



# California Department of Transportation

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## Division of Traffic Operations, Office of Traffic Management

### Fact Sheet

#### Routes of Significance (RoS)

RoS are defined as non-interstate roadways in metropolitan areas that are designated by States as meriting the collection and provisions of information related to traffic and travel conditions. Factors to consider in designating RoS include roadway safety (e.g., crash rate, routes affected by environmental events), public safety (e.g., evacuation routes), economic productivity, severity and frequency of congestion and utility of the highway to serve as a diversion route for congestion locations.

#### Why designate RoS?

In compliance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under regulation 23 CFR 511 Subpart C, requires States to collaborate with local or regional agencies to designate RoS in metropolitan areas with a population exceeding one million. There are six regional areas in California that meet this requirement and these areas fall under the jurisdiction of multiple Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs). Monitoring real-time traffic and travel conditions on roadways and sharing this information with the traveling public improves the security of the surface transportation system, addresses congestions problems, supports improved response to weather events and surface transportation incidents and facilitates the dissemination of real-time traveler information.

#### Background

The Real-Time System Management Information Program (RTSMIP) was established by 23 CFR 511 Subpart C and is the program used by States to gather and make available information for traffic and travel conditions. The RTSMIP also provides the capability to monitor the real-time traffic and travel conditions on the interstate and non-interstate roadways of the United States and to share this information with State and local governments, private entities and the traveling public. There are four provisions for reporting traffic and travel conditions on RoS: construction activities, roadway or lane blocking incidents, roadway weather observations and travel time information (freeways only). The reported information must be 85 percent accurate at a minimum and be available 90 percent of the time.

#### Next steps

- 1) Caltrans is currently collaborating with transportation partners to provide guidance on proposing RoS to be included in Caltrans' RTSMIP.
- 2) RoS packages from participating transportation partners shall be submitted to Caltrans by April 10, 2015.
- 3) Transportation partners electing not to participate are asked to notify Caltrans by March 27, 2015.
- 4) Establishment of Caltrans' RTSMIP for reporting traffic and travel conditions along State-designated metropolitan area RoS shall be completed and submitted to the FHWA by November 8, 2016.

#### Challenges

- 1) Coordination among multiple transportation partners and stakeholders. Caltrans holds meetings with transportation partners quarterly and as necessary.
- 2) Appropriately identifying and demonstrating points of compliance. Caltrans created guidance documents to assist transportation partners in achieving compliance.
- 3) Meeting critical milestones. Caltrans developed a schedule to support milestone management.