

Integration of Aviation Weather Information Systems with Roadside Weather Information Systems for Rural Air Fields and Heliports

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Under contract with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University, in partnership with the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) at San Jose State University, conducted a research and development study of the proof-of-concept system for integrating aviation weather information systems with Roadside Weather Information Systems (RWIS). The project was started in 2008. The goal of the project was to meet the potential needs of providing airport managers, air traffic controllers, pilots, and related operators of air ambulance services with more comprehensive and accurate meteorological data by integrating currently used weather systems with systems used by related agencies. Implementing such an integrated system is expected to improve safety and increase efficiency. The project was targeted at small, underserved rural airfields and heliports. The principal deliverable of the project is a website that integrates weather information from multiple sources including Caltrans and the National Weather Service, to present rural aviation users with an easy to use and useful mechanism for investigating current and forecast weather conditions.