

# PROGRAM

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## Symposium on

### Weather Information for Surface Transportation:

*Delivering Improved Safety  
and Efficiency for Tomorrow*



**November 30 - December 2, 1999**

**HOLIDAY INN  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

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Transportation Planning and Operations  
Intelligent Transportation Systems  
Weather Information Capabilities  
Weather Information Research



**OFCM**



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## **Acknowledgements**

The sponsors of the Symposium on Weather Information for Surface Transportation, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research and the U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration, wish to thank all those individuals and agencies attending and participating in this forum. In particular, we gratefully appreciate those individuals and agency representatives who are participants on the panels and in the breakout sessions.

Finally, we specifically acknowledge Professor Leon Osborne, University of North Dakota, who graciously permitted the use of the photograph on the cover of this program.

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**MEMBERS  
JOINT ACTION GROUP  
FOR WEATHER INFORMATION  
FOR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION**

OFCM - Mr. Blaine Tsugawa, OFCM

DOC - Mr. Michael Tomlinson, NOAA/NWS

DOD - Col Larry Freeman, USAF, Deputy to NOAA  
- Lt Col Gerald Borger, USAF, USTRANSCOM

DOE - Mr. Rickey Petty, ESD  
- Mr. Tony Thomas, T&EM

DOI - Mr. Lewis Moore, USBR

DOT - Mr. Paul Pisano, FHWA  
- Mr. Donald Plotkin, FRA  
- Mr. William Wiggins, FTA  
- Mr. Michael Rossetti, RSPA/Volpe Center  
- Dr. Jonathan Berkson, USCG

EPA - Mr. William Russo

FEMA - Mr. John Gambel

NASA - Dr. Ramesh Kakar

NRC - Ms. Leta Brown

NTSB - Mr. Donald Eick

USDA - Mr. Bradley Rippey

USPS - Ms. Faye Arvonio

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## ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) and the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration (USDOT-FHWA) are co-sponsoring this symposium.

The goal of the symposium is to establish the national needs and requirements for weather information associated with decision-making actions involving surface transportation. This goal is consistent with a major theme of the historic Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, in his summary message describing this important legislation, states that “... *transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel: it is about people and about providing them with the opportunity to lead safer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.*” Implicit in Secretary Slater’s statement are the effects that weather can have on the safety, health, and productivity of our Nation’s citizens regardless of whether they are from the public or private/commercial sector.

We are setting a precedent with this effort of establishing national needs and requirements for weather information for surface transportation. To our knowledge, no such comparable effort has been undertaken previously.

Briefings and panel discussions are intended to assist the participants in understanding the overall, relevant weather information issues and needs for surface transportation decision-making activities. Breakout sessions will focus on specific user group issues and needs.

A short questionnaire has been developed to capture the wide-range of needs and requirements for weather information expected from our Nation’s surface transportation constituents. Completed questionnaires will be collected at the conclusion of the breakout sessions scheduled for the afternoon of December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**The Honorable Dr. Stephen D. Van Beek**  
**Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation**

Stephen D. Van Beek joined the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) in February 1998. As Deputy Administrator, he is a member of the Secretary's Management Council (SMC), where he has taken a special interest in facilitating DOT efforts at strengthening ties with Minority Serving Institutions, including colleges and universities; leading DOT efforts at establishing a quality award process, and; championing a management development process for the future DOT.

At RSPA, Dr. Van Beek serves as Chief Operating Officer and has played key roles in shaping RSPA's new strategic plan, research and technology strategies, emergency preparedness and response activities, and new regulations for the pipeline and hazardous materials safety programs. In addition, he has led RSPA efforts on responding to the Y2K issue.

Dr. Van Beek is on leave from San Jose State University (SJSU) in California, where he is Associate Professor of Political Science. At SJSU, he has taught a variety of courses in American politics and public policy and has published *Post-Passage Politics: Bicameral Resolution in Congress* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995) and several other works on the presidency, public ethics, transportation, foreign legislatures and elections.

While at SJSU, he was also a research associate with the Norman Y. Mineta International Institute of Surface Transportation Policy Studies, where he participated in studies on labor-management relations, transit policy, and transportation education. Dr. Van Beek has also taught at Washington and Lee University and served as a legislative assistant to former California Representative Tony Coelho.

Dr. Van Beek received his doctorate and masters in government and foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. He received his bachelors of Arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society, and several professional organizations.

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**The Honorable D. James Baker**  
**Undersecretary of Commerce**  
**for Oceans and Atmosphere**

Dr. D. James Baker is Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the U.S. Department of Commerce. In this position, he is responsible for the National Weather Service; the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service; the National Marine Fisheries Service; the National Ocean Service; and NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. He serves as the U.S. Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission.

He also serves as a Co-Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources of the National Science and Technology Council and as an ex-officio member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. He is Co-Chair of the Environmental Working Group and Vice Chair of the Space Committee of the U.S. Russian Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation; and Vice Chair of the Science and Technology Committee of the U.S. South Africa Bi-national Commission. He served as Chair of Coastal America from 1992 to early 1995 and as Acting Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality from November 1993 to February 1994.

He previously served as President of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions, Incorporated; as Dean of the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington; as a Group Leader for Deep-Sea Physics at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory; as an Associate Professor at Harvard University; and as a Research Associate at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Baker is the author of the book, *Planet Earth-The View from Space*, published by Harvard University Press in 1990, and has written extensively on climate, oceanography, and space technology issues. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Baker has served on numerous advisory committees for the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences, and various international bodies.

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*Symposium on  
Weather Information for Surface Transportation*

**AGENDA**

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**Tuesday, November 30, 1999**

- 7:00-8:30 AM    **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM        **Introduction/Overview**  
Mr. Samuel Williamson  
*Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology*
- 9:00 AM        **Keynote Addresses:**  
The Honorable Dr. Stephen D. Van Beek  
*Deputy Secretary of Transportation*
- 9:30 AM        The Honorable D. James Baker,  
*Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere*
- 10:00 AM       **Transportation Operations:**  
Dr. Christine Johnson  
*Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration*
- 10:30-11:00 AM **BREAK**
- 11:00 AM       **ITS Architecture & Outcome Measures:**  
Mr. Bruce Eisenhart and Dr. Joseph Peters  
*Department of Transportation-ITS-JPO*
- 11:30           **Weather-Related Transportation Accidents:**  
Dr. H. Keith Brewer  
*National Highway Transportation SafetyAdmin.*
- 12:00-1:30 PM **WORKING LUNCH** - Provided
- 1:30 PM        **Transportation Weather-Related Issues:**  
Dr. Ronald McPherson, Executive Director  
*American Meteorological Society*
- 2:00-3:15 PM   **Panel 1: DOC and DOD Weather Services and Capabilities for Surface  
Transportation Decisions Support**
- Chair:**           Ms. Barbara Semedo, *National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration - Public and Consultant Affairs*
- Rapporteur:**    Ms. Cynthia Nelson, OFCM
- Panelist:**        Greg Mandt, DOC-NWS  
Col M. Neyland, DOD-Air Force  
CAPT B. Donovan, DOD-Navy  
Dr. W. Hooke, NOAA-USWRP

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**Tuesday, November 30, 1999 (Continued)**

3:15 PM            **BREAK**

3:30 -5:00 PM    **Panel 2:** Commercial Weather Information Production Capabilities and Services

**Chair:**            Ms. Julie Campbell, *The Campbell Marketing Group, Inc.*

**Rapporteur:**    Mr. Michael Tomlinson, NWS

**Panelist:**        Mr. Chuck Herring, Weather Channel  
Mr. Andrew Humphrey, FOX-TV5  
Ms. Maria Pirone, WSI  
Mr. Michael Connelly, Alden Electronics, Inc.  
Mr. Dave Jones, NBC-TV4

5:00 PM            **END OF DAY**

5:30-7:00         **ICE BREAKER**

**Wednesday, December 1, 1999**

7:00-7:45 AM    **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

7:45-9:30 AM    **Panel 3:** Federal Agency Weather Information Needs

**Chair:**            Mr. James Washington, *Department of Transportation-Federal Aviation Administration*

**Rapporteur:**    LtCol. G. Borger, DOD-TRANSCOM

**Panelist:**        Mr. Paul Pisano, DOT-FHWA  
Mr. Michael Rossetti, DOT-FRA  
Mr. Arthur Handman, DOT-FTA  
Mr. Michael Keane, DOE-NTP  
Mr. John Gambel, FEMA  
Mr. Patrick Mendonca, U.S. Postal Service  
Mr. Robert Andersen, USAD-FSA-KCC

9:30-10:30 AM   **Panel 4:** State and Local (Counties/Cities) Weather Information Needs

**Chair:**            Mr. Kenneth Kobetsky, *American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials*

**Rapporteur:**    Mr. Doc Carver, OFCM-FAA

**Panelist:**        Mr. Robert Stowe, Washington State  
Mr. Michael Adams, Wisconsin State  
Mr. Manny Agah, Arizona State  
Mr. Michael Simonetti, New York City  
Mr. Mark Gibson, DC Metropolitan Transit  
Mr. Howard Chapman, Charleston, SC Transit

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**Wednesday, December 1, 1999 (Continued)**

10:30 AM **BREAK**

11:00AM-12:00 PM **Panel 5: Professional and Trade Organizations Weather Information Needs**

**Chair:** Dr. Mark Edwards, *American Automobile Association*

**Rapporteur:** Mr. Bradley Rippey, USDA

**Panelist:** Mr. Al Morin, Am. Assoc. of Railroads  
Mr. Kenneth Enzor, Natl. Assoc. of Railroad Shippers  
Mr. Martin Whitmer, Am. Road and Transp. Builders Assn.  
Ms. Barbara McMahon, Am. Assoc. of Port Authorities  
CAPT Chuck Pillsbury, MITGS  
Mr. Paul Borghesani, MHI

12:00 PM **WORKING LUNCH** - Provided

1:30-3:00 PM **Breakout Sessions** - User Focus Groups

- (1) State Weather Information Needs
- (2) Local Rural/Urban Weather Information Needs
- (3) Professional and Trade Organization Weather Information Needs

**User Focus Group #1: State Weather Information Needs**

**Co-Chairs:** Dr. Wilfred Nixon, Univ. of Iowa  
Mr. Michael Adams, Wisconsin DOT

**Rapporteurs:** Ms. Cynthia Nelson, NOAA-OFCM  
Mr. Gary Nelson, DOT-FHWA/MITRETEK  
Mr. Floyd Hauth, STC

**User Focus Group #2: Local Rural/Urban (Metro Traffic and Transit) Weather Information Needs**

**Co-Chairs:** Mr. Douglas Jonas, Matrix Management Group  
Mr. Edward Boselly, Weather Solutions, Inc.

**Rapporteurs:** Mr. James Harrison, NOAA-OFCM  
Mr. Michael Tomlinson, NOAA-NWS

**User Focus Group #3: Professional and Trade Organizations Weather Information Needs**

**Chair:** Mr. Kevin Hiatt, AAA

**Rapporteurs:** Mr. Thomas Piwowar, STC  
Mr. Thomas Fraim, NOAA-OFCM  
Mr. Donald Eick, NTSB

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**Wednesday, December 1, 1999 (Continued)**

- 3:15 PM            **BREAK**
- 3:30-5:00 PM    **Breakout Sessions (Continued)**
- 5:00 PM            **END OF DAY**
- 5:30-7:00        **MIXER**

**Thursday, December 2, 1999**

- 7:00-8:00 AM    **Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 AM            **Recap of Days 1 and 2**  
- Panels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5  
- Breakout Sessions 1, 2 and 3
- 9:00 AM            **Panel 6: Research/Technology Innovation and Decision Support**
- Chair: Dr. A.E. (Sandy) MacDonald, *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Forecast Systems Laboratory*

**Rapporteur:**    Col L. Freeman, DOD  
                         Mr. Thomas Fraim, OFCM

**Subpanel 1**  
***Panelists***

Dr. Dean Deeter, Castle Rock Services  
Prof. Leon Osborne, Univ. North Dakota  
Mr. Chris Barrett, DOE-TRANSIMS  
Mr. Paul Allred, Military Transportation Command  
Dr. Paul Jovanis, Penn State Univ.  
Mr. Edward Adams, *Montana State Univ.*

**Subpanel 2**  
***Panelists***

Mr. Scott Stull, USA Digital Radio  
Mr. Dwight Taylor, Digital Radio Express  
Mr. Edward Adams, Montana State Univ.  
Mr. Michael Eilts, Natl. Severe Storms Laboratory  
Mr. Richard Wagoner, NCAR  
Mr. Fenton Carey, DOT-RSPA

- 10:30 AM          **BREAK**
- 11:00 AM          **Panel 6: Research/Technology Innovation and Decision Support (Continued)**
- 12:00 PM          **WORKING LUNCH** - Provided
- 1:30 PM            **Action Plan/Next Steps**
- 2:30 PM            **ADJOURNMENT**