



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **I-95 Corridor Coalition Joins with Emergency Responders to Reduce Traffic Congestion and Increase Highway Safety**

On November 20, 2007, the I-95 Corridor Coalition joined with the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition in announcing a joint policy statement – the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management - committing its member organizations to an ongoing, united multi-disciplinary effort to work together more effectively to clear traffic incidents more efficiently and safely.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition is a partnership of transportation agencies, toll authorities and related organizations, serving the corridor of the United States from Maine to Florida. Built on a foundation of cooperation, communication, consensus, and coordination, Coalition members collaborate to apply Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) solutions to shared transportation problems and challenges. By leveraging resources, sharing information and coordinating programs, the Coalition adds value to the individual member organization's activities and provides a synergy for more dynamic and seamless transportation solutions throughout the Corridor.

The I-95 Corridor Coalition strongly supports the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management. Some of the I-95 Corridor Coalition's multidisciplinary programs and projects which support the National Unified Goal include:

- **Quick Clearance** – A program to achieve more consistent application of Quick Clearance/Move-It practices throughout the Corridor. The Coalition has developed a Quick Clearance Toolkit to help in initiating or improving Quick Clearance programs and activities, and includes Statutory/Regulatory/Policy Best Practices; Administrative Best Practices; and Operational Best Practices. The Quick Clearance Implementation Toolkit is being presented during a series of Quick Clearance Implementation Best Practices Workshops being held throughout the Corridor.
- **National Unified Goal Interdisciplinary Summit** – The Coalition will be hosting an interdisciplinary summit on the National Unified Goal to discuss incident management issues and recommend best practices for the resolution of those issues, while educating regional entities and emergency responders to encourage formation of regional incident management task forces.

- **Best Incident Management Team Programs** – This project will identify, study, and report on best practices regarding incident management team programs. Results will be presented at a corridor-wide forum to assist states in identifying and potentially establishing such programs.
- **Online Training Environment for Emergency Responders** - Emergency response personnel from Maine to Florida will soon be able to participate in disaster training drills from their offices thanks to a new 3-D training “serious” game that allows remote participants to interact online in various disaster and accident situations. Sponsored by the I-95 Corridor Coalition, participants interact over the web in an unlimited number of emergency situations, from car accidents, to chemical spills, to mass casualty scenarios. The goal of the technology is to expose trainees to real-life situations and to focus on their interactions with each other; this will be a part of an extensive program to help save the lives of people involved in highway accidents and the emergency responders on the scene.
- **Southern Region Incident Management Information Exchange Program** – This program will foster interstate incident notification, information sharing, and inter-jurisdictional/inter-disciplinary coordination among the Southern States of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. As the central communication hub, the Georgia DOT Transportation Management Center will receive and disseminate significant incident and traffic information to regional, district and/or state transportation management centers for distribution to traveling motorists during emergencies.
- **A Scanning Tour of Innovative Towing Programs and a Border Bridge Incident Management Best Practices Project** - The Towing Scanning Tour identified best practices, lessons learned, innovative ideas in the industry including state-of-the-practice for towing and recovery relating to quick clearance of highway incidents. The Border Bridge Project helped to identify resources and best practices to increase the operating efficiency, safety, and mobility of the highway by systematically reducing the time to detect and verify an incident occurrence, implement the appropriate response, and safely clear the incident - while managing the affected flow until full capacity is restored. In cases where incident management must transverse state boundaries, the number of agencies involved in the program increases significantly. Transportation and emergency management agencies from all states near the border must be involved in responding to incidents; this is especially the case at border bridges.

For more information, visit [www.i95coalition.org](http://www.i95coalition.org)