

2017 Resiliency Peer Exchange

Day 1 Highlights

November 6, 2017



Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO
One Stop Source of Environmental Information for Transportation Professionals

The Case for Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events

with Dave Fletcher

- Transportation resiliency is a major federal research focus area.
- Resiliency is a multifaceted issue (faces, dimensions, scales, choices, actor) that affects all aspects of the DOT.
- Three concerns that need to integrate in order to foster a culture change towards resiliency:
 - Emergency mgmt.
 - Design engineering
 - Climate, community and societal change
- Transportation resiliency principles:
 - One strategy is not sufficient.
 - One size does not fit all.
 - One agency is not in charge.



Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO

One Stop Source of Environmental Information for Transportation Professionals

The Current State of the Practice

Roundtable Discussion #1

- State's that have had more extreme weather events, may be slightly further ahead in addressing resiliency.
- Resiliency is often a siloed practice and DOT/state leadership is needed to integrate into agency processes.
- Vulnerability identification and project prioritization are main focuses.
- Identifying the correct terminology for your audience.
- Making the economic case.
- Many federal requirements on resiliency remain.
- Adding younger staff can help drive change within the agency.
- Don't forget freight



Perspectives of Resiliency Across the Entire DOT Business Enterprise

with Paula Hammond, Tom Church, Christy Hall, Shawn Wilson, Joan McDonald

- Dealing with cultural barriers and using the right terminology are key.
- In some cases, the DOT will become an emergency response focused agency.
- Moving forward with resiliency is financially dependent and will be a challenge.
- Be prepared to take advantage of emergencies.
- It is important to keep staff integrated and foster agency champions.
- After action review is important, particularly for emergency response.
- Financial management and agency coordination are critical following an event.



Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO

One Stop Source of Environmental Information for Transportation Professionals

Changing Perspectives on Resiliency and Climate

with Elizabeth Habic, Carol Lee Roalkvam

- **Washington DOT:**
 - Is examining co-benefits and natural solutions.
 - Has addressed tribal concerns regarding salmon habitat impacts updates and created a wider culvert.

- **Maryland DOT:**
 - Is addressing climate change through a number of channels.
 - A major effort of the agency has been to map future sea level rise & storm surge combined with land elevation change, and identify vulnerable areas.



Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO

One Stop Source of Environmental Information for Transportation Professionals

Challenges to Implementing Proactive Resiliency

Roundtable Discussion 2

- Calling the work “resiliency” may hinder progress (garlic; pair it with risk).
- The political climate.
- Some may think they’re already “doing” resiliency.
- Staffing challenge.
- It’s such a major issue, it’s difficult to find a starting point.
- There are competing goals.
- Find an entry point for implementation with each staff background.



How do we Institutionalize Resiliency in a State DOT?

- Job descriptions
- Resiliency index
- Management systems
- Design standards
- Prioritization schemes
- Communications and outreach
- Performance measures
- Pilot studies
- Etc.

