

FHWA launches Every Day Counts

EVERY DAY COUNTS (EDC) is an "innovation initiative" from the Federal Highway Administration designed to advance transportation solutions that improve road safety, shorten project delivery and protect the environment.

The program, launched in 2010, focuses on accelerating the use of innovative technologies and strategies the FHWA considers effective and ready for wider use.

Shared resources

A goal of EDC is for federal transportation officials to work with their counterparts in state DOTs and local agencies, and with industry partners on implementing the innovations. The collaboration began with 10 regional innovation summits co-hosted last year by FHWA and AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials). Breakout sessions during the summits introduced participants, including representatives from Wisconsin, to the EDC initiatives.

The Every Day Counts website www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts is a key communication outlet where participants can address questions and discuss issues related to the targeted technologies. The site contains a range of information about the EDC technologies and strategies.

Technologies in spotlight

The initiative promotes adoption of five technologies the FHWA terms "effective, proven and market ready." They are warm mix asphalt, safety edge, prefabricated bridge elements, geosynthetic reinforced soil and adaptive signal controls.

WisDOT is leading Wisconsin's EDC response, working with the FHWA Wisconsin Division and other partners to study and implement these technologies. Rory Rhinesmith, WisDOT Division Operations Director, is directing the effort, in association with George Poirier, Administrator of the FHWA's Wisconsin office.

Poirier says the EDC's success depends on such collaboration.

"We need participation and input from all agencies and groups with a stake in improving how we manage transportation projects at the state and national levels and adopting these new technologies."

In addition to state and federal officials, the WisDOT technology teams include representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin

County Highway Association (WCHA), the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association and the American Council of Engineering Consultants.

The EDC website has links to FAQs, case studies and current resources for each technology.

The WCHA, one of the groups involved with implementation of the five technologies, is represented on most of the technology teams. Executive Director Dan Fedderly sees the EDC initiative as an important program.

"There is merit in adopting many of these approaches on local road projects," he notes, citing the bridge-repair technologies that county highway crews can use on bridges under 20 feet, smaller spans that do not qualify for funding to keep them repaired. "The prefab elements and geo soil are methods we should look at for doing effective, low-cost repairs or replacements."

Project delivery strategies

EDC also has a project delivery toolkit with better approaches to ten opportunity areas that accelerate progress on highway projects. These range from improving the environmental review process to more effective utility coordination.

"The public has seen what can be done in emergency situations when federal, state and local agencies work together," says Poirier. "We need to be creative and challenge ourselves to get things done quicker and do a better job."

Wisconsin plans to concentrate on five of the project delivery strategies, developing implementation steps to incorporate them into state projects and providing a model for local governments. Selected initiatives are:

Expanding the use of programmatic agreements Standardize procedures to avoid or minimize barriers that slow approvals.

Planning and environmental linkages Seamless integration of all planning documents into the environmental review process.

Accelerating technologies

Warm Mix Asphalt

Produced and placed at lower temperatures than hot mix, WMA can reduce emissions and extend the road construction season. See story page 1.

Safety Edge

Paving with a 30-degree sloped edge to promote safer re-entry for drivers who veer off the road. See story page 2.

Prefabricated Bridge Elements

Bridge structural components arrive at project location ready to erect.

Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil

Layers of compacted granular fill material and geotextile reinforcement supports bridge structure; reduce construction time and cost.

Adaptive Signal Controls

Adjusts timing of traffic signals based on changes in traffic volume and patterns.



Images of accelerating technologies from the Every Day Counts website, where visitors will find information and resources on all initiatives in the FHWA project.

Legal sufficiency enhancements

Identify legal issues early in document development related to the environmental review process.

Clarifying preliminary design scope

Identify design work allowed prior to environmental review and develop a consistent process.

Flexibilities in utility relocation

Research existing policies to identify ways to improve coordination between utilities and state DOTs.

Streamlining project delivery is a high priority for his members, Fedderly says. "It's something we've been working on for years, looking for ways to get more resources on the road and reduce administrative bottlenecks," he explains. "These strategies hold some of the greatest benefits for local governments."

Links on the EDC website connect these strategies to helpful documents and resources that define the approaches.

New sense of urgency

In introducing Every Day Counts, FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez cited the challenges all transportation agencies face to maintain safe roads in an efficient, cost-effective way. He called on state and local agencies to act with "a new sense of urgency" by adopting the proven technologies outlined in the initiative.

Working with the FHWA and other transportation partners, WisDOT is setting the example by implementing technologies highlighted through EDC into its projects. The department plans to assist local governments with updated specifications, demonstrations and other resources.

Rhinesmith says WisDOT is setting an example by incorporating selected approaches championed through EDC in its projects.

"Many of these technologies are good examples of how construction techniques and materials keep improving," he notes. "Where we can use them to develop and complete road and bridge projects across the state effectively, we will." The department also plans to assist local governments with updated specifications, demonstrations and other resources. ■

Resource

www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts
FHWA site devoted to Every Day Counts initiative with links to resources and discussions.

RESOURCES

Websites

The FHWA Every Day Counts site focuses on innovative technologies and practices to improve safety on roadways, protect the environment and shorten project delivery time.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/

Warm Mix Asphalt page on the Every Day Counts site features facts, case studies and links to related resources about this accelerating technology.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/technology/asphalt/

Section of FHWA website focuses on Warm Mix Asphalt; includes descriptions of the various warm mix additives and provides links to warm mix research.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/asphalt/wma.cfm

Warm Mix Asphalt Technical Working Group site, hosted by national Asphalt Pavement Association, includes information on warm mix and links to other information about WMA.

www.warmmixasphalt.com/

Bookstore at AASHTO site carries *Superpave Volumetric Design for Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA)* with special mix design methods for WMA appendix drafted by the WMA Technical Working Group.

<https://bookstore.transportation.org/home.aspx>

The *Every Day Counts* website has facts, case studies and links to other resources on the Safety Edge, one of five EDC accelerating technologies.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/technology/safetiedge/

FHWA Safety Edge web page.

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/pavement/safedgel/



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