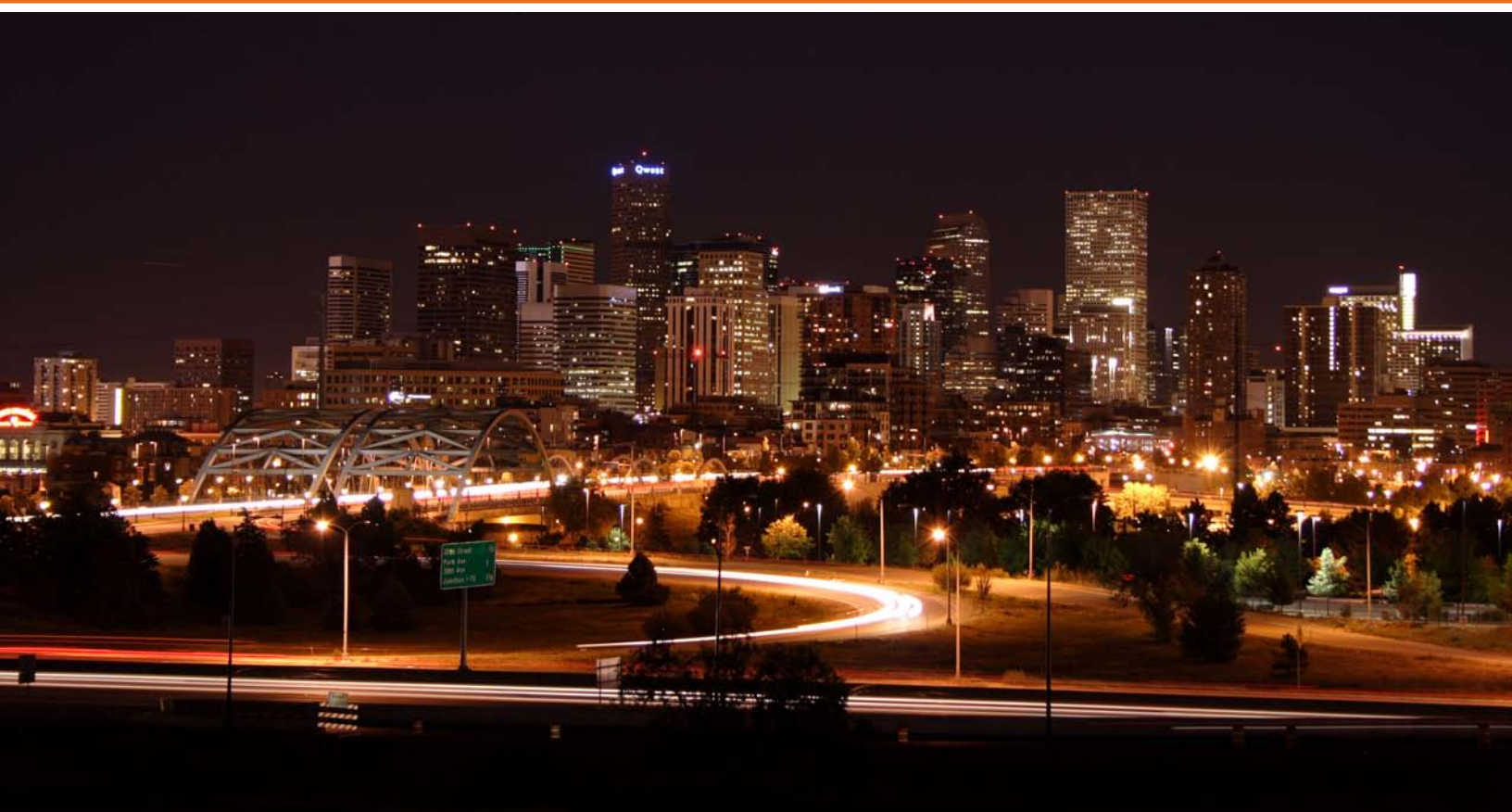




STRAC

Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

STRAC

Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee



2008 ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTORS OF:

- ▶ Colorado Department of Human Services
- ▶ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- ▶ Colorado Department of Public Safety
- ▶ Colorado Department of Revenue
- ▶ Colorado Department of Transportation
- ▶ Colorado Judicial Department

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colorado Statewide Traffic Records Advisory Committee (STRAC) is an advisory group representing the data records interests of motor vehicle traffic and safety agencies and organizations. Within statutory constraints, the Committee recommends policies regarding the retention and dissemination of traffic records information.

MISSION

The Committee assists in coordinating the interagency acquisition and disbursement of accurate, timely and accessible motor vehicle traffic data and related information for use in identifying and solving transportation safety and engineering problems.

The National Agenda for the Improvement of Highway Safety Information Systems, a product of the National Safety Council's Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) states: "Highway safety information systems provide the information which is critical to the development of policies and programs that maintain the safety and the operation of the nation's roadway transportation network." A well coordinated traffic records system is necessary for problem identification, planning, and management of Colorado's roadway safety activities.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee is comprised of representatives from the Colorado State Patrol (CSP), the Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Colorado Judicial Department (CJD). Each of these agencies both contributes to and utilizes motor vehicle traffic data and information.

STRAC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 Adopt requirements for file structure and data integration
- 2 Assess capabilities and resources
- 3 Establish goals for improving the traffic records system
- 4 Evaluate the system
- 5 Develop cooperation and support from major stakeholders
- 6 Ensure that high quality and timely data will be available for all qualified users



2008 STRAC ACTIVITIES

QUARTERLY MEETING RESULTS

The Committee conducted four quarterly meetings and numerous sub-committee meetings during 2008.

The results of those meetings are detailed in this section.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The signatures reflect Governor Ritter's latest cabinet appointments and thus complete the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The new MOU between the six State Agencies was signed by each agency's executive director in May, 2008. This replaced the original MOU which was executed on March 6, 2006. Currently, STRAC, with CDOT as the coordinating agency, is formally structured with membership to encompass all state, federal, and local agencies involved in roadway safety or traffic records.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Changes in the Strategic Plan accommodating new technology by-laws were adopted and sub-committees formed according to current and anticipated activities. In the spring of 2008, STRAC members collaborated to rewrite the Traffic Records Strategic Plan (TRSP). This was initiated by the change in name of our new project, the Virtual Data Warehouse (VDW). It was originally referred to as Data Warehouse (in the 2004 TRSP), then as the Traffic Data Integration and Analysis System (TDIAS).



It was decided that VDW more accurately described what we expect from the project. Since the term “Data Warehouse” was used in STRAC’s MOU, and many times in the TRSP, changes were made to both documents to bring them more up to date. The entire TRSP was scheduled to be re-written in 2008. A draft was compiled by CDOT, with suggestions by the CSP, and proposed to the STRAC sub-committee in September.

The sub-committee was not able to arrive at an agreement, and the draft was tabled until further work could be compiled by members of the sub-committee. There was no resolve at the time of this script, but we are looking forward to completing this in 2009 and again after the implementation of the 2009 Traffic Records Assessment.

VIRTUAL DATA WAREHOUSE

The Virtual Data Warehouse project is the focal point of the strategic plan and much of the work we expect to accomplish in the STRAC in the upcoming year. The plan needs to be consistent with the 2004 Traffic Records Assessment.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2008:

- 1 FARS System Enhancements (DOR) for \$150K (extended from 2006/07)
- 2 Crash Location Enhancement Using Unique ID (Denver) for 35K (extended)
- 3 Patrol Location Solution (CSP) for \$215K (utilized 402 federal funds)



PROJECTS SELECTED FOR 408 FUNDING IN 2008:

- 1 Virtual Data Warehouse (CDOT) for \$300K (starting Jan. 2009)
- 2 CDOT Traffic Record System Enhancements for \$50K (on-going)
- 3 Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Registry Data for \$100K with CDPHE (on-going)
- 4 Transfer of Denver Accident Reports to DOR for \$80K (extended)
- 5 Electronic Ticket Data Transmission (Judicial Dept.) for \$240K (extended)
- 6 2005 Traffic Records Enhancements (CDOT) for \$60K

While much has been achieved in upgrading and improving the traffic records system in Colorado, significant problems remain. Most databases still function as separate compilations with limited data sharing and transfer capabilities. As such, data is inconsistent from one database to another. The quality of some data is questionable and accessibility, particularly for managers, is also limited.

The desired concept of comprehensive, complete, accurate, timely and accessible data (as per the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act; A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Legislation) has not yet been achieved. The preliminary phase of the VDW project commenced in January, 2009.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A new sub-committee was formed to examine and re-define our performance measures; timeliness, accuracy, completeness, uniformity, integration and accessibility, that we use to monitor our projects' progress. They met in December, 2007, and concluded in February



of 2008. This laid the foundation to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with acceptable wording and measurable items, according to their suggested guidelines. In accordance with STRAC's decision, this sub-committee was dissolved, since it had accomplished its task.

LIAISON TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A single representative, our new chairperson, will serve as a liaison to the Governor's Office of Information Technology (GOIT) and will assist in numerous tasks of House Bill 1364. This Bill directs an inventory all State Information Technology Systems and establishes procedures for data sharing and collective data storage, Micheline Casey, head of the HB 1364 project for GOIT, now attends STRAC quarterly meetings and will assist with the VDW activities.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING NOTES:

NHTSA, for FY 10/07 to 9/08 provided funding of \$500k from 408 and \$215 from 402 funds. For 10/08 to 9/09, we received another \$500k.

In addition to the federal funding, each state agency has also provided funding for the enhancement of the Traffic Records System.



STRAC MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CSP installed 407 patrol car modems; 305 of which are active.

These car modems provide quick and accurate crash scene reporting to their headquarters with GPS coordinates.

COLORADO STATE PATROL

Colorado State Patrol (CSP) has completed the installation of 407 modems in patrol cars with 305 modems currently active to provide quicker and more accurate crash scene reporting to their headquarters with GPS coordinates. The project was completed by the original September 30 deadline.

This technology will:

1. Provide an authoritative record system for the data collection, storage, reporting, and exchange of Colorado roadways motor vehicle traffic crashes GPS coordinates;
2. Provide Colorado roadways motor vehicle traffic crashes summary information for trend analysis and problem identification and;
3. Coordinate information data transfer for reporting and planning purposes.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This Department continued to accommodate the changes initiated by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Programming allowed the download



of crash data from 2005 and part of 2006. To accomplish this certain data issues had to first be resolved. The Electronic Accident Reporting Summary application was redesigned to access the new database containing the DR2447 data. A newer version of the application technology was installed to keep pace with Microsoft support.

The 2005 Traffic Records Enhancement Project required CDOT to utilize the assistance of temporary data entry specialists. Approximately 35% of the 2005 crash records were entered and edited by December 31, 2008.

The next Traffic Records Assessment, a five-year review of the state's Traffic Records program, has been scheduled for October 4 - 9, 2009, with the NHTSA Assessment Team.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Between May and September 30, 2008, business and technical personnel from the DMV, the Judicial Department and the District Attorney Council met eight times to discuss business flow, assess technical needs and identify data fields needed on electronic citations.

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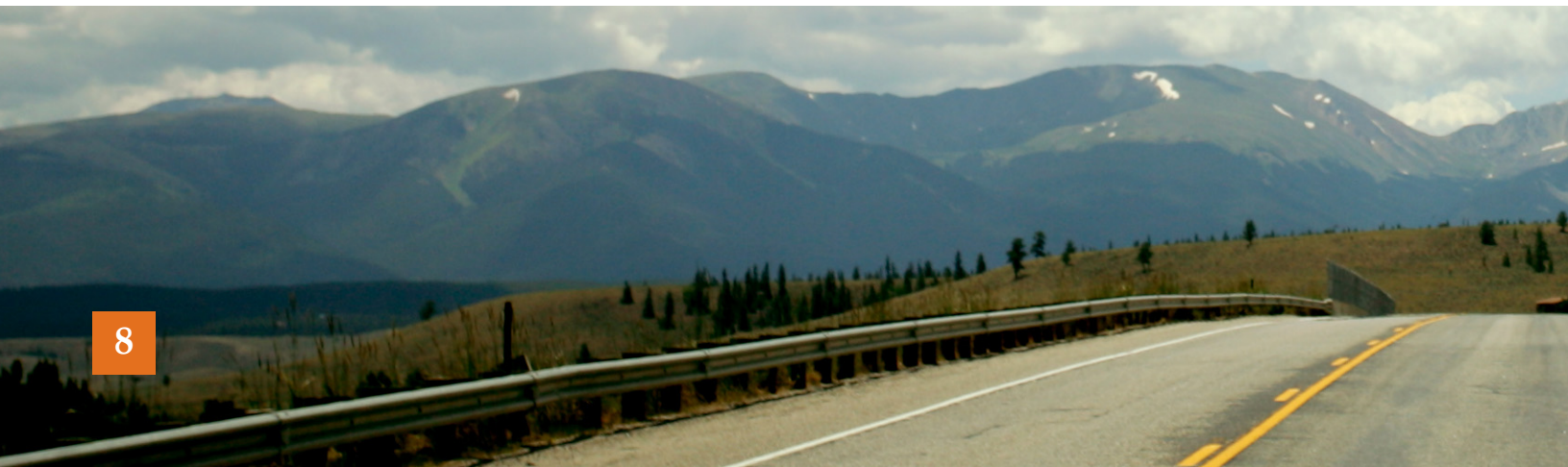
The DMV, the Judicial Department and the District Attorney Council met eight times to discuss business flow, assess technical needs and identify data fields needed on electronic citations.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Data Program at CDPHE are responsible for contributing two databases to the VDW. These databases are the Colorado Trauma Registry and the Colorado MATRIX (a database of patient care information from EMS providers).

Currently, 30 Level I, II and III trauma centers provide data to the Colorado Trauma Registry. The state trauma registry contains information on more than 225,000 trauma patients (reports received from July 1997 through September 2008). In 2008, staff in the EMS and Trauma Data Program at CDPHE worked with the trauma community to update the state trauma registry data dictionary to comply with the National Trauma Data Standards (NTDS).

The NTDS were developed by the American College of Surgeons, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national organizations in an effort to standardize the collection of trauma registry data nationwide. Clinical Data Management, the vendor for the software used to collect trauma registry data (Trauma base), assisted hospitals in upgrading their data collection software to meet the new standards.



Trauma hospitals are required to use the new data dictionary and upgraded software beginning with patient discharges in 2009. In addition to upgrading the hospital software in 2008, EMS and Trauma Data Program staff changed the existing trauma registry at CDPHE from Microsoft Access to SQL. This migration will not only facilitate the integration of trauma registry and EMS data at the state health department but also facilitate the ability of CDPHE to provide data to the VDW.

Finally, in terms of reporting on data in the trauma registry, the EMS and Trauma Data Program staff has automated the generation and distribution of reports describing trauma patient volume, injury severity and mortality. Beginning in January 2008, volume reports are now sent to each hospital and are posted to the web each quarter.

With regard to the Colorado EMS database, staff in the EMS and Trauma Data program at CDPHE worked with the EMS Data Task Force to update the rules related to pre-hospital data collection in 2008. The rules, passed by the Colorado Board of Health in May 2008, require all ground transport agencies to submit the National Elements subset of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) to the state database, on at least a quarterly basis.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Data Program at CDPHE are responsible for contributing the Colorado Trauma Registry and the Colorado MATRIX databases to the VDW.



Improvements have been seen in the timeliness of data submission. In June 2007, 70% of patient care reports were received by the state database within 90 days of the event; in October 2008, this percent had increased to 85% of reports.

In addition to the National Elements subset, Colorado-specific options for some of the NEMIS variables have been identified and included in an updated variable code list. From January 2006 through December 2008, data on more than 600,000 patient encounters have been submitted to the state EMS database. In 2008, more than 120 pre-hospital transport agencies (65% of the 185 transport agencies in Colorado) submitted data to the state database. This is a substantial increase from June of 2007 when only 49% of agencies were submitting data. Additionally, improvements have been seen in the timeliness of data submission.

In June 2007, 70% of patient care reports were received by the state database within 90 days of the event; in October 2008, received reports increased to 85%.



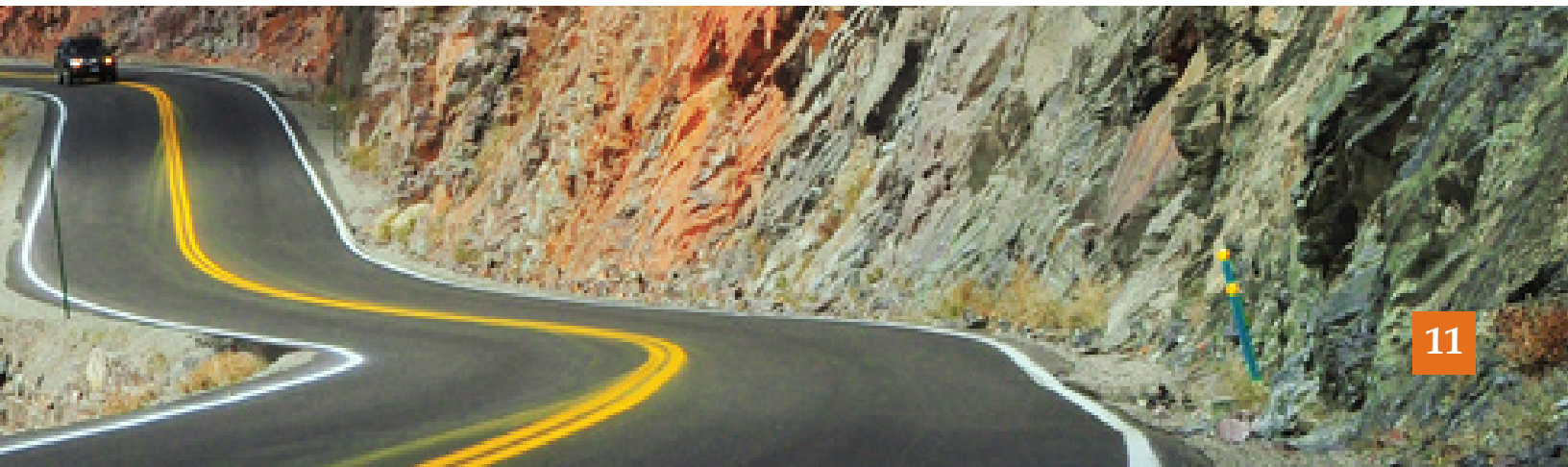
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Department of Revenue completed its work on the Electronic Accident Reporting System within the 2008 grant time limit. The DOR is now in the process of moving all of that data (from mid year 2006 through 2008) and the electronic submission data into the production tables by August of 2009. The Department is now able to capture data and build indices from paper submissions of the new accident reports.

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

Denver completed a project to improve the accuracy of crash locations in automated state accident reports. This project will use unique intersection identifiers as direction vectors that will produce more accurate crash and vehicle non-intersection locations. Work was completed by the contractor and implemented at the end of March 2008.

The Department of Revenue completed its work on the Electronic Accident Reporting System within the 2008 grant time limit.



2009 STRAC PROJECTS AND GOALS

During CY 2009, STRAC shall continue to review the project and Part 408 performance measures as required by NHTSA applications and contract compliance which may assist project tracking and contract administration. The Committee shall also secure a consultant to advise the best action plan for a comprehensive VDW. In furtherance of this goal the Committee will create a new sub-committee to monitor its progress. This sub-committee will initially consist of representatives from the Governor's Office of Information Technology, the Colorado Department of Transportation's information technology office, the Colorado Department of Transportation Office of Transportation Safety and STRAC itself. Once the plan is selected, it is hoped that initial implementation will begin in CY 2009. This plan and its subsequent implementation and coordination within the state's traffic safety community are a high priority that will require a large portion of the FY 2010 Part 408 funding.

While the VDW project will consume a great deal of time, effort and financial resources for other important projects will not be sacrificed nor ignored.

The STRAC Committee will continue to diligently work on the Judicial Department's Electronic Citation Project aimed ultimately at transmitting all traffic violation ticket information from law enforcement agencies directly to the Judicial Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the District Attorney Council. Part of this plan includes the City and County of Denver's project to submit police accident reports electronically to the Department of Motor Vehicles and the installation of the remainder of Colorado State Patrol's vehicle GPS units.

Within the past few years, particularly 2008, it has become abundantly clear that the lack of an effective, efficient means of data transfer between DMV and CDOT is an extremely costly and time consuming problem affecting both the public and private sectors of Colorado's economy.



The rectification of this issue should be near the top of the STRAC priority list. In addressing this issue the Committee needs to recognize the urgent need to improve the CDOT/DMV computer interface to allow easier transfer of data and make suggestions on how to decrease the backlog of accident records keeping in mind the new budget constraints under which all agencies are now operating.

Furthermore, any solution must include the Committee's primary mandate to assist in data collection, coordination and dissemination to all agencies (both public and private) involved in motor vehicle traffic safety. This will likely involve a new sub-committee updating the Traffic Records Strategic Plan (TRSP) and an annual document review.

Sub-committees are part of a dynamic and fluctuating process. The Committee shall review the relevance of existing sub-committees and dissolve or create new ones to align with STRAC's needs.

Finally, STRAC will complete the 2009 Traffic Records Assessment that will be conducted by a NHTSA review team in the fall.

Within the past few years, particularly 2008, it has become abundantly clear that the lack of an effective, efficient means of data transfer between DMV and CDOT is an extremely costly and time consuming problem affecting both the public and private sectors of Colorado's economy.



APPENDIX A

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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PREVIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES CHAIRS (2007-2008)

Accident Report: Rahim Marandi (CDOT)

System and Protocol: C. Steve Hooper (DOR)

Driving Under the Influence: Glenn Davis (CDOT)

Media and Education: Heather Halpape (CDOT)

Safety Forum: Marcee Allen (FHWA)

Local Agencies: Dave Weaver (Denver)

NEW SUB-COMMITTEES CHAIRS

Traffic Records Strategic Plan Revision:
Rahim Marandi (CDOT)

Performance Measures (concluded 4/08):
David Bourget (CDOT)

Governor's Office of Information Technology:
Steve Hooper (DOR)



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