CARS Pooled Fund Effort

Realizing Benefits from Partnering with Others

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Presentation Summary

- CARS Pooled Fund
- CARS-511 Consortium
- Deployments and benefits
CARS
Condition Acquisition & Reporting System

- CARS Pooled Fund
  - Started in 1998
  - IA, MN, MO, WA
  - Each state invested funds to create base system
  - Added funding to provide specific enhancements needed in each state
What is CARS?

- Enforcement & Emergency Responder Offices
- Internet Sites
- 511
- Cable TV
- OnStar, etc.
- Wireless
- Land or Cell Phones
- Palm Pilots
- DOT Offices around area
- CARS Database

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The group comprises of:

- New Hampshire
- Maine
- Vermont
- Alaska
- Iowa

- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- Washington
- Missouri

Pooled fund led by Iowa DOT
CARS

- Using National ITS Standards
  - TMDD Event Messages
- Exchanges information in XML with dissemination mediums
- Allows for distributed network
- Standard Internet protocol
Pooled Fund Benefits

- States own software so they can control direction of enhancements
- States collectively meet every 6-9 months to discuss future enhancements and funding
- Allows quick deployment in a new state
- States share all enhancements, scope determined by states that are funding effort
Additional Benefits for States

- Rapid deployment after selecting CARS System
  - Approximately 4 months to deployment
  - Integration / use of GIS based maps taken from DOT collected data

- Established and proven system operating in larger states such as Minnesota and Washington

- Operational plans, guidance and suggestions from other states using the same system easily shared amongst group
Partnerships with other states
- Iowa leading multi-state effort ($600K)
- Vermont adding $150K to assist in development and deployment of two demonstration sites in Vermont
- New Mexico considering joining partnership

- Share development costs
- Use some existing deployment infrastructure
- Automated programming
- Dynamic program adjustment based on events
CARS – DMS

- **Partnerships with other states**
  - Iowa leading effort
  - New Hampshire planning on using system to generate DMS messages based on current situations on roadway network

- **Project Details**
  - CARS aware of roadway events and sign locations
  - Advanced scenario planning for dissemination plan
  - CARS will recommend to operator signs and messages based on events on network
  - Use MS/ETMCC message sets to communicate with DMS central software to request message to be displayed
CARS – WEB

- Automatically updated using common source code
- Site display customized to individual state needs
- Share costs and benefits of enhancements
CARS – Amber Alert

- Partnerships with others
  - Iowa leading coordinated multi-state effort ($1.25M)
  - Working together: DOT, Law Enforcement, Emergency Responders, Broadcast Media & Industry Leaders

- Share development costs
- Use existing deployment infrastructure (DMS, LPFM, Web Pages, 511 Messages)
- Tailor local entry to follow Amber Alert plan within each State
- Dynamic program adjustment based on events
- Common Set of Messages
Integration of CAD Data

- Computer-Aided Dispatch system data can be merged with CARS data to enhance existing data collection of accidents and incidents.
- Location based information data exchanged.
- Key event identifiers transmitted to provide traveler related event details.
- Filter out sensitive or private information prior to data exchange.
Travel Information Website

- Website automatically updated every 10 minutes
- Text and graphic-based information
- Meets ADA Compliance for information
- Fully customizable maps, data displays and event groupings
511
Nationwide Traveler Information Number

CARS-511 is an eight state consortium working together to build a state-of-the-art 511 system.

When 511 is dialed the system greets and gives the statewide synopsis if the caller does not provide a city of interest.
CARS-511

Standard menu provides a list of categories to choose from:

- **Statewide Traffic**
- **Regional Traffic**
- **Road Weather Information**
- **Transit**
- **Ferries**

- **Future potential for other options**
CARS-511 Report

- The caller can choose either the *FULL REPORT* or one of the highways affected by one or multiple situations.

- Have a sample of the phone system play here
CARS – LPFM Module

"Accident Ahead..."
LPFM Automated, Live Content

no new data entry

Browser-based CARS data entry

LAN or WAN

Wireless

CARS Voice Response System

CARS

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Pager controlled signs with beacons for Low Powered FM Sites

- Static signs with flashing beacons
- RDS and RDS-EON
- Direct users to partner radio stations and frequencies
CARS – 511

The group comprises of:

- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Alaska
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
CARS-511 Benefits

- Lowered costs for DOT from larger market size (17 million people within 8 states)
- Better technology from shared resources
- More phone lines ... less busy signals
- Sharing of operational costs
- Spreading demand load across 4 time zones
Benefits Realized by States

- Traveler Information Website software used by 8 states
- Common software for 511 phone system
- Pager alerts “a hit” with Management in Maine
- Better inter-office and inter-agency communication of roadway situations
How to operate cost effectively?

- **Partnerships**
  - DOT, Police, Cities, Tourism

- **Automation where possible**
  - Remove duplication of efforts
  - No extra data entry

- **Savings for operations staff**
  - Answering calls
  - Recording phone and radio messages
  - Updating websites

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Thank You

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