

U.S. Secretary Ray LaHood & Senior Transportation, Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS Executives to meet on Traffic Incident Management

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will host a two-day summit on advancing the culture of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) throughout the country. U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Raymond LaHood and Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez will welcome the group and provide opening remarks demonstrating the commitment of FHWA and USDOT senior executives in support of safe, quick traffic incident responses on the Nation's roadways. Participants will convene at the USDOT Headquarters Building on June 26 and 27, 2012. Those attending this summit include about 40 national leaders in the fields of transportation, law enforcement, fire/rescue, emergency medical services and their related associations.

This forum of senior-level, multi-disciplinary executives will tackle tough challenges and discuss innovative solutions to help enhance TIM strategies related to TIM policies and procedures. The group will also discuss the effectiveness of State and local legislation on Safe, Quick Clearance and outreach to TIM practitioners and motorists to ensure maximum public and responder safety and compliance with laws. The agenda will include a discussion of national TIM training to prepare stakeholders to adopt a forward-focused approach to safely and efficiently plan for and execute traffic incident operations.

Some of the issues expected to be addressed at the June Summit include:

- Development and adoption of strategies to improve responder and motorist safety and consistency across jurisdictions
- Commitment to support TIM Outreach Initiatives and messages
- Discussion that supports the enhancement of State/local legislation and policies that advance TIM planning and operations, including Driver Removal and Authority Removal legislation
- Support for urgent and clearly defined research strategies, such as model Move Over and Driver Removal laws, the effects of emergency lighting, and the impact of TIM performance measures
- Implementation of the National TIM Responder Training course developed through the Transportation Research Board's Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) II
- Addressing actions that can improve the efficiency of the highway system, such as roles and responsibilities among the responders, possible cost-recovery strategies, and better investment of cost-efficient resources and
- Developing an action-based executive group equipped to provide leadership, support, and guidance in the advancing priority actions identified during the Summit.

FHWA anticipates that this high-profile meeting will result in the identification of gaps and good practices that will help FHWA define the National TIM program work plan for the next several years. FHWA will produce a report following the Summit that will summarize the two-day event. The report will be available from the FHWA Office of Transportation Operations by the beginning of August 2012, and will be posted on its Traffic Incident Management website at http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/eto_tim_pse/about/tim.htm. Questions may be address to the Traffic Incident and Events Management team at TI&EM@dot.gov.