



Summary of the 5th Annual Partnering Workshop: Metro Detroit Incident Management By: Lia Grillo, Hubbell Roth & Clark, Inc.

The Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) of Michigan and the Metro Detroit Traffic Incident Management Committee hosted the fifth annual Partnering Workshop for Metro Detroit Incident Management at AAA Michigan Headquarters in Dearborn on March 2, 2010. There were over 70 participants including those from the Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan State Police, local police and fire departments, County Road Commissions, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Universities, private engineering consulting companies and many others.

The workshop consisted of presentations in the morning, a key note speaker during lunch and a table-top exercise in the afternoon. The workshop began with a welcome address from Gerald Gutowski, Senior Vice President of Automotive Service at AAA Michigan.



Gerald Gutowski

The first presentation was made by Richard Beaubien, P.E., PTOE from Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. who is also the chair of the Metro Detroit Traffic Incident Management Coordinating Committee. His presentation focused on the accomplishments of Regional



Richard Beaubien

Transportation Operations. Some of these include the merging of Traffic Incident Management and Regional Transportation Operations; the continued success of the Freeway Courtesy Patrol; the increasing number of Responder Safety Workshops; moving forward of the safe, quick clearance legislation; and increased usage of the MI Drive website.

Matt Smith, P.E., PTOE, from the Michigan Department of Transportation discussed the quick clearance of major traffic incidents on Metro Detroit freeways from 2009. He focused on three main incidents: the attempted suicide jumper on I-696 at Van Dyke in May, the multi-vehicle accident on EB I-696 at Orchard Lake Road and the tanker explosion on I-75 at 9 Mile Road. The details of each incident were explained including the impact of the incident and which incident management techniques were applied.



Matt Smith



Marcia Wright

The third presentation was conducted by Marcia Wright who is the Director of Automotive Services at AAA Michigan. Her presentation focused on the *where* and *who* of tow service in Metro Detroit: who you call depends on where you are. Marcia discussed the services AAA Michigan provides and how we can help each other.



Next, Terry T. Brown from Metro Networks provided his insight on how traffic reporters and public safety dispatch can help each other. He provided entertaining stories to make the point that everyone is in this together so why not help each other.



Terry T. Brown



John Corbin

John Corbin from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation provided the keynote address on the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition while the participants enjoyed lunch compliments of ITS Michigan. He focused on the evolving business case for traffic incident management, the national framework for progress put in place with the Coalition and National Unified Goal and the fundamental challenges that are being faced.

After lunch, Deputy Chief Phil Wagner from the City of Romulus Fire Department provided an introduction to the table-top exercise scenario before the participants split into three separate groups. The objectives of the table-top exercise were to identify partners, establish and promote unified incident command concepts, recognize basic communication needs and opportunities and present opportunities for enhancement incident management. The scenario involved a tanker truck on Eastbound I-94 at I-275 that closed both freeways and corresponding ramps.



Deputy Chief Phil Wagner

The participants then split into three groups located in separate rooms: Emergency Responders, Transportation and Incident Command Center. The discussions in each room were led by facilitators to keep the conversations on track. After the table-top exercises, the group reconvened in the main room and discussed the major points made during their discussions.



Table-Top Exercise Rooms from Left to Right: Transportation, Incident Command and Responders

Overall, the goal of the workshop, to initiate communication among agencies, was accomplished. It is up to the participants to continue their relationships and focus on working together more closely in the future.