Weather information in MNDOT (extended play version)

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In the beginning...

- Each District contracted independently for their weather info
  - Low bid
  - Resulted in some very interesting providers
    - One year a student working from his mother’s basement got the contract
- Met most areas needs at the time
  - Maintenance was primarily reactive
    - Road is closed go plow it!!
Evolution

- As public expectations increased the need for higher quality information became apparent
- Performance measures and addition of level of service goals resulted in Mn/DOT moving to proactive maintenance practices
- Mn/DOT invested in a 93 site RWIS and put out an RFP for statewide weather and pavement forecasting services
- Added a full time position to manage the RWIS and weather information
Present status

- Use of MDSS and Mobile Data Collection have taken MNDOT to a higher level in performance and cost effectiveness
  - Winter Resource Index provides objective measure of progress
  - Recommendations are driven by cost and performance
  - Promotes consistency throughout state
Challenges

• Training and support needs have increased exponentially
  – Added 3 regional coordinators to ensure all areas have adequate support
  – Identified and trained “superusers” throughout state
    – Provides point of contact operators are comfortable with
    – Helps speed adoption of new methods and technology
• Support from all levels of management
Why all the fuss?

- Higher quality Road/Weather information made possible with MDSS and Mobile Data Collection allows MNDOT to provide safer more consistent conditions to the public in a cost effective manner while minimizing negative impacts to the environment.
Thanks for your time!