

Virtual Weigh Station Pilot Project

The virtual weigh station pilot project calls for the deployment of virtual weigh stations (VWS) at three sites, one each in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. The objective of this project is to introduce the use of weigh-in-motion (WIM) sensor and communication technologies to the GCM Corridor agencies in an effort to encourage greater compliance with truck weight restriction laws.

A relatively small number of grossly overweight vehicles are causing an exorbitant amount of damage to the Corridor roadways resulting in excessive pavement rehabilitation costs that could be avoided if the compliance rate were improved. While truck traffic continues to grow, enforcement resources are shrinking. Since the three states have limited permanent weight enforcement facilities within the GCM Corridor (one of the busiest commercial vehicle corridors in the world), this initiative is seen as a cost-effective solution that can be developed in a reasonably short time.



The project calls for the development of a central operating system that would monitor and control multiple sites across the three states. Besides the Central Dispatch Computer, the VWS equipment also includes high-speed WIM Scales, Digital Cameras, Communications Systems, Police-vehicle computers and Inspection Sites.

The computer in the enforcement vehicles will enable officers to screen large numbers of trucks on multiple routes in order to single out the gross offenders who will then be pulled over and weighed along the roadside using conventional portable static scales. Digital cameras will record images of non-compliant vehicles the moment they are screened for weight to help the enforcement officers identify them several miles downstream. This allows enforcement officials to screen large numbers of vehicles with a minimal impact on the flow of truck traffic. Depending on the placement of the WIM systems, any roadway could be monitored by virtual weigh station enforcement personnel.

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