Tour of TDOT's Memphis Traffic Management Center
Sponsored by Memphis Chapter Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers

Date: November 10, 2009
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Cost: $12 for box lunch

Location: Memphis Traffic Management Center
5344 Boswell Rd
Memphis, TN 38120

RSVP: Tim Herndon
therndon@cityofbartlett.org
901-385-6499
RSVP by noon Monday, November 9, 2009

RSVP is essential to ensure enough lunches are provided

TDOT SmartWay is Tennessee's intelligent transportation system. It is designed to reduce traffic congestion by reducing incident clearance time, increase safety by decreasing the number of secondary accidents, and, working alongside our incident management program (HELP), improving emergency response to traffic situations. TDOT SmartWay uses cameras to monitor the highways from Traffic Management Centers, sensors to gauge traffic flow, large electronic message boards to send urgent traffic notices to drivers along the highways and the Highway Advisory Radio system. Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis have fully integrated SmartWay systems. Early deployment of cameras occurred in Chattanooga in 2007 with a full system in place by 2010.

On November 13, 2008, the Memphis TDOT SmartWay system went live. The system includes 115 traffic cameras, 42 Dynamic Message Signs, more than 350 speed/congestion monitoring stations to spot traffic flow interruptions, and a city-wide highway advisory radio station broadcasting on AM 1660.

The system offers many more benefits than just providing camera views on the website, although that is one element that is very popular with the public. In the first three months of operation of Nashville's SmartWay system, the department experienced more than a half million hits on its cameras. Typically, the system experiences a surge of hits during the winter months when there is snow and ice on highways.

Other benefits include providing warning messages on dynamic message signs to drivers approaching a crash or disabled vehicle. These warnings allow traffic to divert to other routes while also reducing the potential for secondary crashes caused by drivers running into unanticipated backups.

Other benefits include:

- Providing live video to local television stations that is used during their rush hour traffic reports
- Website access to current construction and incident information.
- Shorter crash response time by emergency response agencies including TDOT HELP trucks
- Using the system to assist in AMBER ALERTS
- Radio reports of current construction and incident information available on the highway advisory radio (HAR) system.
- Use of the system to complement Homeland Security evacuation plans