

## **Abstract**

# **The Metro Detroit Regional Transportation Operations Collaboration and Coordination Initiative**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has awarded Metro Detroit one of three national grants to develop and demonstrate a Regional Concept for Transportation Operations. The kick-off meeting for the Detroit initiative was held on May 16, 2005. Metro Detroit transportation and public safety organizations have worked together for years to improve safety and operations on Detroit area freeways through the Metropolitan Detroit Incident Management Coordinating Committee. One of the fruits of this working relationship has been the merging of the Michigan State Police dispatch operation with the Michigan Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation Systems Center. Another is the sharing of video images among transportation operating agencies. Because many of the elements for regional transportation organizations are present in the Metro Detroit Incident Management Coordination Committee, this committee is being used as a stepping stone to a regional operations organization for Metro Detroit.

The Federal Highway Administration has identified a number of possible operations activities that could be the focus of a regional operations initiative. The initial meeting indicated that Metro Detroit will benefit most if it focuses its attention on six of the possible options:

- Freeway management
- Arterial management
- Traffic incident management
- Communications network
- Traveler information
- Traffic signal coordination

The goal is to improve the operation and safety of the freeway and arterial networks through regional collaboration and coordination on traffic incident management, communications network, traveler information, and traffic signal coordination.

Metro Detroit expects to take advantage of the FHWA initiative to define how the sharing of transportation operations information can lead to safer, more efficient regional transportation operations. The Metro Detroit Traffic Incident Management Coordinating Committee has already established a basis for regional cooperation through transportation operations. Building on this base, Metro Detroit will chart a path of voluntary cooperation over a broader range of transportation operations activities – a step in evolving to a Regional Transportation Operations Organization.



