

14 th Annual Traffic Incident Management Partnering Workshop – March 7, 2019

More than 100 participants attended the Partnering Workshop for Traffic Incident Management held at the Oakland County Executive Conference Center in Waterford, Michigan on March 7. The program started with a welcome from Oakland County Deputy County Executive Phil Bertolini and Deputy County Road Manager Gary Piotrowicz. Michigan Department of Transportation Chief Operating Officer Ton Kratofil provided background information on how traffic incident management fits into the state emphasis on transportation systems management and operations. The Michigan Department of Transportation has merged several areas (intelligent transportation systems, congestion mitigation and air quality, etc.) into a new Transportation Systems Management and Operations Division. He noted that data is important for all first responders (EMS, police, fire, emergency management, road agencies). The objective is to save lives more quickly through smart technology investments. Performing incident response more collectively is the goal. Partnerships and relationships are the key to success.

The Partnering Workshop is intended to convey information about how to clear traffic incidents quickly and safely. It is also intended to develop relationships among first responders so there is an understanding about the roles of the various responders. It answers the question of who is in charge of what. Those goals were achieved on March 7 at the Executive Conference Center when more than 100 participants were attracted to the event. The participants came from all parts of the region and represented a variety of disciplines.

The cooperative relationships hoped for among the first responders were exemplified by the organizers of the event. The Michigan Department of Transportation, the Oakland County Executive, the Road Commission for Oakland County, Oakland County Emergency Management, the Transportation Improvement Association, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan each had a role in bringing the event together.

Presentations at the event included a description of the Oakland County Connected Vehicle Program by Phil Bertolini of Oakland County and Ahmad Jawad from the Road Commission for Oakland County. The Michigan Department of Transportation representatives Reggie Washington and Barbara Swan described a fire response on I-275 during below freezing weather conditions. Ryan Davids from Incident Clear described Freeway Courtesy Patrol innovations including a traffic incident trailer. A case study of a ramp incident a M-5 and I-275 which involved both Farmington Hills fire service and Oakland County Emergency Management was presented by Lt. James Neufeld and Thom Hardesty. Finally, an Emergency Management Incident Management Interface Exercise supervised by Mike Loper of Oakland County Emergency Management with assistance from Ian Lee and Andrew Arnold from the National Weather Service.