

FHWA Traffic Incident & Events Management (TI&EM) Knowledge Management System (KMS)

Lesson Learned: West Virginia Finds, Targets Additional TIM Funding

Author/Contact: Donna Hardy, P.E.

Agency/Organization: West Virginia Department of Highways Traffic Engineering
City, State: Charleston, WV

West Virginia has the 6th largest road system in the nation, with 93% of all state roadways as part of the state system. That includes nearly 36,000 miles of highways, and more than 6,600 bridges.

In 2013, 75% of the 332 traffic-related fatalities were roadway departure crashes (the national average is 57%), and nearly 85% of those were off the interstate system, more than 70% of fatalities in rural locations. Redirected traffic often has to bear significant delays, if appropriate detour routes are even available to all traffic.

Those two pieces of information made the need clear for improved incident management to increase mobility and improve driver and responder safety.

West Virginia's Department of Highways looked at the potential for general state funding, as well as Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Program (STP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and Section 154/164 Sanction Funds (OCRO).

While state funding is more flexible than federal funding, the resources are limited, and much of the funding must go to surface maintenance and paving.

The \$12 million annual CMAQ pot of money includes flexibility for more than \$7.3 million, and it is being invested in a statewide traffic monitoring, management, and control center, as well as projects that promote improved TIM efforts.

The 2015 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is being drafted to make roadway departure one of five focus areas, giving it a higher priority than the 2007 plan, which made it one of 10 areas.

The MAP-21 programming increased West Virginia's share of Section 164 sanction funds by nearly 25% to \$9.3 million in FY 2013, and increased HSIP funding more than 67% to \$25.5 million in FY 2013.

The combination of an aggressive approach to finding funds, and directing them to where they might make the most impact, include the following current projects:

- \$25,000 to beta test FHWA TIM training in 2 locations in WV
- \$180,000 in Consultant Services to develop TIM program and state specific training
- \$1,000,000 set aside to assist any public agency participating in the WV TIM program with cones, roll-up signs, vests, and training materials

Additional Resources *(optional)*

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this document are those of the author/agency and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA's Knowledge Management System (KMS) is a national repository of traffic incident management (TIM) resources, good practices, lessons learned, and other tools. These materials have been produced by FHWA and other national partners, state agencies, and local jurisdictions across the U.S. that strive to improve their TIM operations and planning efforts. The website and its contents are provided for informational purposes only. For more information, visit <http://kms.timnetwork.org/>.