



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mr. Paul R. Brubaker
Administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Brubaker:

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) has learned that the Detroit Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) Developmental Test Environment (DTE) is having difficulty achieving its important mission of providing a critical research, development, and test environment to evaluate wireless vehicle communications and numerous applications including new surface transportation weather capabilities.

In the U.S. each year, adverse weather is associated with over 1.5 million vehicle accidents and more than 7,000 highway deaths. The economic toll of these deaths and injuries is estimated at \$42B per year. Weather plays a role in about 28% of all crashes and 19% of total fatalities. The societal and economic impacts of adverse weather on the roadway system are huge.

The meteorological community feels strongly that the availability of VII-enabled probe data would lead to improvements in road weather and road condition services including better detection of hazards. Benefits that are likely to be realized by VII technologies are documented in the 2007 FHWA report titled *Weather Applications and Products Enabled Through Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII)*.

The VII DTE in Detroit provides a critical all-weather environment to test and evaluate new surface transportation weather services that will improve safety and mobility. We strongly encourage the USDOT to address the DTE problems and deficiencies in a timely manner so that testing can continue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director

Cc: Ms. Shelley Row

About the AMS

The mission of the American Meteorological Society is to advance the atmospheric and related sciences, technologies, applications, and services for the benefit of society. Founded in 1919, the AMS has a membership of more than 13,000 and represents the premier scientific and professional society serving the atmospheric and related sciences. Additional information regarding society activities and membership can be found at www.ametsoc.org.