




Operation Fast Forward I & II

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Baltimore – Washington Regional Traffic Signal Forum

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Operation Fast Forward I

July 4, 2005

- Tested Emergency Transportation Annex which is part of the District Response Plan
- District only test
- Two week planning window



OBJECTIVES

- To gain a better understanding of how changing the traffic signals to 240-second cycles along select emergency routes would affect the overall transportation network.
- To better understand how large pedestrian movement from the National Mall would directly impact the surrounding evacuation routes.
- To review the process for implementing the emergency traffic signaling system
- To expedite vehicular and pedestrian traffic from the National Mall area in an efficient and effective manner.

Map of Event





RESULTS

- Traffic signals initiated and returned to normal when programmed
 - One route did not activate
 - Pedestrian signals only counted down from 99
- Remote traffic signaling software was successfully initiated
- News media proved to be an effective outlet for educating public on the evacuation plan
- Additional DDOT staff is needed to support complex operational endeavors.



Operation Fast Forward II

July 4, 2006

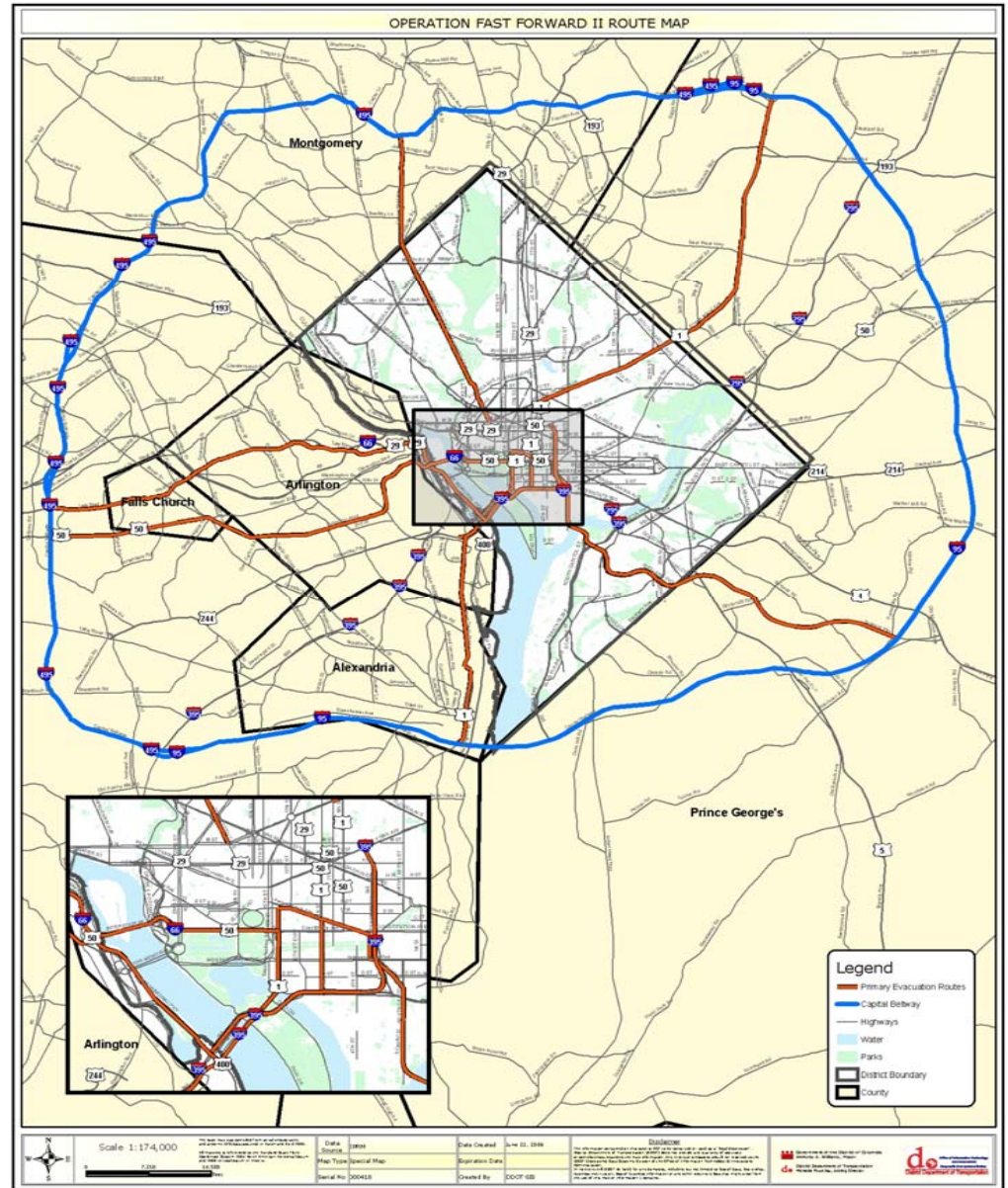
- 28 Local, State, Federal Agencies involved



Objectives

- Test 240 second traffic signal cycle from the District of Columbia to the I-495 Beltway
- Review interoperability amongst the three regional state DOTs.
- Test the emergency reversal of the I-395 HOV lane.
- Deploy law enforcement to critical intersections

Map of Event





RESULTS

- All routes in the District activated to 240 second cycle
 - Rest of the region monitored routes and augmented as necessary
- Use of 800MHz radios was a success
 - DDOT vs VDOT was an issue
- Need to better understand how regional routes should operate.
- Dispatching DDOT Liaisons to multiple agencies was a success.



Lessons Learned

- Need signal engineers to review standards on signaling for an emergency.
 - Proactive in push/pull traffic to select routes
- Need a better understanding of the requirements needed to conduct emergency traffic signal retiming
 - What signals along a route need to be retimed
 - What is better in an emergency flash or extended timing