

A POLICY FORUM: WEATHER AND HIGHWAYS

developed by the

ATMOSPHERIC POLICY PROGRAM AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Army and Navy Club
901 17th Street NW
Washington, DC

PROGRAM

Tuesday – November 4, 2003

0830 Opening Remarks/Welcome: E. Friday, President, AMS; Regina McElroy, Director, Office of Transportation Operations, FHWA

0840 Federal Coordination Perspective – Samuel P. Williamson, Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

0850 Forum Overview: Richard Greenfield, Associate Director and Senior Policy Fellow, Atmospheric Policy Program, AMS

0900 Keynote Address: Scott Rayder, Chief of Staff, NOAA

0930 Panel 1: Present and near-term potential in providing weather information to improve the highway system. *The panelists will provide their perspective on present and potential capabilities to provide useful weather information for effective, safe highway operations taking into account recent findings and recommendation of national organizations (OFCM, NRC, FHWA).*

Moderator: Ray Ban, Executive Vice President of Meteorology, Science and Strategy, The Weather Channel, Inc.

Bill Mahoney, Program Development Manager, Research Applications Program, National Center for Atmospheric Research

Greg Mandt, Director, Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services, National Weather Service, NOAA

Leon Osborne, President and Cofounder, Meridian Environmental Technology, Inc.

Lester Yoshida, Vice President, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Quixote Corporation

1030 Break

1100 General Discussion – preliminary findings and recommendations focused on the questions considered by the panel:

1. What improvements are needed in observational, technological, and modeling capabilities to significantly increase the nation's safety on the highway system during adverse weather?
2. How is weather information communicated to highway system decision makers and what improvements should be made?
3. What are the opportunities for and barriers to effective application of weather information to highway safety and operations?

1230 Lunch

1400 Panel 2: Public (federal, state, local) and industrial development of strategies and plans to effectively respond to weather and climate information. *The panelists will consider technological, economic, legal, and administrative issues.*

Moderator: Shelley Row, Chief Technical Officer and Council Secretary, Institute of Transportation Engineers

Lon Anderson, Director of Public Affairs, Mid-Atlantic Region, AAA

Lisa Ballard, Research Engineer, Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University

Rick Nelson, Assistant Director of Operations, Nevada Department of Transportation

Jeff Paniati, Associate Administrator for Operations, Acting Director of ITS Joint Program Office, Federal Highway Administration

1500 Break

1530 General Discussion – preliminary findings and recommendations focused on the questions considered by the panel:

1. How do highway system managers and users apply weather information?
2. How is the nation's highway system changing, and how will this affect the development of applications?
3. What are the opportunities for and barriers to effective application of weather information to highway safety and operations? What improvements in weather information and applications could enhance the safety and operations of the nation's highway system?

1700 First day wrap-up

1730 Reception and Dinner

Speaker – Jeffrey N. Shane, Under Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation

Wednesday – November 5, 2003

0815 Preliminary Remarks (Richard Greenfield, Atmospheric Policy Program, AMS)

0830 Panel 3: Policy issues in implementing effective application of weather services to the management of the nation's highway system. *The panelists will discuss policy needs to clarify roles, responsibilities, and funding (i.e., federal, state, local coordination; public-private sector cooperation; political considerations; and regulatory and equity issues).*

Moderator: Jonathan Gifford, Assoc. Professor of Public Management and Policy, George Mason University

Tony Kane, Director of Engineering & Technical Services, AASHTO

Eric Webster, Staff Director, Environment, Technology, and Standards Subcommittee, Science Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

Robert Skinner, Executive Director, Transportation Research Board, NRC

Louis Boezi, Former Deputy Director, National Weather Service, NOAA

The panelists will each make a 20 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute intra-panel discussion of policy issues, options, and opportunities related to the application of weather information to the highway management and policy system.

1000 Break

1030 General Discussion – preliminary findings and recommendations focused on the questions considered by the panel:

1. What are the key institutional and financial policy issues in promoting effective application of highway weather information?
2. What opportunities are emerging and what impediments are in place that have impacted progress to date?
3. What public policies are needed to foster effective application of weather services to the management of the nation’s highway system?

1200 Lunch

1300 Discussion of the overarching findings and recommendations of the Forum.

Moderator: Richard Greenfield, Atmospheric Policy Program, AMS

Focus on identifying recommendations and policy implementation options necessary to effectively apply weather information to our nation’s highway systems.

1430 Actions and Next Steps

1500 Status of actions from prior fora in the AMS Atmospheric Policy Program Forum Series and summary of future plans (William Hooke, Atmospheric Policy Program, AMS)

1530 Adjourn