

## Texas Traffic Management Teams

*Steven Z. Levine*

*Texas Department of Transportation*

Mr. Levine provided a summary of the use of traffic management teams in the Houston area. These teams have been used successfully over a number of years on a variety of projects. Mr. Levine covered the following points in his presentation.

- The traveling public does not always realize who is responsible for the different transportation facilities, nor do they really care. Their major concern is that the facilities are maintained and operated to serve their needs. To accomplish this, traffic management teams—comprised of representatives from all the different agencies responsible for the system—have been used in many areas.
- The first traffic management team in Houston was formed in March 1981. The initial focus of this group was on the development of the Houston HOV lanes. This effort established the communication links and cooperation between agencies that continues today. The team has been meeting once a month for 11 years and the success of many projects in the Houston area can be traced to this coordination and cooperation.
- The traffic management team has addressed a number of issues. These include coordinating traffic control plans for major construction projects, enforcement of work zone safety and regulations, coordinating truck routings and the movement of hazardous material, developing plans for incident management, and coordinating transportation and special events.
- The team has recently been reorganized to provide for subcommittees to address specific problem areas and projects. Incident management and special events are the two areas currently being examined by the subcommittees. The use of these subcommittees

allows a smaller group to focus on a specific issue and helps resolve them in a more timely manner.

- Additional programs have been developed through the cooperative efforts of the traffic management team. An example of this is the successful Motorist Assistance Patrol.
- The team has also helped with public information, especially through participation in the annual Houston Automobile Show. Further, the team has been assisting with a variety of IVHS-related demonstration projects that are being implemented in the Houston area.
- Funding for the traffic management team has been borne by each of the involved agencies. Capital improvements for the different projects and programs are funded by the respective agencies.
- The team has withstood the test of time and is being viewed as an integral part of the activities associated with developing ITMS and IVHS in Houston.

## Anaheim's Katella Corridor

*Dr. Michael McNally*

*University of California-Irvine*

Dr. McNally provided an overview of the institutional issues associated with the Katella Corridor project. This project is one part of the ITMS program for the city of Anaheim. Dr. McNally summarized the following points concerning the Katella Corridor project.

- The Katella Corridor project focused on interjurisdictional coordination of traffic signal timing. Four cities, Orange County, and Caltrans were all involved in the project. The first question addressed in the project was, Is interjurisdictional cooperation necessary for an coordinated signal system? The second question was, Is such cooperation feasible?