

**TMC Pooled-Fund Study  
Project Proposal Form**

<b>Project Category:</b> Operational Policies, Strategies, & Plans	<b>Project Number:</b> 22
<b>Project Title:</b> Coordinated Freeway and Arterial Operational Plans and Procedures	
<b>Statement of Problem:</b> <p>Traffic management activities of most TMCs focus on its region's freeways. When nonrecurring congestion-causing events such as incidents, adverse weather conditions, construction projects, maintenance activities, or special events impact the traffic-carrying capacity of the freeways, motorists often fall back upon the local road network in order to achieve their travel needs. Actions taken by the TMC such as exit closures, traveler information, and changes in ramp metering rates can impact the effectiveness of these local roadways as alternate routes. Thus, effective coordination between the TMC and the region's municipalities can improve the state of overall travel throughout the regional network.</p> <p>This coordination can take many forms, and may be either ad-hoc or according to detailed pre-arranged plans. The communication between agencies ranges from formal and highly integrated system-to-system communication, to informational phone calls and faxes. Based on information received from the TMC, the municipality can, for example, adjust signal timing to speed movement of diverted traffic along alternate routes or along arterial pathways to alternate freeway routes. Temporary actions by the municipality such as suspension of street cleaning or early closure of work zones on major arterials may also both improve flow and increase traffic safety. Input to the TMC from the municipality may allow the TMC to take appropriate actions that will minimize the movement of diverting traffic into sensitive areas such as schools, hospital zones, or pedestrian-intensive areas.</p>	
<b>Suggested Approach:</b> <p>A survey of common practices and description of the most successful ones could benefit both TMC operators and municipal traffic operations groups. Ideas for overcoming barriers that prevent or complicate this coordination would be valuable, and could be shared broadly. Analysis of these practices could be extended in later work to include optimization and integration of the variety of types of activities. The survey of approaches, identifying potential benefits to all parties, could also be used to convince recalcitrant jurisdictions of the benefit to the region that would result from their participation. Such benefits would also be useful in convincing decision-makers to invest resources that would make the coordination both less resource-intensive and more effective.</p>	
<b>Products:</b>	
<b>End Users (Product Customer):</b>	
<b>Training, Outreach, and Distribution Plan:</b>	

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<b>Rough Order of Magnitude Cost:</b>  Person Hours: _____ Labor Cost: _____ Direct Costs: _____ Total Cost: _____	Comments:
<b>In-Kind Support or Other Funding (Beyond SP&amp;R):</b>	
<b>Suggested Schedule for Major Milestones:</b>	
<b>Benefits</b>	