



How Road Agencies & Transportation Officials Can Tackle Covid-Related Traffic Issues

Maximizing Interagency Visibility & Driver Communication Can Dramatically Reduce Major Traffic Obstacles Caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic

one.network



Covid-19 has caused a number of significant obstacles for departments of transportation and road agencies in the United States.

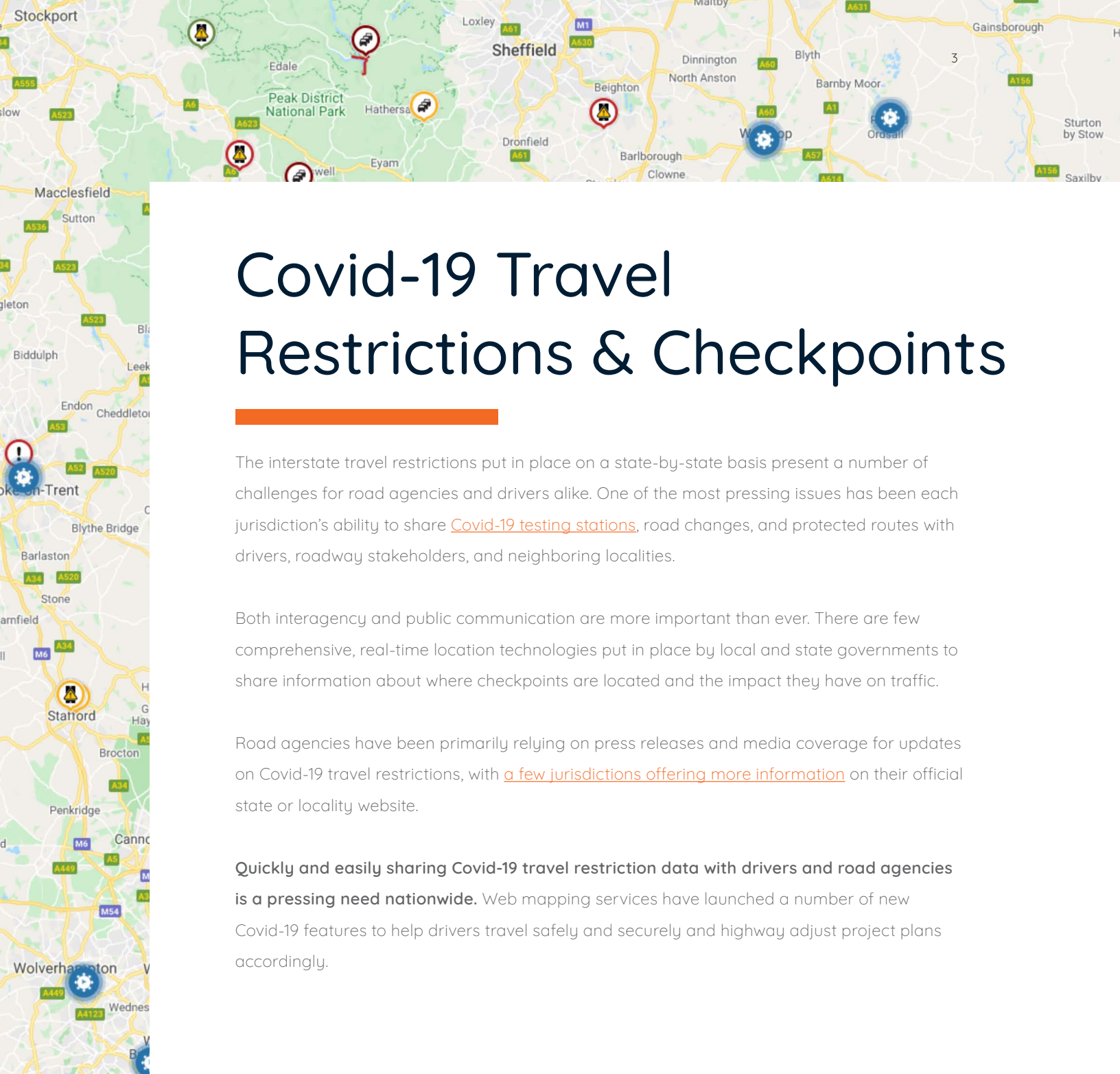
As the country continues navigating the unprecedented impacts of the global Covid-19 pandemic, departments of transportation and road agencies are navigating a unique set of obstacles. Many of the federal-level and state-level efforts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 involve travel restrictions, halted funding, and construction project delays. For road users and highway officials alike, the impact has been dramatic.

Transportation officials across the country are struggling to share traffic data with road users and neighboring jurisdictions. The lack of communication and visibility around Covid-related roadway data has frustrated citizens nationwide.

Here's how departments of transportation and road agencies can tackle these Covid-related issues by providing greater visibility and communication between agencies and with the public.

Top Covid-Related Traffic Issues

- Covid-19 Travel Restrictions & Checkpoints
- Heavy Traffic Congestion
- Highway Construction Project Disruption
- Traffic Pattern Strategies for Social Distancing



Covid-19 Travel Restrictions & Checkpoints

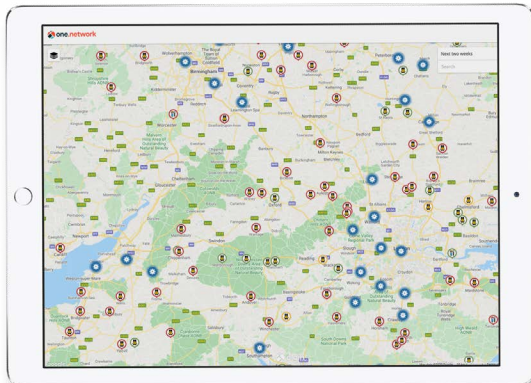
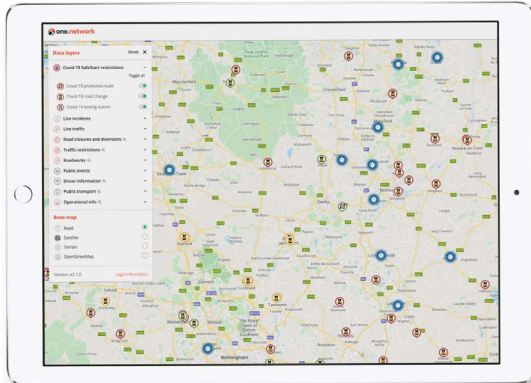
The interstate travel restrictions put in place on a state-by-state basis present a number of challenges for road agencies and drivers alike. One of the most pressing issues has been each jurisdiction's ability to share [Covid-19 testing stations](#), road changes, and protected routes with drivers, roadway stakeholders, and neighboring localities.

Both interagency and public communication are more important than ever. There are few comprehensive, real-time location technologies put in place by local and state governments to share information about where checkpoints are located and the impact they have on traffic.

Road agencies have been primarily relying on press releases and media coverage for updates on Covid-19 travel restrictions, with [a few jurisdictions offering more information](#) on their official state or locality website.

Quickly and easily sharing Covid-19 travel restriction data with drivers and road agencies is a pressing need nationwide. Web mapping services have launched a number of new Covid-19 features to help drivers travel safely and securely and highway adjust project plans accordingly.





Web Mapping Service Covid-19 Features

- Covid-19 Checkpoints
- State Travel Advisories & Restrictions
- Covid-19 Testing Center Eligibility & Facility Guidelines
- Emergency Food Distribution Center Locations
- Covid-19 Road Closures & Detours
- Covid-19 Protected Routes

For road agencies and transportation departments, sharing any potential traffic events related to Covid-19 with the public is critical. Social media, official websites, and regional push notification services are all effective ways to provide drivers and road users with the information they need to travel efficiently and effectively.

Heavy Traffic Congestion

Despite the interstate travel restrictions and mandated quarantine orders put in place, Americans are hitting the road. There may have been a significant decrease in traffic levels at the beginning of the pandemic, but as lockdown levels fluctuate, traffic levels are rising nationwide.

For road agencies and transportation departments, minimizing traffic impact by implementing rapid intervention strategies is essential to keep drivers moving—and for that, they need full visibility of the congestion landscape.

Experts agree that traffic data is essential for policymakers to make the best decisions for each individual region—and that each community needs its own policies based on its own unique traffic patterns during Covid-19.

Understanding the impact Covid-19 has had on traffic and travel patterns allows road agencies to plan accordingly. **In order to anticipate and tackle heavy congestion issues due to Covid-19, there needs to be more interagency visibility and communication around planned diversions, checkpoints, and other potential traffic interruptions.**



COVID-19 CHECKPOINT
AHEAD 1 MILE
OTHER VEHICLES RT LANE

How can road agencies minimize heavy congestion caused by the Covid-19 pandemic? By communicating:

- protected routes;
- road changes;
- checkpoints;
- and testing stations

to the public and other agencies in real time. There are a variety of traffic management software solutions that allow road agencies to minimize heavy traffic congestion before it starts by communicating with drivers quickly and efficiently.

By providing drivers and neighboring jurisdictions with timely traffic data, road agencies can help minimize the risk of congestion.

The Power of Real-Time Traffic Data

-70
minutes

The average time between planned road closures and real-time road closures.

+300
hours

The amount of time roads would've been falsely displayed as closed on GPS systems.

Case Study



Highway Construction Project Disruption

We may be seeing an uptick in driver activity today, but the dramatic decrease in traffic levels in 2020 had a devastating impact on revenue for departments of transportation nationwide.

The major capital highway projects that rely on fuel taxes, vehicle fees, and toll revenues for funding are on hold in most states, and a declining workforce is hampered by social distancing measures. This causes not only operational challenges, but future-pacing challenges as transportation departments struggle for fund relief.

During these unprecedented times, when cutting costs is critical to keeping road agencies operational, experts say traffic management technology can keep projects moving forward.

Utilizing a single automated platform to plan and communicate traffic disruptions helps road agencies maximize operational productivity.

An integrated traffic management platform makes project planning coordination—and sharing any potential traffic disruptions with other road agencies and road users—more efficient and effective.



Deloitte

The transportation workforce should utilize technology to continue operations now and improve efficiency in the future.

Source





\$440

Million

Projected Loss in Transportation
Revenue for the State of Minnesota
Over the Next Two Years



\$4.3

Billion

Projected Loss in Transportation
Revenue for the State of Illinois
Over the Next Year



\$124

Million

Projected Loss in Transportation
Revenue for the State of Maine
Over the Next Year and a Half

Case Study

The Impact of Traffic Management
Software on Highway Project Planning

25%

Increase in operational
productivity indicated by
jobs/day over 4 months.

35%

Decrease in projects
aborted over 4 months.

38%

Increase in projects
planned over 4 months.

[Source](#)

Traffic Pattern Strategies for Social Distancing

City officials and transportation departments nationwide are working to relieve crowded areas to enforce social distancing recommendations. NACTO has published [a toolkit of 22 emergency response strategies](#) designed to protect road users and keep essential services running—several of which include road closures, re-routing strategies, and accommodating an increase in walkers, bikers, and outdoor diners by widening sidewalks and increasing road space.

How U.S. Cities are Addressing Social Distancing by Adjusting Traffic Patterns



New York City

The NYC Department of Transportation installed temporary protected bike lanes along two busy bike corridors that currently lack protected infrastructure.

[source](#)



Winnipeg

Winnipeg designated four streets as bicycle/active transportation routes, limiting motor vehicle traffic in each to one block.

[source](#)



Seattle

Grocery stores in Seattle are enforcing safe social distancing habits by marking where patrons should stand when waiting in line to enter the store or check out. Safe distances are indicated on the floor or sidewalk using a removable material.

[source](#)



Minneapolis

Minneapolis closed sections of riverfront parkways to motor vehicle traffic to allow more space for trail users to practice safe social distancing.

[source](#)



Brookline, MA

Brookline, Massachusetts is reconfiguring vehicle and parking lanes along highly used streets in order to create more space for people to access essential services.

[source](#)



Austin

The Austin Transportation Department installed temporary customer pick-up zones by converting some paid on-street parking spaces near restaurants to support access to restaurants that now offer take-out and delivery-only service while also promoting social distancing.

[source](#)



Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh closed access to the Mount Washington overlook, a popular sightseeing location in the city, to restrict the opportunity for unsafe social distancing practices.

[source](#)



Denver

Denver temporarily closed select roads to thru traffic to create more space for residents to go outside and get fresh air while practicing safe social distancing.

[source](#)

For road agencies, anticipating temporary or semi-permanent traffic pattern changes is critical to keeping roadways moving. The ever-evolving nature of the pandemic means cities nationwide are continuously changing traffic patterns and transportation strategies to overcome new and emerging obstacles.

Implementing these traffic pattern strategies is a crucial first step but communicating them with drivers and neighboring jurisdictions needs to be an equally high priority.

Conclusion

The only way road agencies and transportation departments can tackle these Covid-related issues is by improving visibility between jurisdictions and with the public.

Covid-19 Travel Restrictions & Checkpoints

- Provide clear, real-time updates on Covid-19 travel restrictions, checkpoints, and testing centers using location data
- Share any regional travel restrictions or checkpoints with neighboring jurisdictions to minimize potential disruptions between agencies
- Maximize visibility of Covid-19 travel restrictions with the public through official government websites, social media, or other forms of push notification

Heavy Traffic Congestion

- Share upcoming and real-time road changes due to Covid-19 with the public to help them easily find the most effective detours and minimize traffic build up
- Share Covid-19 related road changes with neighboring jurisdictions to more effectively coordinate overlapping detour strategies
- Record and report regional traffic data to help policymakers make the right transportation decisions for each jurisdiction

Highway Construction Project Disruption

- Utilize traffic management software to maximize productivity and streamline interagency coordination
- Save time and cut costs around coordination and communication efforts with an integrated traffic operations support solution
- Easily share real-time traffic data with both road agencies and road users with a traffic management platform

Traffic Pattern Strategies for Social Distancing

- Track any traffic pattern changes within your area and neighboring jurisdictions to anticipate any major roadway changes
- Share any planned road closures, traffic diversions, or pedestrian walkways/bike lanes with the public to minimize driver impact and mitigate potential traffic
- Clearly delineate and communicate designated outdoor dining areas and how they will impact roadways with the public and other road agencies





About one.network

one.network is a leading software company specializing in traffic disruption and mapping technologies. The revolutionary traffic operations platform is already in use by over 90 percent of highway agencies, major utility companies, road contractors, and event organizers in the UK—and has now made their product available in the US.

With one.network, road agencies and departments of transportation can easily plan and communicate critical road work data affecting the flow of traffic. The platform is already utilized by every major road authority in the UK, where road agencies, transportation departments, and infrastructure owners are coordinating traffic-related data including planned Covid-19 protected routes, road changes, and testing stations.

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