Traffic Operations Center at Salem
Traffic Operations Center at Salem

November 20, 2007
Old Operations room
New Operations Room
Media / Training Conference Room

• Created to provide a central information dissemination point

• Used during major emergencies and other high profile events

• Allows for key regional staff to provide real-time information to the public through the media

• Used for training of agency partners in the National Incident Operations System (NIMS) to decrease clearance times
Serving Bristol, Lynchburg and Salem
The Mission of Operations

To Actively manage the transportation system to maximize safety, security, mobility, and return on investment for the benefit of customers

Are you Virginia’s next traffic fatality?

- Buckle up
- Avoid distractions
- Share the road
- Drive drug & alcohol free
- Obey speed limits
115,000 lane miles of highways
20,000 structures and bridges
617 Dynamic Message Signs
372 roadway traffic cameras
3,000+ Traffic Signals
4 water tunnels / 2 mountain tunnels
4 ferry service locations
100 commuter parking lots
### SWRO CL Road miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Salem</th>
<th>Lynchburg</th>
<th>Bristol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interstate</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>7,290</td>
<td>6,160</td>
<td>6,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Surface</td>
<td>5575</td>
<td>4816</td>
<td>4231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Totals</td>
<td>13,972</td>
<td>12033</td>
<td>11705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>37714</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Numbers Rounded*
Challenges and opportunities

Geography – keeping traffic moving *safely* with severe changes in elevation is a challenge.

*VDOT*
Challenges and opportunities

Safety: Fatality rates are increasing on I-81 corridor
Challenges and opportunities

Congestion!

Congestion is both an urban and rural issue.

For example, I-81 experiences congestion during incidents and peak travel days.
Challenges and Opportunities

Increasing volumes mean greater challenges in keeping traffic moving safely.

I-81 Traffic Volume Trend


Vehicle Miles of Travel

Year

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006

Average Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT)
Challenges and opportunities

Incident Operations – heavy volumes and few alternate routes intensify the issue
Challenges and Opportunities

Critical Transportation Links
Traffic Operations Evolution…

- Variable message signs 1970
- Highway Advisory Radio
- Incident response program 1980
- Traveler information
- Signal system Operations
- Managed lanes 1990
- Vehicle-infrastructure integration approaches
- Active Traffic Operations 2000 +
The Role of Traffic Operations Centers

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE**
- Minimize weather impacts
- Manage traffic in construction work zones and during special events
- Maximize system capacity through managed lane approaches
The Role of Traffic Operations Centers

Dispatch Safety Service Patrol

- Assist stranded motorists
- Provides traffic control during incidents
- Remove debris

Results:
- Reduced Delay and Fuel Consumption Savings
- Statewide Year to Date Assists: 82,200+
- Current Year Expansion Areas
  - I-81 Winchester (July)
  - I-77 & I-81 in Southwest Virginia (October)
The Role of Traffic Operations Center

Provide Accurate Traveler Information

• VDOT Web Site - Road Conditions - http://virginiadot.org

• 511 Virginia – http://511va.org

• Highway Helpline - 1(800)367-ROAD

• Traffic Land – www.trafficland.com

• Highway Advisory Radios

• Safety Rest Areas and Welcome Centers

• Classical Traffic Engineering

• Traffic operation support to Emergency Response and operations

• Technology Management