

AIMHigh

Austin-area Incident Management for Highways

MEMORANDUM OF REGIONAL COOPERATION

THIS MEMORANDUM OF REGIONAL COOPERATION, dated this ___ day of _____, 2011 is by, between, and among the State and local jurisdictions and private industry in the Austin region for effective and efficient traffic incident management. The Austin region's local jurisdictions include the City of Austin, City of Georgetown, City of Kyle, City of Pflugerville, City of Round Rock, Bastrop County, Hays County, Travis County, and Williamson County. The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties in central Texas. The Austin region's State jurisdictions include the Texas Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety. Private industry includes Austin Towing Association and the Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) Program contractors.

Whereas, the Austin region experiences very high traffic volumes and blockage of roadway lanes by traffic accidents, disabled vehicles, or other incidents frequently has a substantial and detrimental impact on the movement of traffic, not only in the immediate vicinity of the blockage but also over a considerable portion of the highway system and adjacent local streets; and

Whereas, the blockage of roadway lanes by traffic accidents, disabled vehicles, or other incidents frequently has a substantial and detrimental impact on the safety of both incident response personnel and the motoring public; and

Whereas, the State and local jurisdictions and private industry have established and desire to maintain a high level of interagency communication and regional cooperation through the Austin-area Incident Management for Highways (AIMHigh) forum; and

Whereas, the State and local jurisdictions and private industry have supporting traffic management resources and technology at the Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications Center (CTECC), which operates on a 24-hour basis; and

Whereas, the State and local jurisdictions and private industry provide support for and implementation of a successful partnership of regional public safety and transportation agencies, and a means of establishing a regional cooperative approach to transportation management, including the coordination of traffic incident management operating procedures and improved agency communications to facilitate regional mobility across jurisdictional lines;

Now, therefore, it is agreed as follows:

By being a signatory to this Memorandum of Regional Cooperation, the State and local jurisdictions and private industry agree to:

1. Maintain and promote a safe, quick incident clearance philosophy. Whenever a highway or lane is partially closed, or blocked by a crash or incident, public safety and transportation agencies and private industry will make every reasonable effort to open the roadway as soon as possible ON AN URGENT BASIS while maintaining and protecting the safety of responders and the public. The safety of incident responders and of the public will not be compromised.
2. Maintain and promote participation of regional public safety and transportation agency and private industry personnel in bimonthly AIMHigh meetings to discuss traffic incident management operations and local and national traffic incident management initiatives in support of improved interagency communication and regional cooperation.
3. Singularly or collectively pursue implementation opportunities for priority traffic incident management tools and strategies identified in the *AIMHigh Traffic Incident Management Strategic Plan* (February 2010). This *Plan* will be periodically updated to ensure continued responsiveness to perceived operational challenges, support local internal agency goals, maintain consistency with national directives, and reflect implementation progress. This *Plan* is intended to support integrated resource planning and budgeting across and among diverse participating agencies and industries with a focus on enhanced traffic incident management operations. This *Plan* is also intended to guide individual or collective requests for external private, State, or Federal program support.

To ensure conformity with this Memorandum of Regional Cooperation and subsequent improvements to the Austin region’s traffic mobility and public safety through effective and efficient operations, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization—with support from the Texas Department of Transportation—will facilitate the ongoing traffic incident management efforts of the State and local jurisdictions and private industry in the Austin region.

In witness hereto, the representatives of the State and local jurisdictions and private industry herein cause this Memorandum of Regional Cooperation to be executed.

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Williamson County
City of Austin	Texas Department of Transportation
City of Georgetown	Texas Department of Public Safety
City of Kyle	Austin Towing Association
City of Pflugerville	Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) Program Contractors
City of Round Rock	
Bastrop County	
Hays County	
Travis County	