

TIM IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Regional Transportation Incident Management (TIM) Briefing

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TPB Technical Committee
June 5, 2026



(Patrick Zilliacus/COG)



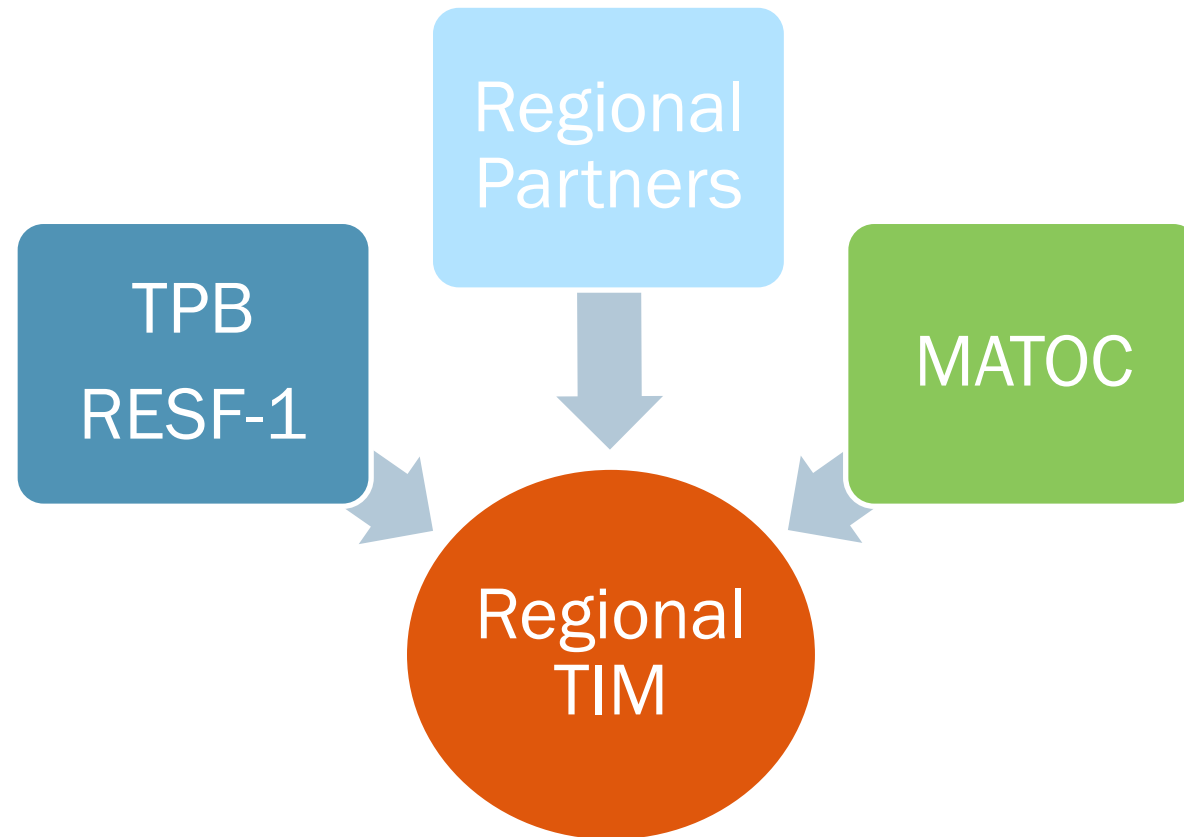
Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

“Traffic Incident Management (TIM) consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents; improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders; and reduces the frequency of secondary crashes.”

- [Federal Highway Administration Website](#)



Regional TIM Planning



- **Transportation Emergency Preparedness Committee (RESF-1):** plans for and addresses Transportation's role regarding emergency response, coordination, and recovery during and after a declared emergency or other major event.
- **Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program:** coordinated partnership between transportation agencies in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia that aims to improve safety and mobility in the region through information sharing, planning, and coordination.
- **Regional Partners:** include TPB members agencies, State DOTs, Fire, EMS, Police, and Towing.



(Patrick Zilliacus/COG)



Background – COG TIME Task Force (2018)

- In January 2018, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors, under the leadership of Chairman Matt Letourneau, tasked COG with identifying recommendations and actions to enhance traffic incident management in the region.
- A multi-disciplinary Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) task force, comprised of transportation, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services subject matter experts, was formed to oversee the effort.
- The Task Force met several times throughout the year and hosted a regional workshop based on FHWA's TIM self-assessment tool.
- Drawing from this work, the TIME Task Force put forward seven actionable, top priority items for the region to enhance its TIM.



TIME Task Force Recommendations

1. Update Regional Agreements and Improve Consistency of TIM Laws and Policies.
2. Coordinate Regional Annual TIM Self-Assessments.
3. Encourage and Coordinate TIM Trainings to Promote Best Practices.
4. Launch Outreach Initiatives That Better Engage the Public and Officials on TIM.
5. Create a Regional TIM Program.
6. Designate Transportation Incident Responders as Emergency Responders Regionwide.
7. Expand Roadway Service Patrols to Federal Parkways and Other Critical Major Roads Not Currently Covered.

Status of TIME Task Force Recommendations

Looking at how COG/TPB are implementing the TIME task force recommendations:

1. Update Regional Agreements and Improve Consistency of TIM Laws and Policies.
 - *COG DHPS has multiple Mutual Aid agreements in place, currently working on getting signatories for the Transportation Mutual Aid Operations Plans (TMAOP).*
 - *Improving consistency of TIM laws and policies would require future efforts in consensus-building and legislative action*
2. Coordinate Regional Annual TIM Self-Assessments.
 - *TPB staff with participation from the three state DOTs performed the first regional assessment in 2023. Intend to reassess in the next year.*
3. Encourage and Coordinate TIM Trainings to Promote Best Practices.
 - *Continue to promote and potentially host training events.*
4. Launch Outreach Initiatives That Better Engage the Public and Officials on TIM.
 - *Limited progress to date. Future outreach could take the form of amplifying DOT messaging (ex. work zone safety) or proclamations from COG Board and TPB.*



Status of TIME Task Force Recommendations

5. Create a Regional TIM Program.
 - *Staff from MATOC, RESF-1, and TPB staff have ongoing discussions to coordinate on addressing TIM regionally.*
6. Designate Transportation Incident Responders as Emergency Responders Regionwide.
 - *Some capabilities already exist. Further discussion needed at RESF-1.*
7. Expand Roadway Service Patrols to Federal Parkways and Other Critical Major Roads Not Currently Covered.
 - *Some coordination with U.S. Park Police currently exists. Further discussion needed at RESF-1.*



State-Level TIM in the National Capital Region

On May 1, 2026, RESF-1 held a Lunch & Learn focused on TIM programs by state:

- State DOTs have invested in roadway patrol programs and transportation operations centers to monitor and ensure fast and safe response to incidents on the region's highway networks.
- TIM Committees exist in all three jurisdictions, with DDOT having the formed the newest committee.
- Maryland has full time position focused on TIM training for the state in all disciplines (Fire, EMS, Police, Towing) not just transportation.
- MATOC monitors the whole region and communicates with the state DOTs to ensure situational awareness.
- One takeaway was the need to continue developing collaborative relationships in the region.



Going Forward

- Provide opportunities for TIM presentations with a regional perspective.
- Continue to coordinate with MATOC on TIM topics.
- Periodically conduct the regional TIM self-assessment with expanded participation.
- Encourage member agencies to sign on to the Transportation Mutual Aid Operations Plans (TMAOP).
- Look for ways to promote TIM in regional planning.

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