



Central United States Earthquake Consortium  
**STATE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE**

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## ANNUAL REPORT

Report Number Five FY 2005  
July 2004 through June 2005.....pages 1-6

Prepared in accordance with Article 5  
CUSEC State Transportation Task Force  
Memorandum of Understanding  
By  
Jerry E. Thompson, P.E., Chairman

**CUSEC STATE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT #5**  
**FY 2005**  
**JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

The National Earthquake Conference; “Strengthening America: Preparing for Earthquakes and More” was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on September 27–30, 2004.

A presentation was made by Jerry E. Thompson, STTF Chairman on September 28, 2004 in a workshop titled: Strengthening State Transportation Infrastructure: A Focus on the Practical and Theoretical Approaches of Risk Reduction Measures”.

The Eighth Regular meeting of the CUSEC State Transportation Task Force was held September 29, 2004, concurrently with the National Earthquake Conference at the Adams Mark and was attended by all but one (1) of the current STTF members. Attending were:

Jerry E. Thompson	David Johnson
Gerald Gregory	Bob Chapman
Tony Evans	Scott Stotlemeyer

Absent was Glenn Givan

Alabama has not become active to date.

Jerry E. Thompson was re-elected Chairman, and David Johnson was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

The Goals of the STTF was reviewed as follows:

1. **Update and Optimize Emergency Transportation Routes in the Central U.S.**
  - A. Foster partnerships between transportation/emergency agencies.

- B. Encourage improved inter-agency communications regarding Public Safety & Security, All Hazards, and Earthquake concerns.
  - C. Conduct Workshops, utilizing best-practices methodology, to facilitate emergency route selection and development.
  - D. Utilize Research and Development for the selection of an interstate information communication system capable of voice/data/video integration.
  - E. GIS-based application recommended for information display and map generation.
2. **Provide Inspector Training Program for inspection of Transportation Systems**
- A. Train Post Event initial condition inspectors (Level 1 and 2).
  - B. Train Post Event structural-expert inspectors (Level 3).
  - C. Include program design, manual production, trainer selection, and logistics.
3. **Initiate Exercises at Intra and Inter-State levels**
- A. Participate in preparedness exercises by others.
  - B. Conduct local and regional exercises.
  - C. Secure professional event coordinator services.
4. **Provide Loss Estimation System**
- A. Review existing programs being used and under development.
  - B. Select and secure flexible and user-friendly application.
  - C. Ensure necessary tool availability.
  - D. Conduct regional user-training workshops.
5. **Provide on-site education and awareness training**
- A. Coordinate with effected staff at event site for first-hand education and training.
  - B. Incorporate limited-notice travel capabilities.

6. **Produce public information material**
  - A. Convey Emergency Transportation expectations to public.
  - B. Distribute via State and Federal DOTs and Emergency Management Agencies.
  
7. **Improve soils mapping of transportation corridors through a partnership among the U.S. Geological Survey , State Geological Surveys, and Academia**
  - A. Improved partnership would benefit decision-making processes within DOTs.

Mr. Robert Latham – CUSEC Board Chairman, Dr. Norman Hester –Director of the CUSEC Association of State Geologists, and Jerry E. Thompson – STTF Chairman, traveled to Washington DC October 27–29, 2004 for the purpose of meeting with federal officials. Meetings were held with FEMA, FHWA, US DOT Office of Emergency Transportation, and the USGS on the dates noted above. Meeting summaries follow:

Mr. Latham met with FEMA Undersecretary Brown then joined Mr. Hester and Mr. Thompson for a meeting with Mr. Vince Pearce, Public Safety and Security Team Leader, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Operations. Mr. Pearce expressed interest in information sharing related to transportation & public safety issues. He requested case study feedback and encouraged review of an “Emergency Operation Guide” soon to be available in draft form, and part of a National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) study. He recommended review of the AASHTO Security website and contact with the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder Colorado, along with a review of the work of the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Mr. Pearce expressed interest in evacuation processes, especially those of a “no notice” nature. He is involved in exercises, low-cost traffic monitors, and various forms of communicating disaster response and recovery information to the public, and seemed especially interested in Mississippi’s successes through their partnership with the National Public Radio (NPR) network throughout the regions in and around Mississippi. While Mr. Pearce seemed interested in the activities of CUSEC, he

had little to offer our group in the way of financial support, due in part to his FY 2006 budget having been submitted at this time. Also much of his funds have been redirected to the Department of Homeland Security, leaving him with only research funds and little or no grant funding. Apparently natural disaster issues are not currently receiving much focus , leaving us with the distinct impression there does not appear to be much potential for financial assistance from the Federal Highway Agency of the US Department of Transportation at this time.

The CUSEC representatives then met with Mr. Roger Bohnert, Director, of the Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Emergency Transportation, US Department of Transportation. We outlined the goals and objectives of CUSEC and the STTF and the importance of a closer collaboration between the STTF and the US DOT. Mr. Hester provided a brief summary of each of our backgrounds, credentials, and interest in emergency transportation. Mr. Thompson reviewed the history of the STTF and outlined the similarities of interest between the Office of Emergency Transportation (OET) and the STTF. Mr. Latham provided a very clear and concise summary of the importance and successful achievements of the CUSEC since its inception, along with a review of his meeting with FEMA Undersecretary Brown.

Mr. Bohnert explained the responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Transportation, its historical role and the new direction he plans since assuming the position of Director approximately six month ago. He recently completed a mission in Iraq as head of the office of intelligence and security for Transportation Secretary Mineta, returning to full-time duties at the OET. He highlighted his direct association with secretary Mineta and noted the recent streamlining of the OET which will result in a close working relationship directly with Secretary Mineta.

Mr. Bohnert seemed very interested in the work of CUSEC, and the STTF, and indicated several times our visit was especially timely, and meshed well with the programs he has recently initiated. Specifically he is in the process of hiring an exercise specialist to direct all exercise activities and has hired a consulting firm to jointly oversee and manage the Regional Emergency Transportation

Coordination (RETCO) program. Mr. Bohnert indicated all exercises conducted or managed at the federal level would be managed and operated through his Office of Emergency Transportation. Mr. Bohnert also indicated he would contact the Regional Emergency Transportation Representative (RETREP) in our region for the purpose of initiation collaboration. He would like to move forward with emergency transportation planning as soon as possible.

Mr. Latham, Mr. Hester, and Mr. Thompson met with Mr. Chip Groat, Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) at the USGS home office in Reston Virginia on Friday 29, 2004. Also in attendance was Mr. David Appelgate of the USGS office. Mr. Groat and Mr. Appelgate were updated on the activities of CUSEC by Mr. Latham, the STTF by Mr. Thompson and the CUSEC–Association of State Geologists (ASG) by Mr. Hester. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the close collaboration between the USGS and CUSEC and its Associations. The participants felt the meeting was quite successful with the continuation of this partnership a clear outcome.

Mr. Roger Bohnert followed up on our meeting in Washington D.C. by recommending a meeting with Mr. Jeffrey McSpaden, RETREP, Office of Emergency Transportation, at our earliest convenience. Mr. Bohnert is interested in furthering the potential partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the CUSEC STTF.

A meeting was subsequently held January 12, 2005 in Indianapolis with Jeffrey McSpaden, RETREP, Office of Emergency Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Mr. Norm Hester, and Mr. Jerry T. Thompson.

Mr. Hester outlined the history of CUSEC and the CUSEC Association of State Geologists, and the need to further partnerships with Federal Transportation agencies.

Mr. Thompson outlined the history of the CUSEC State Transportation Task Force, along with the Task Force's vision for the future. The goals of the Task

Force were reviewed, particularly the apparently shared interest in preparation and planning for the exercise set for the Central U.S. in 2007.

Mr. McSpaden provided a brief summary of his nearly 20 years of involvement in emergency planning, ten years with the Federal Highway Administration, and five years in his current position as RETREP.

Mr. McSpaden noted the recent publication of the National Response Plan and the Catastrophic Planning supplement. He suggested that document be reviewed for potential shared direction. He felt the work of the STTF had merit and was willing to take proposals forward in a future meeting with Mr. Bohnert set for the first week in March, 2005. He indicated the potential was good for financial support from the OET, although not certain. He suggested a brief summarized version of our proposal be submitted to him by early February, 2005. The potential exists for minimal funding, ten to fifteen thousand annually, to support early planning workshop(s). Requests for substantial amounts would need a proposal submitted by the spring of 2005, to receive budgetary approval by October 2006, at the start of FY 2007.

Mr. McSpaden advised in March of 2005 that he had accepted a position with the Department of Health and Human Services. He indicated he passed on hour request for support letter to Mr. Bohnert at the RETCO Conference in Washington DC the previous week.

**End report #5, FY-2005**