



EFFICIENT MAINTENANCE RESPONSE

CASE STUDY

Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT)

Springfield, Illinois

The Illinois DOT is responsible for winter and summer maintenance of 45,839 lane miles statewide. This includes all state highways, federal aid routes and the Illinois interstate system.

Challenges

Providing a safe and effective road system for the motoring public is extremely challenging during winter's snow and ice storms. Spring floods often result in road closures, and rain and heat can interrupt summer maintenance tasks, such as striping, mowing and chemical applications.

Solution

DTN provided Illinois DOT central headquarters with WeatherSentry, which is networked in the main office, as well as provided to team section locations with weather display systems. In addition, display systems were installed in Illinois rest areas, providing state-specific weather information to the travelling public.

DTN products provide accurate, highly local, real-time weather at the touch of a button. It's an easy-to-use, intuitive system that enables maintenance managers to quickly make informed weather-related decisions. WeatherSentry provides weather display capabilities plus powerful storm tracking and real-time

visual weather alerts. "These DTN products enable us to track storms as they're occurring so we can make informed judgments as to how the storms are progressing," said Tim Peters, equipment engineer. "We can make staffing decisions and schedule maintenance activities based on the weather."

The Bottom Line

The display systems installed in the Illinois interstate rest areas contain a scrolling screen saver pre-programmed with basic weather information, as well as custom screens showing Illinois road construction and weather-related road conditions in the state. "We've got positive comments from the motoring public in surveys we've done on the quality of that information," said Peters.

The DTN systems enable the Illinois DOT to manage staffing levels and support resources more efficiently. "The information we receive allows us to more effectively respond to storms, which benefits Illinois taxpayers," he said. "We can refine staffing levels and adjust parameters of what employees are doing based on what we see."



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In the winter, the information is used to monitor snowfall, temperatures, and wind as storms are occurring, so they can determine how much salt to apply, how many people are needed to keep roadways clear and safe, and when to call in crews after the storm has passed.

In the summer months, forecast information is used by maintenance personnel as they plan minor road repair, mowing and weed spraying. During the spring flooding season, Illinois DOT personnel use the DTN rainfall information to support the efforts related to flooding. Illinois DOT's flood response efforts also involve the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Department of Natural Resources.

The client's view

"DTN products enable the Illinois DOT to get high-quality weather information out in the field. It's an excellent tool for maintenance to get real-time weather data, as well as forecast information. We have one in the lower lobby of our building, and people stop to check the weather all the time."

- Tim Peters, Illinois Department of Transportation

