

Incident Management Task Force

November 14, 2003

To: Oz Griebel
Chairman
Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board

From: Stephen Cassano
Chairman
Incident Management Task Force
Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board

At the October 14, 2003 meeting of the Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board, the Incident Management Task Force presented recommendations for improving the efficiency, coordination and management of the response to and clearance of incidents on our highways. Although there were 48 recommendations with varying degrees of investment required, the Incident Management Task Force focused on no cost to low-cost recommendations that can be quick to implement.

The first step is to create a permanent statewide Incident Management Task Force with its mission to provide an ongoing forum for review and development of incident management programs, projects and policies. The Task Force would be responsible for providing progress reports, status on issues and make recommendations to the TSB and appointing authorities.

The Task Force should be comprised of representatives from the State Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, Motor Vehicles, and Environmental Protection, as well as representatives from the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Towing and Recovery Professions of Connecticut, emergency management services, and regional planning organizations with incident management councils. Appointments would be made by the Commissioners of State Departments, professional organizations and the regional planning agencies. Other agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, public transportation providers, and other groups and agencies involved in emergency response efforts would be invited to send participants either on a continuing ad hoc basis or as a participant in relevant discussions.

The responsibilities should include:

1. To reissue the Statewide Incident Management Policy
2. To endorse the Unified Command System (UCS)
3. To develop a UCS Manual
4. To sponsor training and drills in the UCS procedures

5. To continue to address incident management topics identified in the October 2003 White Paper, plus any additional issues identified by the Task Force
6. To develop and champion policies that promote coordination among responding agencies
7. To identify incident management needs, estimate costs, find funding and implement worthwhile projects
8. To evaluate progress and propose additional changes
9. To share lessons learned with all responders

Most of the work to be undertaken by the Task Force can be accomplished with existing staff under existing work programs. Costs for administrative support for correspondence, reproduction and distribution of reports is provided in the recommendations cost proposal document.

As mentioned earlier in this letter, there are 48 initial recommendations for improved incident management that will improve highway operations and safety of the motoring public and emergency responders. The original thought was not to develop a pricetag for these items since there was insufficient time to develop detailed recommendations, priorities, and timeframes for implementation in the IMTF report dated October 14th, 2003. Recommendations have been categorized and costs estimated for the most straightforward proposals. Some will require more study, and costs have not been estimated. A summary of the proposals is included with this letter, with the caveat that all of the identified costs are subject to further study.

It is the consensus of this Incident Management Task Force that immediate establishment of the permanent statewide Task Force will continue this important work toward improving the management and safety of highways in Connecticut.

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