

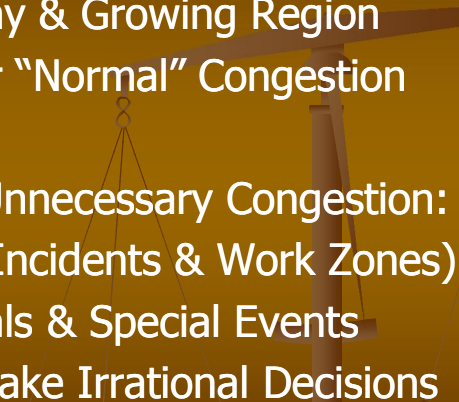
Management & Operations (one fed's perspective)

2010 TexITE Winter Meeting
Mark Olson
Traffic Operations Engineer - FHWA


- "Congestion is not a fact of life. We need a new approach and we need it now."

- *Former Secretary of Transportation
Norman Y. Mineta, May 2006*

Not All Congestion is Bad

- Healthy Economy & Growing Region
 - People Allow for "Normal" Congestion
 - Unexpected & Unnecessary Congestion:
 - Non-recurring (Incidents & Work Zones)
 - Inefficient Signals & Special Events
 - Motorists can make Irrational Decisions
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Where to Deploy Resources

- Traffic Incident Management
 - Work Zones
 - Real Time Travel Information
 - Special Events
 - Traffic Signal Optimization
 - Linking Operations Centers
 - Managed lanes, ramp meters
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Resources! What Resources?

- Federal gas tax \$0.184/gal since 1993
- Texas gas tax \$0.20/gal since 1991
- Politicians Pledge “No New Taxes”
- User Fees coming into play (toll roads)
- Alternative fuels & higher MPG
- VMT tax being debated

Consequences of No \$

- State DOT investments are focused on activities which minimize future costs to the agency, rather than to the traveling public.
- Some other entities will be the “highway operations” of the future – happening already – MPOs & RMAs, consortiums like TranStar & CTECC.

What to do? What to do?

- Give the People what they want
 - Real time travel information
 - 511, website, DMS, PDAs, route specific
 - Optimized Traffic Signals
 - Special Event Management
 - Traffic Incident Management
 - Share Your Toys

Cooperation is Crucial

Eyes of the Public are on us

- We must hang together, or surely we will hang separately – famous quote
- Major Metropolitan areas
- Links between major regions

Next Transportation Bill

- SAFETEA-LU expired September 2009
- Continuing Resolutions until Feb 28
- Next Highway bill in 2010, 2011??
- 2 major hurdles
 - Healthcare
 - Transportation funding
- Performance Measures

Summary

- Information Age is Here
- Public Expectations are Growing
- Transportation Agencies are Changing
- Funding is Challenging
- Exciting Times Indeed!