

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OFCM



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL COORDINATOR FOR
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH



**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SYMPOSIUM
ON
WEATHER INFORMATION
FOR
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION**

*Preparing for the Future:
Improved Weather Information
for Decision-Makers*



December 4-6, 2000

**DoubleTree Hotel
Rockville, Maryland**



- * **Weather Information Needs/Requirements Results**
- * **Government/Commercial Capabilities, Services, and Initiatives**
- * **Technical Risks and Challenges**
- * **Decision Support Capabilities and Services**

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***OFFICE OF THE
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Weather Information for Surface Transportation Forum

“Preparing for the Future: Improved Weather Information for Decision-Makers”

December 4-6, 2000
DoubleTree Hotel
Rockville, Maryland

Washington, DC
March 2001

FOREWORD

The Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), United States Department of Transportation, co-sponsored the second *Weather Information for Surface Transportation (WIST)* Symposium at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rockville, Maryland, from December 4-6, 2000.

The impetus for the second symposium came from a major effort initiated in December 1998 by the Federal Coordinator to examine the weather information needs for the surface transportation community. In June 1999, at the direction of the Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (ICMSSR), OFCM established an interagency Joint Action Group for Weather Information for Surface Transportation (JAG/WIST). ICMSSR tasked the JAG/WIST to facilitate activities that would lead to improvements in weather support capabilities and services to intermodal surface transportation systems including roadways, railways, waterways, and pipelines.

While the first symposium, held in December 1999, focused on identifying the wide range of needs and requirements associated with the Nation's surface transportation activities, the goal of the second symposium was to provide the framework for improving weather information for decision-makers in surface transportation systems. The symposium's theme reflected this goal: "*Preparing for the Future: Improved Weather Information for Decision-Makers.*" The symposium's overarching objectives were:

- provide the status of the needs and requirements analysis and solicit feedback from symposium participants for validation;
- update progress in government and commercial capabilities and services;
- identify initiatives and programs currently underway or being planned;
- illuminate gaps where additional focus is required by agencies or organizations; and
- identify next steps and actions toward improving weather information for decision-makers.

This document summarizes the proceedings of the WIST II Symposium and provides an action plan for initiatives that will lead to improvements in weather information that are critical to effective operation of the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure.

I wish to thank my colleagues in the Federal Highway Administration for co-sponsoring this important forum. In addition, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the panelists, moderators, rapporteurs, and attendees whose lively involvement, interaction, discussion, and interest made this meeting a solid success.

Samuel P. Williamson
Federal Coordinator

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