Emerging Issues at the Department of Transportation

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New Administration

• The first briefing Secretary LaHood asked for upon arriving at DOT was his emergency response role
• Deputy Secretary was previously a State Transportation Secretary – aware of state issues
• Review of all Homeland Security Presidential Directives
• Several indications of a strong all-hazards planning approach
Cabinet Level Exercises

• National level exercises have focused on information sharing.
  – how to communicate with states / locals / private sectors / industry / stake holders, with people and organizations that need to take actions – many lessons learned and areas for improvement

• Cabinet members will all participate in exercises on hurricanes and earthquake during just their first year in office
Planning

DOT/ESF-1 is extensively involved in numerous types of planning:

• **Catastrophic**
  - Northern / Southern California Earthquake
  - Nevada Earthquake Swarm
  - New Madrid seismic zone (earthquake)
  - Hawaii Hurricane
  - Guam hurricane
  - Louisiana hurricane

• **Events**
  - DNC / RNC
  - Presidential Inauguration
  - Space Object

• **National Interagency Incidents**
  - Hurricane CONPLAN
International Efforts

• Ongoing work with NATO in Civil Emergency Planning

• US/China Transportation Forum
  – Upcoming workshop comparing transportation response and recovery to Hurricane Katrina and Szechwan Earthquake

• US Support to Afghanistan Restoration Recovery
  – Ongoing aviation support; exploratory team to assess surface transportation needs
H1N1

- DOT has been very active in preparedness for pandemic influenza, especially in issues regarding border screening
- We have already conducted an influenza exercise with new DOT leadership
- Focus now is on preparedness for the fall
- The key task is to be able to perform your mission-essential functions with reduced staff
National Transportation Recovery Strategy

- Developed by DOT in coordination with DHS and involving many stakeholders

- Core document
  - How transportation recovery fits with community recovery
  - Roles and responsibilities of key players
  - Federal funding opportunities
  - Resource website
Increased Interagency Coordination

• DOT participates in the National Interagency Operations Center Working Group
  – Improve information flow, information management, information sharing
  – Mission coordination
  – Decision making for all threats and all hazards
  – Facilitate issue resolution
  – Leverage capabilities
Resiliency Must Be More Than a Buzz Word

• Systems must be able to self-heal
  – Suffer minimal damage to known hazards
  – Quick restoration and recovery

• It’s important to plan and respond regionally – many hazards hit multiple states

• The economic recovery funding provides opportunities to improve resiliency and functionality