Incident Clearance

Twin Cities Mobility

Measure
Clearance time for urban freeway incidents

System
Twin Cities urban freeways (400 miles)

Why this is important
Incidents are a major source of non-recurring congestion. As a rule of thumb, four minutes of congestion results from each minute one traffic lane is blocked by an incident. Among the objectives in the Metro District Highway Investment Plan is an increase in travel time reliability. Clearing incidents from the freeway system quickly helps reduce congestion and secondary crashes. The Freeway Incident Response Safety Team (FIRST) program has a benefit-cost ratio of about 16 to 1 based on reduced delay, crashes, fuel consumption and emissions.

Our Progress
Average incident clearance time in 2011, based on a three-year average, was 33 minutes. This was faster than the 35-minute target and was the best time in 13 years.