



Planning for Operations

A Program Overview

*2008 Border-to-Border
Transportation Conference*

McAllen, Texas

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Rick Backlund – FHWA Office of
Operations



Planning for Operations: *Overview & Current Status of Activities*

- Overview of Planning for Operations Program
- Interim Guidebook Documents and Outreach Efforts
- Innovative Analysis Methods Report & Outreach
- Statewide Planning for Operations
- Model Transportation Plans
- National Workshop - Advancing Regional Operations
- FY 2009 – *Our Focus & Next Steps*



What is Planning for Operations?

Planning for Operations is:

- Coordination between planning & operations
- Coordination between planners & managers for day-to-day operations



Planning for Operations Program Goals

- To enhance and strengthen both the planning & the operations functions to support regional operations in the 21st Century.
- To enhance the regional decision-making process so that operations investments are on par with investments in construction & system preservation.

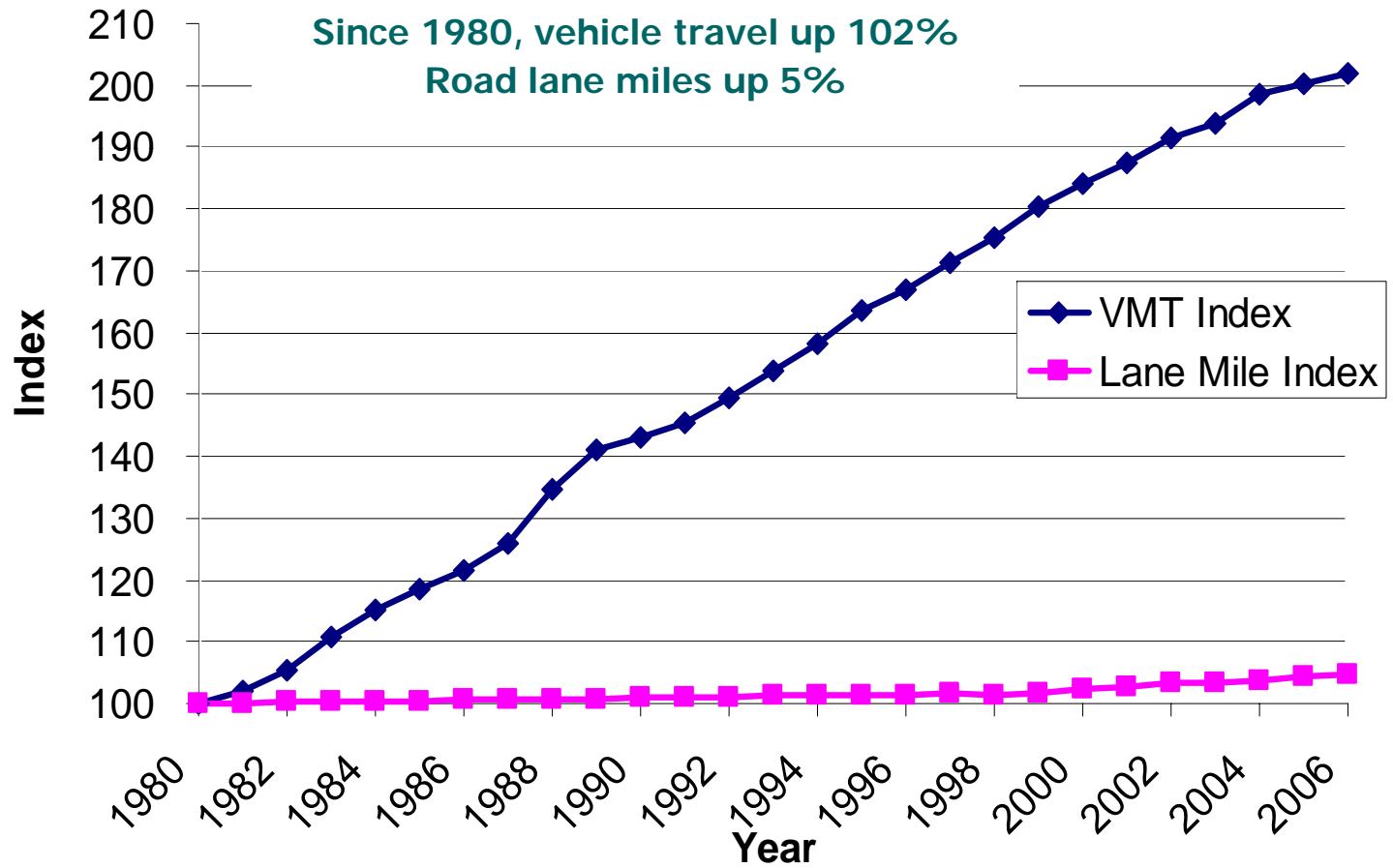


What DOT Offices Are Leading This National Initiative?

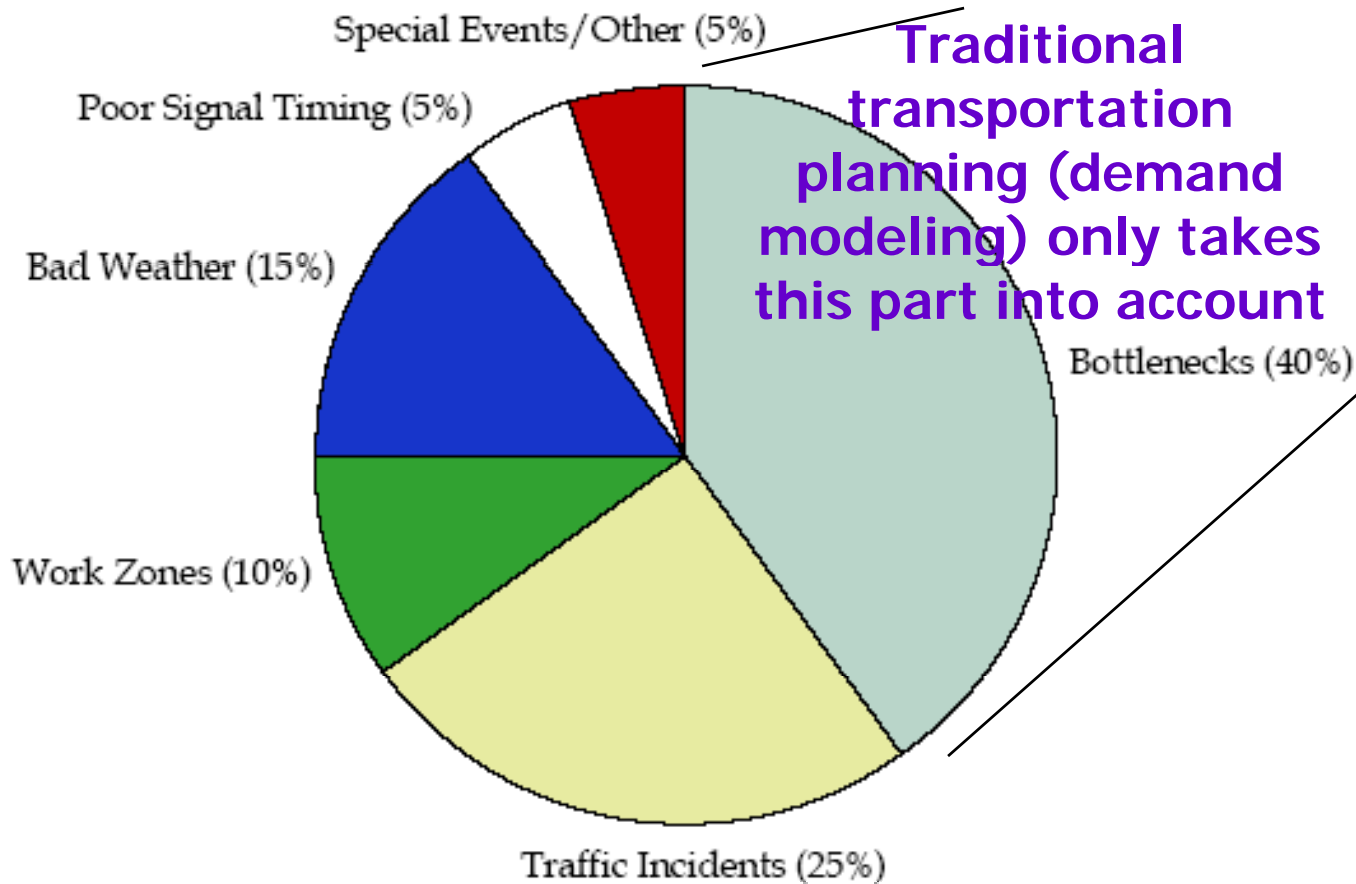
- FHWA – Office of Operations
- FHWA – Office of Planning, Environment & Realty
- FTA – Office of Planning & Environment

Capacity Constrained

Trends



Sources of Congestion: National Summary



Traffic Congestion and Reliability. FHWA (September 2005)



What Do Our Customers Want?

- Safe, seamless, and reliable travel across mode and jurisdictions
- Information about current travel conditions
- Timely information to make mode and route choices
- Efficient and reliable goods movement
- Safe and quick incident clearance
- Efficient evacuations
- Work zone coordination

Consistency across modes and jurisdictional boundaries



Motivation for the Program

○ SAFETEA-LU Requirements

- CMP: “The transportation planning process shall address congestion management through a process that provides for effective management and operation”
- Mgmt and Ops: LRTP’s ***shall*** contain “Operational and management strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities”



What is the Congestion Management Process (CMP)?

- A systematic approach applied in a metropolitan region to identify congestion and its causes, propose mitigation strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented strategies
- As an integral part of the planning process that influences decision making, the CMP feeds projects and strategies directly into the Plan, TIP, and STIP and, replaces the CMS that was often a standalone process



What is Management & Operations?

M&O is: **“A regionally integrated program to optimize the performance of existing infrastructure**

- Through multimodal and intermodal, cross-jurisdictional systems, services, and projects ...
- Includes regional operations collaboration and coordinat activities between transportation and public safety agencies.”

SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008



Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O):

The Foundation of Planning for Operations

Optimize performance of existing infrastructure by...

- Implementing multimodal, intermodal, and often cross-jurisdictional systems, services, and projects
- Preserving capacity
- Improving security, safety, reliability
- Collaborating and coordinating on regional operations

*TSM&O has been recently codified in the SAFETEA-LU
Technical Corrections Bill*



Where We Are Headed – A “Cultural Shift”

Requires Coordination
Among Decisionmakers



Regional
Transportation
Planning and
Investment
Decisionmaking

Linkage Opportunities

Requires Coordination Among
Day-to-Day Operations Managers



Transportation
Systems
Management and
Operations

Data Sharing

Performance Measures

Congestion Management Systems

Funding and Resource Sharing

Institutional Arrangements

Regional ITS Architecture

Regional Management and Operations Projects



New Thinking

*Advancing an Objectives Driven
Performance-Based Approach in
Planning for Operations*



Our Goal

- Improve the performance of regional transportation systems through
 - An objectives-driven, performance-based approach to planning for operations
 - Enhanced collaboration and coordination between planners and operators
 - Effective integration of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Management & Operation (M&O) strategies in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan



How do we effectively integrate the CMP and M&O into our planning process?

- A viable approach
- Measurable objectives
- A systematic process that includes performance measures for developing and selecting M&O strategies
- Collaboration to create more effective management & operations



Objectives-Driven, Performance-Based Approach

Transportation Plan includes:

- Goals and measurable objectives that advance operational performance outcomes of the transportation system
- Performance measures used to track progress toward objectives
- M&O strategies to meet the measurable objectives

M&O strategies are programmed and implemented in collaboration with local agencies



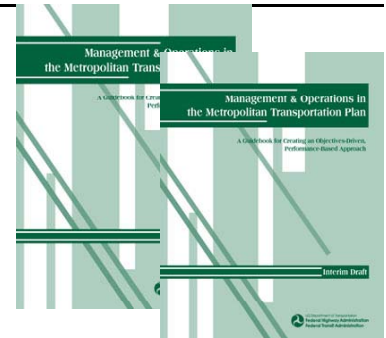
CMP and M&O Interim Guidebooks

- Interim Documents Completed
- May 16, 2008: Guidebooks Posted on Office of Operations Website & Distributed to Field Offices
- May to *December 15th*: Comment Period To Seek Input on the Documents
- *April 2009*: Guidebooks Will be Finalized

View the Guidebooks

FHWA Planning for Operations Website

<http://www.plan4operations.dot.gov>



- ***An Interim Guidebook on the Congestion Management Process in Metropolitan Transportation Planning***
<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/cmpguidebook/cmpguidebook.pdf>
- ***Management & Operations in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: A Guidebook for Creating an Objectives-Driven, Performance-Based Approach - Interim Draft***
<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/moguidebook/moguidebook.pdf>



Interim Guidebooks Outreach Efforts

- Communications Strategy Developed
- Communications Strategy Focus Areas:
 - *Informational Workshops*
 - *Web Seminars*
 - *Updating of FHWA, NHI and NTI Training Courses*
 - *Brochure for Decision makers*
 - *CD of Ready-Made Presentations*



Interim Guidebooks Outreach: Next Steps Scheduled

- May: *Completed* - Web Seminars to FHWA/FTA Field staff Explaining Intent of Guidebooks
- June 24th & 26th: *Completed* - Web Seminars to DOTs, MPOs and Transit Operators
- July/August/Sept: *Completed* - Seven Informational Workshops Across US Explaining the Guidebooks & Seeking Input



Locations of the Workshops

- Seattle – July 31
- Chicago – August 7
- Philadelphia – August 12
- Denver – August 14
- Providence – September 9
- Sacramento - September 16
- Atlanta – September 23



Innovative Analysis Methods Report and Outreach

- Winter 2009: Completion of Report Showcasing Technical Tools Available to Planners & Operators to model Operations program in Planning process
- Mid 2009: Conduct Two Interactive Outreach Workshops to Highlight Tools Recommended in Report
- Additional Workshops to Follow Fall 2009



Statewide Planning & Operations

- Advance Objectives Driven, Performance Based Approach & Collaboration Between Planning & Operations in State DOTs
- Use Momentum From Overall Guidebooks Outreach to Advance the Performance Based Approach in Partnership with AASHTO & States
- Initial Primer Document on SP&O Completed June 2008 & Undergoing Publication



Statewide Planning & Operations

Next Steps:

- Meet with AASHTO SSOM Presenting SP&O Primer Document – *Done* August 2008
- Conduct Peer Exchange - December 9, 2008
- Develop “How To” Guidebook for State DOTs
- Instructional CD to be Developed
 - Target: Mid-level State DOTs Operations & Planning personnel



Model Transportation Plans: *New Initiative with Offices of Planning & Safety*

- Initial Efforts Commenced - Contract Awarded
- Outgrowth of Work with Offices of Planning and Safety as part of TSP Committee
- Product Envisioned: Primer with Menus of Model Regional Operations & Safety Objectives In Transportation Plans
- Goal: Provide Best Practice Objectives in Regional Operations & Safety for small, medium and large sized MPOs
- *October Project Kick-Off Just Conducted*



National Workshop on Advancing Regional Operations

- December 10-12, 2008 – Washington DC
- Being Developed with TRB RTSMO Committee
- Focus Will Be Metro Areas: Improving Inter-Agency Collaboration in Operation of Transportation Systems
 - Identify Opportunities for Collaboration
 - Formulate New Approaches that can be advanced in Metro areas
 - Formulate What Research Needs to Occur to Support this Enhanced Collaboration



Our Next Steps in 2009

- *GAUGE PROGRESS*

- *Benchmark Existing Practices*

- *FOCUSED PROGRAM*

- *Conduct Targeted Workshops and Technical Assistance*

- *DEMAND MANAGEMENT & THE CMP*

- *Provide Guidance to analyze traffic impacts of demand management actions as part of Congestion Management Process*



Questions?

For More Information



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