



## Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) Transportation

A collaborative mechanism to leverage research activities in a coordinated manner to respond to rural transportation issues among western states

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

As agency and research budgets are tightened, fewer opportunities are available to conduct technology, safety and operational research aimed at improving rural transportation. A project that is pursued must be thoroughly justified, which often means an initial proof-of-concept is required. Additionally, multi-agency research is likely of interest and transferable to other entities. However, no mechanisms are in place for sharing results and developed products from such research. There is a need for agencies to partner with one another to leverage research funding, share technical findings and products, and promote educational opportunities. The WSRTC was created for these purposes

Chartered in 2010, the WSRTC is a pooled fund comprised of the California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada departments of transportation and is facilitated with help from the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University

### WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The Consortium focuses on technology transfer/education and incubator projects centered on the pillars of technology, operations and safety.

Its impact on the member agencies and the rural transportation field include the following goals:

- Technology transfer activities through venues such as the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum.
- Leveraging of research resources for technology, operations and safety related to rural transportation.
- A framework for promoting collaboration and leveraging

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Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) Transportation Pooled Fund TPF-5(241)

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Caltrans provides a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

- resources to solve rural transportation issues.
- Recycling and reusing existing research for application to rural challenges among multiple states.
- Regular training and transfer of technology solutions to rural areas.

## WHAT DID WE DO?

Unique to the WSRTC is the Western States Rural Transportation Implementers Forum, which is an annual event where implementers of ITS technologies have the opportunity to share technical information on best practices and field deployment experiences with fellow professionals from across the western United States. It can best be described as an engineering practitioner's conference with the goal of providing a forum for high-quality exchange of technical information that can help to support better ITS deployment in rural areas. It is a forum for dynamic discussion of practical and technical issues associated with rural ITS, to promote transferability of solutions and knowledge across the ITS community.

Four to five highly interactive technical presentations, ranging in length from 1 to 2 hours each, in-depth equipment demonstrations, and numerous opportunities for networking with peers, are all part of the agenda.

## WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

- The forum is in its 11th year
- The forum has had over 440\* registered participants
- The forum has had 80 presentations / demonstrations given
- The forum was the winner of the Best of Rural ITS – Best New Innovative Product, Service or Application

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

**Technical Content** - Presenters delve into how solutions were developed, focusing on applications that have been deployed in the field and are being used in live traffic situations. The longer presentation time ensures that this level of detail may be presented and understood.

**Discussion** - Attendance is limited and extended time is allocated to facilitate and encourage detailed technical discussions.

**Transparency and trust** - Presenters will discuss not only success stories, but also about failures and problems, so participants can learn about what does and doesn't work and why

## LEARN MORE

<http://westernstates.org/>  
<http://westernstatesforum.org/>

## IMAGES

