

New Technology for Local Roads



Road managers should keep abreast of new technology available that can help them maintain their roads and bridges. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) lab develops innovations that are designed to meet critical highway needs. FHWA calls these “Market-Ready Technologies”.

FHWA does the research and development, but it is the challenge of local public works directors and city engineers to play the greatest role in the deployment of the technology. Vendors and consultants do play a role in deployment as well, but it is largely left to local government officials to endorse and use the technology.

A simple way to quickly gain access to all of the current information available is to Google the phrase “Federal Highway Administration Market Ready Technologies”. Your search results should include several inter-related websites including: www.fhwa.dot.gov/research/deployment/ptisafety.cfm.

[fhwa.dot.gov/research/deployment/ptisafety.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/research/deployment/ptisafety.cfm).

Here are three technologies most municipal departments could embrace right away:

1. **DYNASMART-P** integrates traffic analysis with ITS systems and air quality analysis. This can easily help you integrate greenhouse gas emissions with most environmental reviews.
2. **ACS-Lite** improves traffic signal timing by making it self-adjusting. Say goodbye to periodic counts and manual adjustments.
3. **Transportation, Economic, and Land Use System (TELUS)** integrates land use planning, economics, and transportation so as to produce annual transportation programs (MTIP and RTIP) by cities/counties and their metropolitan planning organizations.

Bookmark some of the sites which interest you and visit the sites frequently as information can change. Use these websites as a way to stay current with new technology while staying at your desk.

Reference: APWA Reporter, June 2010. William E. Reichmuth is a member of the APWA Engineering and Technology Technical Committee. He is a former member of the SAFETEALU Task Force, Transportation Committee and Water Resources Management Committee.

Is Your Agency Eligible To Receive HMGP Grants?

All local governments are required to have a FEMA-approved Local Mitigation Plan in order to apply for and/or receive grants under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (*Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44: Emergency Management and Assistance, Part 201.6*). In addition, an approved plan is required to apply for and receive funds under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims Program, and the Severe Repetitive Loss program.

To assist local governments in the development of a Local Mitigation Plan that is in compliance with requirements of 44 CFR Part 201.6, FEMA published the Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance (www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3336). The Local Mitigation Plan must be reviewed and updated, and resubmitted to FEMA for approval within five years.

Reference: APWA Reporter (January 2010). Teresa Scott, P.E., Director of Public Works, City of Gainesville, Florida, and member, APWA Emergency Management Committee and APWA IFEMA Partnership Task Force; and Curtis L. Edwards, P.E., Vice President, Psomas, San Diego, California, and member, APWA Emergency Management Committee.