

Enhancing and Expanding Citizen Assisted Reporting

Primary Author: Dean Deeter, Athey Creek Consultants

Secondary Author: Vince Garcia, Wyoming DOT

Wyoming DOT has successfully developed and deployed the Enhanced Citizen Assisted Reporting System (ECAR) that allows authorized citizens to manually report driving conditions to Wyoming DOT staff, who then enter the events into the statewide reporting system for dissemination on 511 and the web. Authorizing citizens to provide road conditions has benefited the DOT and the traveling public by enhancing increased traveler information coverage especially in rural areas of Wyoming. The North/West Passage Pooled Fund Study that includes the I-90 and I-94 corridor recently conducted an assessment of how Wyoming's citizen reporting program might expand in scope or expand regionally throughout the corridor. As part of this assessment, the North/West Passage members are currently researching a variety of strategies and scenarios that would allow a citizen assisted reporting system to expand throughout the corridor. Some strategies include creating a web based citizen entry tool to alleviate DOT staff entering events during busy times, social networking technologies and crowd sourcing. It is anticipated that the presentation for this project at the conference will highlight the following information:

- Summary of Wyoming DOT's citizen reporting system;
- Summary of challenges of developing a citizen reporting system and how Wyoming DOT addressed each challenge;
- Suggested first steps for state's interested in implementing a citizen reporting system;
- Summary of options for expanding citizen reporting to other locations along the corridor or by adding functionality to the Wyoming system; and
- The selected approach to be implemented along the North/West Passage corridor, and the business model for this approach.