According to the USDOT’s Federal Highway Administration, three injury crashes occur every minute in the United States, putting nearly 39,000 incident responders potentially in harm’s way every day. Congestion from these incidents often generates secondary crashes, further increasing traveler delay and frustration. The longer incident responders remain at the scene, the greater the risk they and the traveling public face. Minimizing the time and resources required for incident clearance is essential to meeting national goals for safety and reliability.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training is vital for achieving the National Unified Goal (NUG) for TIM: Responder Safety; Safe, Quick Clearance; Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Incident Communications. Well-trained responders can more quickly reduce the time it takes to clear accidents, offering the benefits of reduced congestion and lost travel time for travelers, as well as the potential to better protect incident responders.

USDOT/FHWA has a new coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), and the I-95 Corridor Coalition Regional Highway Operations Groups (HOGs) are pleased to support the national initiative by bringing this training for traffic incident responders to the HOGs Regions. Additional information may be found at FHWA’s website at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/edctwo/2012/firstresponder.cfm

Conducted by experienced, FHWA-certified traffic incident management personnel, the First Responder TIM 6-hour training workshop provided by the I-95 Coalition HOGs builds upon the Coalition’s Quick Clearance Program and incorporates discussion of local and regional issues to engage responder teams and encourage safe and coordinated incident response. All responder disciplines -- Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, DOTs, Dispatch, Towing, Incident Reconstruction Specialists, Motor Carrier Enforcement, Medical Examiners – will benefit from this training, leading to a safer, faster, integrated responder team. The training agenda addresses a host of topics from the moment the first emergency call is made to the correct deployment of response vehicles, traffic cones, and advanced warning devices to ensure proper safety buffers and a secure work area, proper handling and identification of hazardous materials, guidelines for working with hybrid vehicles, debris clearance, tow truck protocols, and cleanup.

The I-95 Coalition HOGs are providing the Traffic Incident Management Responder Training free of charge to Coalition Members. This includes instructor time, session materials, and morning coffee and lunch for attendees. The Coalition Member is asked to provide the conference room setup classroom style, a computer projector with sound capability, and screen.

To schedule the Traffic Incident Management Responder Training for your region, contact Ira Promisel at ipromisel@stac.edu.