

Assessment of the Richmond District's Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) Pilot

PROJECT TITLE

Assessment of the Richmond District's Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) Pilot

STUDY TIMELINE

August 2016–February 2019

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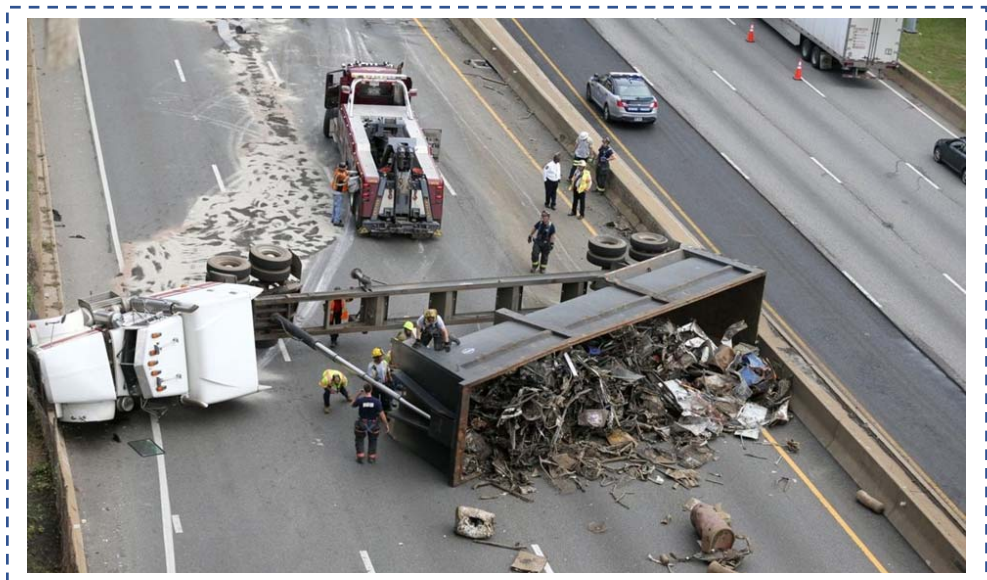
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FURTHER RESOURCES

<http://vtrc.virginiadot.org/PubDetails.aspx?PubNo=20-R11>

Introduction

A towing and recovery incentive program (TRIP) is a traffic incident management tool for clearing severe, long-duration heavy vehicle incidents through improved towing standards, procedures, and training. In 2017, the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Richmond District piloted a TRIP on its interstate highways. There were significant gaps in the literature with regard to evaluating such programs including how to select appropriate incidents in the "before" period, how to quantify the confidence in the results, and how to capture the regional benefits of overall traffic incident management culture. This study evaluated the effectiveness of the TRIP pilot.



Methodology

Four tasks were conducted to evaluate the TRIP pilot: (1) determine evaluation metrics and identify datasets and data sources, (2) collect and filter incident data, (3) compute and analyze evaluation metrics, and (4) perform a qualitative assessment.

Conclusions and Next Steps

The study concluded that (1) the TRIP evaluation methodology showed promising results; (2) over a 10-year operational period, TRIP benefits will outweigh costs by a factor of 9.2 to 12; (3) TRIP was viewed as a success by primary stakeholders; and (4) TRIP development and operational management were successes. The study recommended that VDOT (1) continue TRIP operations in the Richmond District and explore opportunities to expand TRIP to other districts in Virginia, and (2) conduct ongoing performance analyses of TRIP and begin collecting critical incident timestamps such as tower dispatch and tower response in all districts.

Potential Impacts and Benefits

VDOT's Richmond District is receiving support and funding to continue TRIP. VDOT's Bristol, Salem, and Staunton districts are studying the potential for using TRIP along I-81.