

INTEGRATED CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT

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NYSDOT has undertaken a Corridor Initiative that focuses attention and investment on strategically important corridors to better integrate New York State's population centers with the emerging global economy. This integration is achieved by enhancing the connections of our major population centers to important regional, national and international economic centers and gateways. The corridors are not facility-focused or locally-focused, but consist of strategically important multi-modal highway, rail, air and marine facilities.

The Initiative involves a comprehensive and coordinated consideration of transportation assets (regardless of facility ownership) to address our customers' needs and expectations as they relate to the movement of trade, tourists, intercity passengers and commuters. The Initiative is considering all aspects of a transportation corridor to effectively and efficiently utilize financial resources and manage the multiple modes of the transportation system including, maintenance, operations, use of emerging technologies, infrastructure enhancements and strategic expansion of services and facilities. It will also integrate economic development opportunities and land use/transportation relationships.

A corridor vision has been developed and early strategies being progressed include: providing focused and readily-available information and services for long distance travelers (both passenger and freight); coordinating location and services at rest areas and truck parking facilities that complement private facilities; coordinating construction scheduling and consistent work zones operations throughout the corridor; and, coordinating among highway and modal operators to facilitate the movement of oversize/overweight commercial vehicles.

While the Initiative described above is focused on New York State, it can and should be expanded to a national perspective. This will require a national policy commitment and strong leadership from USDOT to integrate perspectives of the many states, modal operators/owners and stakeholders along the major corridors.

Transportation improvements have all too often been limited to single modes and/or narrow lengths/breadths of a corridor. Extending corridor consideration to a national perspective would allow for solutions that consider a larger geographic perspective and provide for more consistent, compatible and effective infrastructure, operations, maintenance and long distance traveler information and services. It would facilitate multimodal investment decision-making that considers regional and national travel. Most importantly, it would enhance the integration of local and regional economies and allow the nation to more fully and effectively realize economic opportunities of the global economy.