

The WSRTC – An Implementers Pooled-Fund to Tackle the Challenges of Rural ITS

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The Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC), comprised of California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada, is a pooled fund which facilitates and enhances safe, seamless travel throughout the western United States. The WSRTC promotes innovative partnerships, technologies and educational opportunities to meet these objectives. Additionally, it provides a collaborative mechanism to leverage research activities in a coordinated manner to respond to rural transportation issues among western states. The Consortium focuses on technology transfer/education and incubator projects (small scale research projects intended to serve as a “proof of concept” for larger subsequent efforts) centered on the pillars of technology, operations and safety. This presentation will discuss what the Consortium is, its origins and history, the challenges it addresses, the benefits it provides, the work completed to date by its incubator and spinoff projects and its technology transfer activities. A specific focus of the discussion will be on the incubator, spinoff and technology transfer activities completed to date, which represent the tangible results of Consortium collaboration. These include analysis and recommendations for optimization and deployment of web-based projects, radar speed sign deployment guidance, evaluation of the Fredonyer Pass icy curve warning system, One Stop Shop for rural traveler information, WeatherShare, Integration of aviation AWOS with RWIS, Automated Safety Warning Controller, Redding Responder, Professional Capacity Building (PCB) for Communication Systems, and the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum.