



Durham–Chapel Hill–Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

Member Organizations: Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, City of Durham, Durham County, Town of Hillsborough, NC Department of Transportation, Orange County, GoTriangle

Date:

To:

Address:

Subject: 2106 DCHC MPO Traffic Incident Management (TIM) MOU

Dear [Recipient Name]:

Traffic congestion continues to grow in Central North Carolina. This growth is spurred by the influx of new residents and businesses to the region. Because of this growth our region has some of the most congested corridors in the state of North Carolina. Congestion levels will only increase with continued growth if no additional traffic management solutions are implemented. The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) recognized that it could take a leading role in taking their congestion mitigation plan to the next level with a Traffic incident Management (TIM) program assessment. This assessment is required by FHWA that Transportation Plans and Congestion Management Process (CMP) contain Operational and Management Strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods. This assessment's goal was to benchmark national best practices in TIM and develop a proactive strategy to combat responder and motorist deaths, ensure economic growth and clear safe roads.

The DCHC MPO commissioned an assessment to be completed of Traffic Incident Management practices in the greater Durham, Orange and Chatham County areas. This assessment was to determine the status of regional efforts to clear traffic incidents in safe and timely manners, consistent with the MPO Congestion Mitigation Plan. During this assessment internal and external stakeholders, including first responder agencies and personnel such as Fire, EMS, Police, County's Emergency Management unit, NCDOT and NC towing professional, were solicited to complete an on-line survey, participate in project informational meetings and participation in a regional workshop, held on July 12, 2016.

A major goal for this assessment was to bring our regional incident responders together to facilitate better communication, cooperation and coordination for response to major incidents that affect the mobility of our local roadways. During this assessment a strategic plan and direction was also created. An objective of this strategic plan is to introduce and document an incident responder Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that builds the foundation for improved traffic incident management in our region.

The DCHC MPO requests that each agency responsible for traffic incident response become a partner to improve responder and motorist safety by agreeing to the intent of the MOU in furthering national best practices in TIM and applying them consistently to incident clearance and roadway safety. This MOU was vetted through the TIM workshop attendees and sent to all DCHC regional first responder agencies for comment and input. The final MOU reflects their comments and feedback. It is expected that this MOU will be able to formalize and strengthen existing relationship among TIM Stakeholders.

Should you have any questions regarding this Memorandum of Understanding for Traffic Incident Management, please contact Felix Nwoko at Felix.Nwoko@Durhamnc.gov or KC Chae at KoSok.Chae@Durhamnc.gov.

Sincerely,

Steve Schewel, Chair

MPO Board

Enclosure:

Memorandum of Understanding for Traffic Incident Management