

Common Cents

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NJDOT Asset Management Quarterly

Dave's Two Cents

NJDOT sets 10 Year Targets

The Department's Asset Management Steering Committee has set 10 Year Performance Targets for Pavement and Bridges under the Department's jurisdiction, and has approved a target for Safety, with additional ones being developed. These high level goals are realistic and are also independent of funding considerations. They represent our vision, based on good data and well-thought recommendations, for the system in 10 years. To see the Targets, please visit: <http://njdotintranet.dot.state.nj.us/about/asset/pdf/10year.pdf>

Now that we have them, how do we use them? How do we link them to our funding priorities and resource allocations? The targets were not set in a vacuum, and they should direct our efforts as we develop our Asset Management Plan, our Annual Capital Program, our 10 Year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and our annual Statewide Capital Investment Strategy.

One of the central tenets of good Asset Management practice is that it is "policy-driven." This means that our decision-making is based on a well-defined set of policy goals and objectives. The objectives reflect desired system condition and levels of service. This principle is not unfamiliar to those involved with asset management, and neither is it a radical approach. It is important to remember that asset management is a strategic approach – it takes the long view of performance in a comprehensive, proactive and informed manner.

We have now defined our 10 year Targets for Pavement and Bridges; Safety is partially completed, and next up is congestion relief. These are fixed targets; they represent the direction we must head in. They are the targets that we will use to guide our decisions and define where we would like to be in 10 years.

NJDOT launches asset management internet page

Through the efforts of IT, Communications and CIS, NJDOT has launched a website on its Asset Management Program. The address is: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/about/asset>

The website complements information available on NJDOT's intranet page, and allows interested parties a way to find out about NJDOT's asset management efforts.

"I'm pleased that we have joined many state transportation agencies around the country with a webpage devoted to asset management," said Dave Kuhn, Executive Director of Capital Investment Strategies. "This will help NJDOT show all the good work we are doing in the realm of Asset Management."



Thomas Paine
I offer ...
common sense.
Thomas Paine

10 Year Safety Target Approved

The Asset Management Steering Committee approved a 10 Year Safety Performance Target at its June 15, 2009 meeting. The target is a 20 percent reduction in highway fatalities over the next 10 years, using a baseline of 600.

“We had several extended discussions relating to safety performance measures and targets,” said Committee Member Jim Hogan. “We’re not done yet, however, as we need to complement this target with additional 10 Year measures and targets that will help us achieve the fatality reduction.”

The Committee viewed several presentations by Pat Ott, Director of Highway Traffic Engineering and Safety, that provided background information about ongoing safety, along with recommendations for 10 year targets. In 2008, there were 594 fatalities on all state and local highways in New Jersey, including pedestrian fatalities. This was the lowest fatality number since 1948, when the yearly Vehicle Miles Traveled on New Jersey highways was only 6 percent of what it is today.

As Commissioner Dilts stated in his remarks to the Safe Passage Symposium in February, 2009, “this is a significant accomplishment, but we need to build momentum to continue our recent progress.”

This year, NJDOT will spend \$108.9 million this year to improve safety in areas that have been identified by our Safety Management System. Those measures include installing raised pavement markers in areas where there are a high number of nighttime and wet-weather crashes and making pavement improvements on roads where skidding has contributed to a significant history of crashes.

NJDOT has also invested millions of dollars on 39 different pedestrian safety projects, adding more than 30,000 linear feet of sidewalk safety upgrades to dangerous intersections and highway corridors in areas with the highest pedestrian crashes and fatalities.

The importance of good data

Mike Castaldo, Project Engineer in the Bureau of Transportation Data Development (BTTD), knows how important quality data is to NJDOT’s Asset Management Program. Good data is the foundation of any Asset Management Program.

Castaldo is responsible for BTTD’s visual imaging program for the video log and viewer application for the Department’s Straight Line Diagrams (SLD) management system. He is also the project manager for BTTD’s Data Maintenance project that keeps most of the data in the SLD data warehouse current, and has been managing BTTD’s ongoing Partial Interchange Study Project with the FHWA.

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The importance of good data (continued)

“Data is an asset, and our SLD warehouse holds large amounts of asset locations, conditions, and related attributes,” Castaldo said. “We believe that any development of asset management products or applications will rely on the SLD as a base.”

BTTD is under the Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety. BTTD is a data collection arm of NJDOT, and its daily duties include providing customers with current, accurate data regarding traffic, roadway, GIS and maintenance management data. Customers include NJDOT personnel, counties, other state agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, consultants, and others.

“Our work covers a lot of territory: traffic, trucks, speeds, vehicle weights, vehicle classifications, highway performance, vehicle turning movements, roadway characteristics, and roadway mileage,” Castaldo said. “We submit data annually to the Federal Highway Administration for its use in calculating New Jersey’s share of Federal highway dollars. This is a very important function, given all of the transportation needs we have in our state.”



Mike Castaldo

Castaldo has been with BTTD since 2004, and has a total of 26 years of service with NJDOT. He started as a Drafting Technician in the Roadway Design Squad 3, which handled roadway design projects in northeastern New Jersey. “I am also most proud of a project I managed from 2002 to 2005,” Castaldo said. “We inventoried all public local roads in New Jersey, and the end result was the addition of nearly 26,000 center line miles of local roads to the GIS road network and the SLD database.”

In addition to this work, BTTD also conducted several projects to update sign data using corridor sign inventories and sign replacement work orders. These challenging projects require quality control to ensure valid and useful data.

According to Bill Ducsak, Manager of BTTD, “Mike’s work is critical to NJDOT’s asset management efforts. He has a key role in preparing a solid foundation of accurate, consistent, and integrated data upon which the Department will stand in the future. We’re pleased to be a part of the AM team, helping shape the delivery of more efficient and effective transportation services and products with new advancements in our capital investment strategies.”

Castaldo’s enthusiasm for his work is as strong as it was on the day he started at NJDOT: “The work ethic and professionalism here fosters a quality work environment. Our success is based upon the fact that everyone works as a team, which enables us to advance new technologies and products while maintaining our budgets and schedules.”
