

## National Conference on Advancing Regional Operations

**Background:** In every sector of our economy we see rising consumer expectations and growing demand as the public becomes more aware of what is possible with advanced technology. Efforts to meet these expectations lead to increased complexity, cross-functional systems, and institutional relationships that transcend single jurisdictions or traditional functional boundaries. We see this in health care, homeland security, public safety, energy distribution, financial systems, and global supply chains. Similarly, increased demand on the transportation network and service expectations coupled with limited funds, time, and access to land has led to an emerging trend in transportation – making the shift toward operating the existing infrastructure, across modes and jurisdictional boundaries – in order to improve system performance and reliability, efficiently use limited resources, and effectively respond to customer demands for better service.

The complexity of operating our transportation system is very apparent in metropolitan regions, where numerous jurisdictions, agencies, and service providers are responsible for safely and efficiently operating various aspects of the transportation system. They must work together if the traveling public is to realize reduced congestion, better travel information, improved response to incidents and emergencies, secure delivery of goods and services. There are many activities in a metropolitan region that in order to be successful must cross agency and jurisdictional boundaries. For example, these regional operations activities may include traffic incident management, planned special events, emergency management, communications networks, traveler information services, response to weather events, and electronic payment services. Regional operations can be effective and truly benefit the customer.

**Conference Objectives:** The overall purpose of the “National Conference on Advancing Regional Operations” is to bring together representatives from various regional transportation and public safety stakeholder groups along with national “thought” leaders to accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify and document the opportunities, challenges, and benefits of various regional approaches to the operation of our transportation systems,
- Formulate and document new and innovative approaches, programs, and models to regional operations that can be advanced to local, regional, State agencies, including those involved with planning, traffic engineering, transit, public safety, planned special events, and emergency preparedness, and
- Formulate and document a research and programmatic agenda that will enable Federal, State, and local agencies advance the concepts and practices developed at the National Conference to actual practice.

**Conference Date:** The conference is proposed for early December 2008

**Recommended Conference Location:** The TRB Keck Center in Washington, DC

**Conference Framework:** Through the use of plenary, panel, and scenario-driven breakout sessions, the conference is intended to lead the participants through a process to advance regional operations in order to accomplish a regional objective. The framework is depicted in the following diagram:

Opening Session: Opening Remarks and Plenary							
Day #1 a.m.		<u>Scenario A</u> Regional Safety Objective	<u>Scenario B</u> Regional Security Objective	<u>Scenario C</u> Regional Congestion Reduction Objective	<u>Scenario D</u> Regional Technology Applications Objective	OPTIONAL: Other Regional Objectives TBD	OPTIONAL: Other Regional Objectives TBD
	Organizing for Regional Operations Panel Session						
<b>LUNCH WITH SPEAKER</b>							
Day #1 p.m.	Planning for Regional Operations Panel Session						
Report from Groups and Adjournment							
Day #2 a.m.	Regional Program/Project Development Panel Session						
Report from Groups and Panel Discussion and Working Lunch							
Day #2 p.m.	Monitoring Regional Performance Panel Session						
<b><u>DAY 2 FINAL GENERAL SESSION</u></b>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Product #1</u>: Report from Groups</li> <li>• <u>Product #2</u>: Model Regional Programs: Benefits, Criteria, etc <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Product #3</u>: Needed Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>							