Rural Safety Innovation Program

Theodore A. Smith
Noblis
Presentation Overview

- The Rural Safety Challenge
- Contributing Factors
- Rural Safety Innovation Program Overview
- Procurement Process
- Evaluation Process
The Rural Safety Challenge

- Rural roads carry approximately
  - 40 percent of annual VMT in the United States
  - 55 percent of the fatalities
- 23,339 fatalities in rural areas, compared to 18,359 in urban areas (2006)
- Fatality rate for rural areas was 2.25 fatalities per 100 million VMT, compared to 0.93 in urban areas (2006)
Contributing Factors

- Seat belt usage
- Speed
- Impaired drivers
- Access to post crash care
- Implementation challenges
- Roadway design and roadside hazards
Rural Safety Innovation Program

- Rural Safety Initiative kicked-off in 2008 (Rural Safety Innovation Program is one element)
- Innovative options to help reduce highway fatalities
- Assist rural communities in addressing highway safety problems
Rural Safety Innovation Program Goals

- Improve safety on local and rural roads
- Document best practices and lessons learned
- Promote national awareness and interest
- Promote the use of ITS technologies
- Adapt the use of proven ITS technologies
Rural Safety Innovation Program Procurement Process

- RSIP project funding drawn from available portions of the Delta Region Transportation Development Program (DRTDP) and the ITS program
- A two-phased application process was employed to select grant recipients
  - 80 Phase I applications
  - 24 applications were selected to be developed into comprehensive proposals
Rural Safety Innovation Program
Grant Recipients (ITS Funds)

- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Caltrans
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Iowa Department of Transportation
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- King County, Washington Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
**Contact Information:**

**Linda D. Dodge**
Chief of Staff
Manager, ITS Public Safety Program
ITS Joint Program Office
Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. DOT
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
202.366.8034
Linda.Dodge@dot.gov

**Theodore A. Smith**
Principal
Noblis
600 Maryland Ave, SW, Suite 755
Washington, D.C. 20024
202.863.3647
theodore.smith@noblis.org
Rural Safety Innovation Program

Theodore A. Smith
Noblis

August 24, 2009