

STC Research Project Description

Project Title: The Role of Transportation Management Centers (TMCs) in Homeland Security

Principal Investigator: Michael Pietrzyk and Patricia A. Turner

University: University of South Florida, Center for Urban Transportation Research

Telephone: (813) 974-3120

Email Address: Pietrzyk@cutr.eng.usf.edu
turner@cutr.eng.usf.edu

External Project Contact (if applicable):

Address Street:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Email Address:

Project Start Date: 2/11/2001

End Date: 3/11/2001

Other Milestones, Dates:

Project Objective:

This white paper will expand on a current CUTR study being funded by the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Organization (MPO) that is defining regional TMC functionality from a local government perspective, defining additional planning, design, and operational requirements of TMCs necessary to assist in time homeland security activities.

Project Abstract:

The greater Miami area serves as the “gateway to South and Central America”, particularly in regards to international commerce and banking. Any act of terrorism to this area would impact this vital function and require immediate and regionally coordinated response action.

The Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (EOC) maintains emergency preparedness plans for the County and 30 municipalities, and monitors weather conditions, terrorism activities, changes in the Cuban government, and the area nuclear plant. When emergency service providers and TMC share information, each is capable of performing more effectively thereby improving public safety. In addition, resource sharing improves efficiencies and response times and maximizes limited resources.

Coordinated efforts between EOCs and TMCs for responding to incidents have been ongoing. However, the waters have not been tested in the event of a terrorist attack. It is not known what events would signal the EOC to communicate with the TMC in the event of a terrorist attack. The functionality of existing and future TMCs should be capable of lending support in the response action. Just how this can and should be done is the basis for the white paper. What security events trigger the EOC to communicate with the TMC? What security related activities should be monitored? How should the information be shared with the TMC? These are a few of the questions that will be explored in this white paper.

Task Description:

3. Conduct interview with the department heads of the Miami-Dade EOC and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) TMC to explore the above questions.
4. Collect information on procedures, policies, and communication protocols necessary to activate at the TMC level in times of homeland security invasion. These would be related, but not limited to: information gathering, information verification, information sharing, and means of information dissemination.
5. Draft and review paper
6. Submit white paper for acceptance (
 - a. 4 hard copies (with authors name and social security numbers)
 - b. 1 electronic copy)

Total Budget: \$ 5,000

Student Involvement (Thesis, Assistantships, Paid Employment):

None

Relationship to Other Projects:

Expands Miami-Dade County Transportation Management Center (TMC) Functionality Study

Technology Transfer Activities:

Participate in regional conference on transportation security if requested by STC, and solicit expansion of research concept with other agencies.

Potential Benefits of Project:

Create awareness for security role of TMCs and related infrastructure requirements to fulfill this role and stimulate debate among TMC operators on role and responsibility in terms of security.

TRB Keywords:

Transportation Management Centers, Emergency Operations Centers, Homeland Security, Terrorism