

Road Weather Management Best Practices Library, Version 3.0

Primary Author: Ray Murphy, US DOT/FHWA

Secondary Author(s): None Listed

Weather threatens surface transportation nationwide and impacts roadway safety, mobility, and productivity. There is a perception that transportation managers can do little about weather. However, three types of Road Weather Management strategies may be employed in response to environmental threats: Advisory Strategies, Control Strategies, and Treatment Strategies. Advisory strategies provide information on prevailing and predicted conditions to both transportation managers and motorists. Control strategies alter the state of roadway devices to permit or restrict traffic flow and regulate roadway capacity. Treatment strategies supply resources to roadways to minimize or eliminate weather impacts. Many treatment strategies involve coordination of traffic, maintenance, and emergency management agencies. These mitigation strategies are employed in response to various weather threats including fog, high winds, snow, rain, ice, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, and avalanches. FHWA's Road Weather Management Program has just completed an updated version of their Best Practices Library, an invaluable resource for those wanting to deploy solutions that alleviate the impacts of adverse weather. The original library was nearly a decade old, dating back to 2002. We have assessed current road weather management practices used in every region of the country and documented the best to advance the deployment of Road Weather Management concepts and technology. Broad participation in this effort from the stakeholder community in sharing their successful, innovative strategies that they are employing for managing transportation operations and safety will help to improve roadway operations under inclement weather conditions.