



FHWA Announces Upcoming Issuance of RFP for Michigan IntelliDriveSM Test Bed Operation and Maintenance

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) estimates issuance of RFP DTFH61-09-R-00029 for the Michigan IntelliDrive Test Bed Operation and Maintenance within 60 days or later of this notice. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held in Detroit, Michigan. Time and exact location will be specified in the RFP. Any questions pertaining to this notice shall be e-mailed to charles.kotch@dot.gov. Answers to all questions received, will be discussed and documented at the Pre-Proposal Conference. No questions will be answered prior to the conference.

In early 2009, the U.S. DOT re-branded the Vehicle Infrastructure Integration initiative as *IntelliDriveSM.* The *re-branding* involved more than just changing the name of the initiative. The U.S. DOT also changed some of the basic assumptions related to how vehicles and infrastructure components of the system would communicate. One major change relaxed the constraint that all vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications would use Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) radios and protocols. DSRC would continue to be used for critical safety applications that required both high availability and low latency communications, but other applications were free to use whatever wireless communications technology best fit the users* needs.

As part of the thinking that went into the IntelliDrive *re-branding*, the U.S. DOT assessed its options with regard to the Michigan Development Test Environment (DTE) used during the recent proof of concept testing. Although there are known deficiencies with the current facility, it represents a major test facility investment on the part of the U.S. DOT and has great potential value for the IntelliDrive program as it moves towards a greater focus on system deployment. To realize and maximize that value, the U.S. DOT intends to stabilize the test bed operating environment and open it up to industry for supporting continued research and demonstration needs.

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