALKS
(excerpts from FHWA weekly reports)
Latter February Report, 2007

Georgia: Atlanta Holds Forum on Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP). On February 20, the Metro Atlanta Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) Task Force will host a TRIP Kickoff meeting to provide a forum for stakeholders to learn more about the program and how it may affect their operating procedures. The Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) will pay heavy-duty recovery companies a monetary bonus for clearing commercial vehicle wrecks quickly in Metro Atlanta. The TRIP will help reduce the duration of congestion caused by major traffic incidents by meeting TIME's aggressive clearance goal of 90 minutes or less. The project boundaries include three of the nation's top 24 worst traffic bottlenecks identified in the 2005 FHWA report on Traffic Congestion and Reliability. The project is scheduled to be operational by early 2008.

Utah Safety: The FHWA was a partner of '**Zero Fatalities**', at the 9th annual Utah Safe Kids Fair in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 16, 2007. Parents and kids learned how to stay safe in all kinds of situations through car seat classes, safety belt fit tests, 'Spot the Tot' (awareness of children while backing up) education, car trunk entrapment lessons, and other motor vehicle safety activities. To help children understand the importance of safe driving, kids got the chance to ride a scooter while being distracted (holding a cell phone), and drowsy (blindfolded). Kids can also test their skills and knowledge in a traffic and safety computer quiz game. Visit the Zero Fatalities website <http://www.zerofatalities.com/> for links and more information.

West Virginia State Routes to School Program: WV DOT held their first round of applications for the Safe Routes to School Program: Fifty-four applications were received with 34 Infrastructure applications and 20 Non-Infrastructure Applications. Over \$2.2 million was requested, which is more than funds available. The WV DOT SRTS Board is currently reviewing and scoring the applications and will recommend selections soon.

Operations/JPO/ITS: Web cast on the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule, March 19 - Working with the National Transportation Operations Coalition (NTOC), the FHWA Office of Operations Work Zone Team is offering a web cast March 19 on the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule. The focus of the web cast is to share examples from States that are in the advanced stages of their efforts to implement the Rule. Representatives from several States will share information on both their overall Rule implementation process and their work on one of the specific aspects of the Rule, including developing a WZ Policy, defining significant projects, and the development of guidelines for Transportation Management Plans (TMPs). To register for the web cast, visit http://www.ntoctalks.com/web_casts.php.

FHWA Office of Operations Participates in WASHTO-X videoconference on the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule - The Office of Operations Work Zone Team gave a presentation and participated in a WASHTO-X videoconference on the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule. The WASHTO-X Program is a two-year pooled fund research study, providing WASHTO State DOT's and the associated field offices of the Federal Highway Administration

the opportunity to conduct informal information exchanges among transportation personnel through Video communications. The videoconference was organized as a follow-up to the regional workshop held in Montana last April on the WZ Rule. The national presentation focused on the status of Rule implementation across the country. This was followed by presentations by North Dakota DOT, Wyoming DOT, and Montana DOT, each focusing on different aspects of their Rule implementation efforts. Details are available at <http://www.washtox.org/>.