Summary of the Work

The goal of this report was to provide a snapshot of congestion in the United States by summarizing recent trends in congestion, highlighting the role of travel time reliability in the effects of congestion, and describing efforts to reduce the growth of congestion. This was the second in an annual series developed by the Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Operations. One of the important objectives of this initiative was to utilize measures that include the travel time experienced by the highway user, rather than more technical measures such as level of service.

The report focused on travel time reliability as a measure of congestion and included the following information:

- Characteristics and sources of congestion;
- Definition of travel time reliability and significance of reliability to travelers;
- Recent trends in congestion, especially reliability;
- Strategies to address congestion problems; and
- New tools and initiatives for dealing with congestion.

The report includes a summary of existing congestion mitigation strategies and then a set of strategies that were on the horizon at the time of the report.

Applied to Practice

Section 4.0 of the report is oriented toward practitioners. It describes in detail various congestion mitigation measures, how they work, how they are implemented and what types of problems they address. A number of examples are provided with project descriptions, and in some cases, impacts. Sections 5.0 and 6.0 include broader strategies for addressing institutional barriers and improving collaboration.

Related Work

FHWA Urban Congestion Report FHWA Mobility Monitoring Program, TTI Urban Mobility Study.

Project Website

http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/congestion_report/