



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (PennTIME) Joint Operational Policy

Acknowledgements

The development of the PennTIME program is supported by the Pennsylvania Transportation Advisory Committee (PATAC), its member agencies, and numerous stakeholders across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The contributions of these agencies are gratefully acknowledged, and serve as the foundation of a collaborative effort across the Commonwealth to develop and maintain a successful Traffic Incident Management program.

Alliance of Automotive Service Providers - PA	Pennsylvania Coroners Association
American Automobile Association (AAA)	Pennsylvania Department of Health/Bureau of EMS
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	Pennsylvania Fire Police Association
Federal Highway Administration Technical Services	Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
Metropolitan/Rural Planning Organizations	Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies	Pennsylvania State Police
Office of the State Fire Commissioner	Pennsylvania Transportation Advisory Committee
PA House & Senate Transportation Committees	Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
PA House & Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committees	Southwest Pennsylvania Commission
PA Towing Association	Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS)

Introduction

The Federal Highway Administration defines Traffic Incident Management (TIM) as 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 programs yield wide-ranging benefits including:

- Reduction of traffic incident durations and impact
- Increased safety for motorists and crash victims
- Increased safety for first responders
- Reduction of traffic congestion



Building upon concepts from the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management, the PennTIME program will target a number of specific goals aimed at improving TIM practices and policies across the Commonwealth.

PennTIME Goals for Traffic Incident Management

PennTIME shall be comprised of TIM stakeholder agencies, committed to promoting the following core principals adapted from the NUG.

1. A focus on personal safety, as well as that of all first responders and the traveling public.
2. Clearance of roadway incidents as quickly and safely as possible.
3. The provision of prompt and reliable communications.

Attainment of these goals shall be completed by focusing on the initiatives and programs outlined below.

Training

Training is a key component in maintaining a robust and meaningful TIM program. The PennTIME program shall identify existing training opportunities and establish new training programs to help ensure that responders are kept abreast of the latest information and best practices available. Efforts shall also be conducted to increase the availability of certifications and continuing education credits for responders from all disciplines that dedicate themselves to obtaining a comprehensive TIM education.

Public Education & Outreach

A critical factor to improve safety for all who work on roadways is increased public awareness and education. PennTIME shall endeavor to promote the key tenets of TIM to the public with cost-effective methods demonstrating how everyone can work together towards a goal of safe, free-flowing, and reliable roads.

Quick Clearance

PennTIME partner agencies shall work together to develop strategies and programs aimed at reducing the traffic incident management timeline to increase safety for responders and motorists. Through a combination of programmatic change, legislation, and advocacy, responders will be further empowered to clear incident scenes with greater efficiency.

Technology

The impact of technology is continuing to be felt in the realm of Traffic Incident Management. PennTIME will advocate for technology that benefits responders and travelers alike, including predictive analytics techniques to help prevent traffic incidents by forecasting where they are most likely to occur. Other innovative technologies to foster cross-agency integration of existing systems to improve information sharing and situational awareness shall also be explored.



PennTIME Website

A website shall serve as a centralized repository for a wide range of documents and resources used by PennTIME partner agencies and TIM practitioners throughout the Commonwealth including strategic plans, guidelines and best practices documents, training materials, program contact information, and materials for use by various committees and sub-committees.