Wyoming’s Enhanced Citizen Assisted Reporting (ECAR) - Expansion

Dean Deeter
Athey Creek Consultants
Topics

• Introduce North/West Passage Program

• Summary of ECAR

• ECAR Expansion Project

• Planned Activities
North/West Passage Pooled Fund

- Encompasses eight states along I-90/I-94 between Washington and Wisconsin
- Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) study formally established in 2003
  - Minnesota is the administrative state
Background

Program Goals:

– Integrated Traveler Information Systems

– Coordinated Maintenance Operations

http://www.nwpassage.info
Wyoming DOT Initiative:
- Citizens Report Driving Conditions
4 Key Aspects of ECAR:

1. Recruiting
2. Training
3. Reporting
4. Entry & Dissemination
Wyoming’s Experience with ECAR:

1. Considerable Number of Reports

2. Very Accurate & Reliable
ECAR Summary

North/West Passage Project:

- Explore the Feasibility of Expanding ECAR:
  - Across the Corridor?
  - Additional Functions?
ECAR Summary

North/West Passage Project:

• Shared WYDOT’s Approach in a Webinar & Follow-up Report

• Research Any Issues or Concerns

• Research Options for Expansion
Phase 1 – Sharing WyDOT’s Approach

**Concerns Expressed by Webinar Attendees**

- Staffing / Scalability Concerns?
- Additional Reports Beyond Driving Conditions?
- Liability Issues?
- Gaining DOT Support (Internally)?
Phase 2 of This Project

Explore Options for Expanding ECAR, either:

- To Other NWP States (or Entire Corridor)
- Within Wyoming – Adding Functionality
2 Options Evaluated for Discussion

1. Web Entry Tool for Citizens (Desktop or Mobile)

2. Social Media “Crowd-sourcing” Tools (e.g. Twitter)
Citizen Web Entry Tool

1. Much Like Condition Reporting Systems in NWP Member States

2. Only Trained & Authorized Citizens Can Log in and Enter

3. Reduce or Eliminate Need for Phone Reports

4. Can Still Mandate & Review the Information Entered
Crowd-Sourcing:

“…Enlisting a general ‘crowd’ of unspecified individuals to offer their input to a process.”

Examples:

Twitter and Facebook.
NWP States’ Twitter Accounts

- MDT 778 Followers
- Mn/DOT 2598 Followers
- ITD 1,219 Followers
- WSDOT 6766 Followers
Twitter

WSDOT Posts a Message
Twitter

Citizen Comments on Traffic

On SR 167 southbound at S 180th St there is a collision blocking the right lane.

@wsdot_traffic

ericat13

@wsdot_traffic any idea why 520 westbound is a parking lot?

rebeatall

@wsdot_traffic Know what’s going on on WB 520? Just a lot of traffic or a wreck?
2012 Planned Project
ECAR – Phase 2
Next Steps - Preliminary Plans

1. Wy/DOT Plans to Add Web Entry Tool for Trained Citizen Reporters

2. Wy/DOT Web Entry Tool Will Output Data using XML
3. Idaho (ITD) Will Recruit & Train Citizens to Use Web Entry

4. ITD to Implement ECAR Web Entry Tool
   - Some Citizens Will Enter Conditions Across border
   - Idaho Events Ingested into ITD Condition Reporting System / Verified by Staff
   - Idaho Events Entered by Citizens to Reach Travelers through ITD 511 and Web Dissemination
Project Goals:

- Understand Citizens’ Reactions to Web Entry
- Introduce ECAR to a New NWP State
- Encourage Citizens Entering Across State Borders
Project Being Considered

1. DOT Entry of Events (As done now)
2. Events Entered and Posted to Websites
3. Travelers May Comment on DOT Entered Events

Recruited / Trained Travelers or Any Travelers
Welcome to the North/West Passage Corridor Traveler Information Website. Click on the blue dots below to view current camera images and weather conditions at key locations along the corridor. Click on the yellow icons to view incidents along the corridor. Or, click on a state for a closer view with more information. Please let us know if you have any suggestions on improving this website by taking a short survey.
Use of Blog-enabled Websites

Roadwork on I-94 at Exit 75, paving operations until 5:00 PM May 18, 2011. Expect lane closures and delays. Source: WSDOT

Citizen Comment: Just passed this site and the right lane is closed, we were delayed 20 minutes. Source: unverified citizen. 10:15am 5/18/2011
Summary

#1: Expansion of ECAR in Wyoming
- Wy/DOT Development

#2: New ECAR Deployment in Idaho
- ITD Development

#3: Possible Citizen Additions to DOT Entries
- Still Being Discussed
Contact Information

Project Champion
Vince Garcia
Wyoming DOT
Vince.garcia@wyo.gov

Dean Deeter
Athey Creek Consultants
deeter@acconsultants.org

www.nwpassage.info