



Metropolitan Area Transportation  
Operations Coordination

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Item 9

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# Briefing on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program

Presentation to the Transportation Planning Board

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Chair, MATOC Steering Committee

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"Working together to reduce incident-related travel delays through improved coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing."

## About MATOC

- Established in 2008, MATOC is a joint program of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia DOTs and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
  - Mission: regional situational awareness of transportation conditions and incidents
  - Goals: improve traveler safety and reduce transportation delays
- MATOC activities include:
  - Monitoring and communicating reliable information during major incidents
    - Enabling operating agencies and the traveling public to make effective, coordinated and timely decisions
  - Maintaining a web-based transportation information system
  - Facilitating standard operating procedures among transportation agencies



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## MATOC's Inaugural Period

- Original \$1.6 Million Federal grant secured by Congressman Moran funded MATOC's inaugural period
- Initiated operations in Fall 2008
  - Cultivated relationships with regional partners
  - Hired facilitator and operations staff
  - Developed standard operating procedures for MATOC staff
  - Opened MATOC Operations Center at CapWIN
  - Established process to provide notifications
- Developed and maintained committees
  - Steering Committee
  - Information Systems Subcommittee
  - Operations Subcommittee



## Current Operations

- University of Maryland will be the organizational home of MATOC as of October 1, 2010
- On-going interaction between MATOC operations staff and agency operators throughout the region
- RITIS software tool
  - RITIS = Regional Integrated Transportation Information System
  - Sharing significant incident information across the region
- Continuous support for:
  - Operations
  - Maintenance & systems engineering
  - Enhancements
  - Program management



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## Major Activities to Report

- MATOC Operations Staff
  - Hired new MATOC Facilitator (June 28, 2010)
  - Hired new operator in August, second operator anticipated in October
  - Providing coverage 5 days/16 hours
- MATOC Website
  - Developing a website for key stakeholders – including local, regional, and state transportation agencies
- Funding
  - \$1.19 million committed for FY2011 (sufficient to maintain MATOC core work program)
    - MD SHA - \$400,000
    - DDOT - \$400,000
    - VDOT/NVTA - \$100,000
    - FTA Earmark - \$200,000
    - COG/TPB - \$90,000



## MATOC Involvement in Regional Coordination – Example Major Incidents

- Thursday, July 8
  - I-495 SB south of Georgetown Pike: Overturned tractor trailer accident. 2-3 right lanes were blocked for the afternoon through evening rush.
- Friday, August 13 – Two major incidents during morning rush
  - I-270 NB at Democracy Blvd: Jackknifed tractor trailer accident. Closed both northbound travel lanes and forced traffic to left shoulder.
  - I-95 SB at MM 156.0: Multi-vehicle accident. Closed all southbound mainline lanes and service road. Medevac landing required temporary closure of northbound HOV lanes.
- Wednesday, September 1
  - Standoff situation at Discovery Communications in Silver Spring. Public safety perimeter affected a number of major roads and bus lines, necessitating detours
- In all cases, MATOC:
  - Sent out notifications to transportation agencies as soon as confirmed information was available regarding the incidents; monitored situations as they evolved
  - Provided ongoing incident update notifications regarding road closures, detours, transit impacts, and incident close-outs
  - Through its notifications, aided agency decision making on transportation management

- On-going coverage for the National Capital Region
- Continue to build relationships between the MATOC operations staff and regional stakeholders
- Further development of the MATOC Website
  - Disseminate information to the media & general public
- Expand hours of MATOC coverage
- Develop and maintain transportation management plans