

Rural

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Project Title:  
California Oregon Advanced  
Transportation System (COATS) VIII

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## Demonstrating And Evaluating Intelligent Transportation Systems In Rural Environments

Technology transfer and testing of incubator projects  
in Rural California

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

The purpose of the California Oregon Advanced Transportation Systems (COATS) effort has been and continues to be encouraging regional, public and private sector cooperation between California and Oregon organizations to better facilitate the planning and implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in a rural bi-state area extending north of Eugene, Oregon and south of Redding, California.

For over 19 years, the COATS program has shown that a bi-state partnership to address rural ITS concerns is both feasible and advantageous. It allows for maximization of resources and provides a source for fresh ideas and perspectives. It provides a platform to address the issues and concerns of rural areas that might otherwise remain ignored.

Numerous systems and approaches have been developed and evaluated over the years, providing useful information on which to base future deployment decisions. Several of these initial systems are still in place, addressing the concerns they were designed to answer. COATS has provided a platform on which to conduct expanding efforts geared toward outreach and technology transfer.

As COATS and its products have matured, COATS has gained interest from surrounding states, including Washington, Nevada, and Utah. Consequently, the expanded COATS region now encompasses the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC) region, which includes the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Utah.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The tasks proposed for COATS Phase VIII include:

- Providing management services for Project Technical



DRISI provides solutions and  
knowledge that improves  
California's transportation system

- Advisory Panel (PTAP) including meetings, teleconferences, and technology transfer activities.
- Conducting Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum (WSF). An event focuses on delivering high quality technology transfer and networking opportunities. It targets an audience of professionals working in design and maintenance of ITS technologies in rural environments, which is unique nationally with respect to its audience and technical content, and its origin and development reflect the idea of using COATS as an incubator for technology innovations to address rural transportation challenges.
  - Updating and Upgrading the COATS / WSRTC / WSF websites.
  - Updating the WSF planning and executing handbook.

## WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

To provide research and support activities to help California and Oregon achieve the COATS vision of “Promoting innovative partnerships, technologies and educational opportunities to facilitate and enhance safe, seamless rural travel throughout the western United States.”

The major deliverables for COATS Phase VIII include the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forums in 2020 and 2021 held in Yreka, CA

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

COATS serves as an incubator for research ideas in a rural context. These incubator ideas are bounded by limited scope, time, and money and they provide insight if a proposed idea has merit. If the incubator is successful, it is often turned into a larger, fully-funded rural research project, always with the eye toward deploying the results. Numerous incubator projects have gone this route, including:

- The Redding Responder Project
- WeatherShare
- Automated Safety Warning System Controller
- One Stop Shop for Rural Traveler Information
- Integration of Aviation AWOS with RWIS
- TMC-TMS Communication Systems
- Professional Capacity Building for Communication Systems

## WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A no-cost, time-extension was granted for this effort due to the project delays from COVID-19. The 2021 Western States Forum was held in October 2021 in Yreka, CA. Seven presentations were made to participants from throughout the Western United States. Planning has begun for the Western States Forum in June 2022. An invitation for presentation abstracts was sent out in December, 2021 and we have received many proposals for consideration. Finally, we continue to update the websites for the Western State Forum and other related efforts, as well as our annual update to the Western States Forum handbook.

To learn more about the COATS effort and the Western States Forum, please visit:  
<http://www.westernstates.org/Projects/COATS/Default.html>  
<http://westernstatesforum.com/>

## IMAGE



Image 1: Presentation being made at the Western States Rural Transportation Implementers Forum in Yreka, CA