



Gummada Murthy, PhD, P.E.

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BIOGRAPHY

Gummada Murthy has been a champion for operations in many capacities throughout a career that has spanned a range of perspectives in the transportation industry, from leading implementation in several State DOTs (Florida DOT, Virginia DOT, Washington State DOT), to leading research at the Transportation Research Board, to leading the national operations program at AASHTO, and some time supporting national policy at FHWA. From his early career in State DOTs, Gummada brought a practitioner perspective to his later roles, consistently looking for what could advance transportation systems management and operations (TSMO) practices as well as gain support among agency leaders to sustain TSMO programs and workforce. Gummada has been a leader in significantly raising the profile of TSMO and advancing operations as a field in transportation.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AASHTO

Gummada led a revitalization of the AASHTO Committee on Transportation Systems Operations (CTSO). Through his vision, energy, and leadership, he reversed a major decline in participation in CTSO's predecessor committee membership and meeting attendance, and fostered a robust Committee with a highly attended annual meeting and a range of active subcommittees. He recognized the importance of leadership support for TSMO and worked to engage State DOT CEOs, including twice arranging key sessions in conjunction with AASHTO meetings, and to increase CEO familiarity with the benefits of TSMO and TSMO successes. He also worked with FHWA to develop a TSMO outreach kit and slide presentations geared toward State DOT and MPO leaders.

Gummada led AASHTO's efforts to implement the results of the Reliability area of the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2).

He worked with FHWA to advance implementation of highly impactful products including the TSMO capability maturity model (CMM) assessment, traffic incident management (TIM) responder training, the regional operations forum (ROF), and the knowledge transfer system that became the foundation for the National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE). For the CMM, Gummada participated in kickoff site visits with FHWA leaders to engage State DOT and MPO leaders and secure their support for effective implementation of the CMM assessment and its resulting action items to advance the capabilities of TSMO programs across the country. He formed a team with ITE and ITS America to build the SHRP2 knowledge system into the NOCoE, helping design the NOCoE, launch it, bring its staff onboard, and create an AASHTO operations technical services program to provide funding for ongoing operations. He guided the NOCoE through start-up and growth to become a recognized hub for TSMO information and services that daily support the TSMO workforce and advance TSMO practices. For the ROF, Gummada worked with FHWA to evolve from the SHRP2 version of a more technical, weeklong program version to a shorter format focused on developing TSMO champions. He led piloting of the new format Regional Operations Leadership Forum (ROLF) through a nationwide series of 10 regional sessions.

Gummada led the formation of AASHTO CTSO's three service pillars of TSMO that include the NOCoE, the ROLF, and the new Transportation Operations Manual (TOM), the first-ever comprehensive practice manual for TSMO. Gummada played a key role in shepherding the TOM through review among CTSO members, balloting in AASHTO, and publication, and establishing a Technical Committee and funding source to maintain and enhance the TOM into the future.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INDUSTRY

Gummada commitment, passion, collaboration, and leadership developed a strong program of TSMO activities and products that benefit the whole industry. He played a key role in developing and sharing high-impact products and services for TSMO, including the NOCoE, the ROLF, and the TOM. Gummada also worked to foster collaboration and advance preparation for connected and automated vehicles with the Connected and Automated Transportation (CAT) Coalition. These efforts included the SPaT Challenge, a challenge to State and local public sector transportation infrastructure owners and operators to cooperate to achieve deployments in all 50 States.

Gummada has effectively leveraged a blend of innovative ideas, relationship building and collaboration among a broad network, and preparation and behind the scenes work to build support for TSMO and champion TSMO efforts. His efforts and the products they have led to help State DOTs, regional and local agencies, and other practitioners advance TSMO programs and practices and support the TSMO workforce in improving transportation and getting the most from our transportation system. Gummada has been a strong champion for TSMO and has worked tirelessly to develop other TSMO champions.