

**Traffic
Operations****March 2026****Project Title:** Traffic Management Center (TMC) Consortium – Pooled Fund**Task Number:** 2951**Start Date:** April 17, 2015**Completion Date:** December 31, 2022**Task Manager:**Melissa L. Clark
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WHAT WAS THE NEED?

Traffic Management Centers (TMCs) rely on advanced technologies, which require dedicated management, staff with specialized skills and training, and operating and capital funding. They face complex institutional issues in coordinating with service providers in response to incidents, and functions within a critical environment which is a culture that is drastically different than most agencies are accustomed to. These demands and constraints present challenges that agencies face daily without the benefit of having the necessary resources, experience, skills, and training. These are challenges that agencies continually face which impacts their ability to efficiently and effectively manage and operate TMCs.

Meeting these challenges and customers' expectations requires pursuing a wide variety of both proven and innovative strategies to realize the full potential of the investment that we have and will continue to make in TMCs. Investments that will allow agencies to proactively manage and control traffic in a manner that optimize the performance and investment that has, and will continue to be made, in the surface transportation system. To deal with limited resources and the increasing complexity involved in managing and operating TMCs, it is essential that practitioners have access to technical guidance, best practice, training, innovative techniques and technologies, and fact-based tools to assist them in improving the performance and their services.

WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this study is to assemble regional, state, and local transportation management agencies and the Federal



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Highway Administration to:

1. Identify human-centered and operational issues;
2. Suggest approaches to addressing identified issues;
3. Initiate and monitor projects intended to address identified issues;
4. Provide guidance and recommendations and disseminate results;
5. Provide leadership and coordinate with others with TMC interests; and
6. Promote and facilitate technology transfer related to TMC issues nationally.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Traffic Management Center (TMC) Pooled Fund Study (PFS) projects addressed issues such as technologies, policies, processes, methods, and options agencies may consider improving the capabilities, capacity, coverage, management, operation, and performance of TMSs. More than 40 projects have been completed those developed technical resources on topics including the day-to-day management and operation of TMCs (e.g., staffing), maintenance, asset management, planning, design, implementation, configuration, and enhancements to TMSs. The TMC PFS remains successful because of its commitment to sharing experiences and information, improving practices through the development of technical resources, and advancing activities to meet the needs and challenges agreed to by its members.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The Traffic Management Center (TMC) Pooled Fund Study (PFS) completed multiple studies. The Reports for the completed projects can be found here:

<https://tmc pfs.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/completedproj.htm>

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) can potentially benefit from the research findings by having TMCs monitor and report on roadway and travel conditions, coordinate with local interests in response to changing conditions, and proactively manage and control traffic to mitigate the impacts of congestion and improve the reliability of travel.

Build upon and leverage investments that the pooled fund study has made in previously completed and initiated projects and overcome the TMC challenges Caltrans is facing and to improve the current state-of-practice.

LEARN MORE

The website provides more detail to the Pooled Fund Study:

<http://tmc pfs.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/>

<https://transportationops.org/traffic-management-systems-and-centers/tmc-pooled-fund-study-and-projects>

IMAGES



Image 1: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) TMC Pooled Fund Study Website

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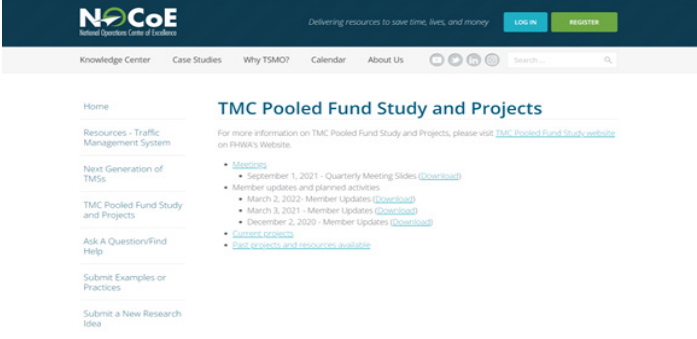


Image 2: National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE) TMC Pooled Fund Study Website

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