COMMERCIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTS FROM TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTERS (TMC)

In order to ensure equal access to live broadcasting from the Caltrans Transportation Management Centers (TMC's), this Traffic Operations Policy Directive (TOPD) requires that all commercial/media information service providers (ISP), upon request, shall be granted broadcasting rights within the TMC's.

Transportation Management Centers (TMC's): Focal point for transportation management systems, including the collection processing, and dissemination of real-time traffic condition information.

Commercial/Media Information Service Providers (ISP): Firms that repackage, enrich, and/or reshape information and then offer to others in a variety of formats/media. For the purposes of this TOPD, ISPs may also include public agencies, researchers, and others wishing access to dynamic traffic data feeds.
IMPLEMENTATION

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and/or Caltrans share responsibility regarding live broadcasts from the TMC’s and as such shall be responsible for the implementation of this TOPD.

ISP’s may request live broadcasting rights within the TMC’s in accordance with the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Once the MOU is approved, the ISP may supply, install, operate and maintain, at their cost, all the necessary equipment to facilitate live broadcasts in a location and manner approved by Caltrans and/or CHP. The ISP must provide access and use of the equipment to other ISP’s. They may charge a reasonable fee for the use of the equipment.

The CHP staff will typically perform all regular traffic reports, although Caltrans staff may handle special or incident specific reports. Caltrans and/or CHP reserve the right to screen or edit material for privacy and security. The ISP will supply the broadcasts to other upon request by CHP or Caltrans during State or Federal declared emergencies or major incidents. The Caltrans “CT” logo should appear on screen during all broadcast segments.

DELEGATION

No new delegations of authority are created by this TOPD.
BACKGROUND

Transportation Management Centers (TMC's) are often joint operations between the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans. Together they monitor traffic conditions and organize response to incidents on the State Highway System. The TMC's make their information available to the public through individual Caltrans information systems and through commercial media including broadcast television. The two departments frequently partner with regional agencies for distributing multimodal travel information through Advanced Travel Information Systems (ATIS/511).

Commercial television already broadcasts from several TMC's, including San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Stockton. In addition, the Oakland TMC has commercial broadcasting via the Bay Area's 511 partnership.

The TOPD ensures TMC managers are providing equal and uniform access to all ISP's requesting broadcasting rights from TMC's.

Advanced Travel Information Systems: The organized distribution of traffic, transit, and other mode information to travelers, either directly or through intermediaries.
DEFINITIONS

When used in this Traffic Operations Policy Directive, the text shall be defined as follows:

1) **Standard** – a statement of required, mandatory or specifically prohibited practice. All standards text appears in **bold** type. The verb **shall** is typically used. Standards are sometimes modified by Options.

2) Guidance – a statement of recommended, but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgment or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements text appears in **underlined** type. The verb should is typically used. Guidance statements are sometime modified by Options.

3) Option – a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation. Options may contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance. All Option statements text appears in normal type. The verb may is typically used.

4) Support – an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition. Support statements text appears in normal type. The verbs shall, should and may are not used in Support statements.

ATTACHMENTS

Memoandum of Understanding (MOU)
Live Broadcasting from the __________ Transportation Management Center (pg. 5)
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

LIVE BROADCASTING FROM THE _______ TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) mutually agree upon the following provisions to provide real time traffic information to the traveling public in the _______ region news media.

1. Caltrans and the CHP agree to allow (commercial broadcaster) to feature the TMC in traffic reports for television and radio broadcasts. (commercial broadcaster) shall provide continuous view of CHP and Caltrans logos on screen during traffic reports. The individual logos will be approved by the respective agencies.

2. The CHP will handle all television and radio regular traffic reporting. Caltrans personnel may handle incident specific reports.

3. The CHP handles media requests for traffic reports within the TMC. All requests will be considered and traffic reports will be granted, with Caltrans concurrence, based upon available broadcast time. (commercial broadcaster) will install, repair and maintain all equipment associated with televised traffic reporting at their expense.

4. Prior to equipment installation, (commercial broadcaster) shall provide Caltrans with a diagram detailing the location of where the equipment will be installed. The equipment will be installed in the TMC Studio and other areas with consideration given to limited space, safety of employees and minimal disruption of daily functions. The equipment will consist of: remote camera and pan/tilt unit, spot light fixtures, a standard microphone and audio units, telephone lines and cabling.

5. (commercial broadcaster) shall contact and receive approval from the Caltrans TMC Facilities Manager or designated representative a minimum of 24 hours prior to routine equipment maintenance. Emergency repairs may be allowed on an expedited basis. The TMC Facilities Manager or designated representative will be notified by the CHP or (commercial broadcaster) of such repairs.

6. (commercial broadcaster) agrees to provide access to other news media to any live feed from the TMC during incidents designated as emergencies by State or Federal authorities; or at CHP or Caltrans request.

7. Caltrans reserves the right to screen and edit any material from its freeway cameras and computer terminals before it is provided to the news media consistent with established Caltrans policy.

8. In the event Caltrans or the CHP choose to discontinue this traffic service, 60 days notice should be provided to (commercial broadcaster) prior to termination of service.

__________________________  ____________________________  ____________________________
Deputy District Director    Commander                      News Director
Division of Operations     Communication Center           (commercial broadcaster)
District ______            California Highway Patrol