



Central United States Earthquake Consortium
STATE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE

ANNUAL REPORTS

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Prepared in accordance with
Article 5
CUSEC State Transportation Task Force
Memorandum of Understanding
Adopted February 27, 2001.
By
Jerry E. Thompson, P.E.
Chairman

**CUSEC STATE TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE
ANNUAL REPORT #1
July 2000 – June 2001**

The CUSEC State Transportation Task Force was formed in Memphis, Tennessee on June 28-29, 2000.

Member states are: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted, and the approval process completed by being signed by each member state, on February 27, 2001.

The memorandum agrees to:

- Develop a multi-year strategy with transportation as the key to disaster preparedness.
- Identify research needed to facilitate a seismic-resistant transportation system.
- Promote informational sharing and conduct joint planning and training exercises.
- Undertake activities to enhance cooperation among the member states.
- Identify and secure funding to further Task Force activities.
- Prepare annual reports to the Central United States Earthquake Consortium.

The name “CUSEC State Transportation Task Force” was chosen for the organization, and Jerry E. Thompson, from Indiana was elected as the initial chairman.

A representative of the US Department of Transportation attended the first meeting, expressed interest in the Task Force, and offered further support by providing funding for worthwhile projects.

The Task Force selected as its first project, the preparation of a map showing the emergency routes, in each of the seven member states. The proposal was written and submitted in July and approved for funding in September of 2000.

The Second Regular State Transportation Task Force Meeting was held in St. Louis Missouri in September and scheduled to coincide with a Post Earthquake Highway Response and Recovery Seminar conducted by the Federal Highway and the Missouri DOT, and an Emergency Management Assistance Compact meeting also held during the same time period, which requested Task Force participation.

Representatives of Purdue University in Indiana made a presentation of the Post Earthquake Bridge Inspection Training Program originally prepared for the Indiana Department of Transportation. Several states expressed interest in this program and appreciated copies of the program provided on CD by INDOT.

The Task Force initiated a dialogue with the USGS from Golden Colorado for the purpose of establishing a closer working relationship, and to request the assistance of the USGS with Task Force efforts in the Central US.

The Task Force finalized the signature process on the Memorandum of Understanding in February of 2001, with copies provided to each member state.

The Third Regular State Transportation Task Force Meeting was held in Memphis Tennessee in March of 2001. The Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) has renewed its effort to hold an annual meeting, in March of each year. The Task Force meeting was scheduled to coincide with the CUSEC annual meeting, and conducted during a break-out session.

Progress on the Emergency Route Mapping Project was reviewed. Not surprisingly, the map showed with glaring clarity, that emergency routes of one state did not join the emergency routes of the adjoining states.

The Task Force also began developing a multi-year strategy and setting goals for the future. The following goals were selected:

1. Partner with the Association of CUSEC State Geologists, and the USGS, to include geological information in the Emergency Mapping Project effort, and to assist each state with transportation decisions benefiting from an improved understanding of geological influences.
2. Pursue various training programs including,
 - Sharing of the post-earthquake bridge inspection program pioneered for INDOT by Purdue,
 - Assisting with organizing and conducting exercises.
 - Coordinating with affected DOTs, following a seismic event, to provide first-hand transportation response and recovery experience.
3. Promote coordination with various transportation organizations, such as AASHTO, FHWA, and the Federal DOT.

The Fourth Regular State Transportation Task Force Meeting was held at the INDOT District office in Vincennes, Indiana, in June of 2001.

This meeting included a presentation of the post-earthquake bridge inspection program by Purdue, for those who missed this at previous meetings, and a presentation by the Association of CUSEC State Geologists on the partnering proposal being considered. A portion of the meeting was directed toward finalizing the bridge information needed on the Emergency Route mapping project which will permit completion of the project. Discussion groups were formed so each adjoining state could agree on the selection of interim routes, providing a temporary solution to the current disconnects. Further work will be required to establish a final and well-connected route program. A representative of the FHWA, in attendance, indicated interest in supporting our training program efforts. Plans were made to begin preparation of a training program funding proposal, which will ultimately be submitted to the FHWA.

Jerry E. Thompson of Indiana was re-elected for a second term as Chairman, and David B. Johnson of Illinois was elected to the newly created office of Vice-Chairman.

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The Fifth Regular State Transportation Task Force Meeting was held at the Indiana State House in Indianapolis, Indiana in November of 2001.

This meeting featured participation by J. Bryan Nicol, INDOT Commissioner, and Pat Ralston, State Emergency Management Executive Director, both expressing support for the Task Force. The completed Emergency Route Mapping Project was showcased. However, considerable work remains in each state, along with the need for final resolution to the inter-state disconnects.

Presentations were made by both the USGS and the Association of CUSEC State Geologists regarding the coordination of geological and transportation initiatives.

A personnel change within the FHWA has resulted in a temporary delay in progress on our training program plans, although the Task Force completed and submitted an abbreviated version of the planned funding proposal, directed toward securing funding for future Task Force member assemblies.

The Sixth Regular State Transportation Task Force Meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas, in March of 2002. This meeting, like the meeting held in March of last year, was held in conjunction with the CUSEC Annual March meeting.

Due to severe out-of-state travel budget restrictions, only four of seven states were able to attend. Although progress on current goals was limited, a representative of the FHWA, in attendance, made very positive supportive comments and expressed an interest in providing funding to assist with our efforts. He recommended scheduling a visit in the near future to discuss project proposals of mutual interest.

The election of officers was completed April 9, 2002 via e-mail.

Jerry E. Thompson from Indiana was re-elected chairman and David Johnson from Illinois was re-elected Vice-Chairman for the term July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

Task Force Chair Jerry E. Thompson, CUSEC Executive Director Jim Wilkinson, and Indiana State Emergency Management Earthquake Program Director John Steel meet with INDOT Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol April 11, 2002. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit the assistance of Commissioner Nicol in promoting the importance of the Task Force among fellow Commissioners or State Directors of Transportation in the Central US. Commissioner Nicol has been instrumental in the progress of earthquake preparedness within INDOT and has participated in several recent CUSEC events. The Task Force is appreciative of his interest and look forward to his continued support.