



FORT BEND COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fort Bend County, Texas

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May 12, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: PS Docket 09-19, Reply Comment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am Jeff Braun. I was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator of Fort Bend County in 2003. Fort Bend County is the second largest county in the Houston Metropolitan Area. I hold an MPA from the University of Kansas, and received accreditation as a Certified Emergency Manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers in 2008. As an experienced professional administrator who has worked in local government for over 25 years, I feel it necessary to address comments made by AASHTO.

I take issue with the assertion by AASHTO that operators of TIS stations are not trained in emergency management or response. In fact, the opposite is the case. All TIS stations are licensed to government entities - entities which have to consider the safety of the public within their jurisdictions. As a result of this, TIS licensees do, in fact, have training in public safety, emergency management and related disciplines. A large number of licensees are cities, counties, airports, universities and park/historic districts, all of which have people on staff specifically to secure the safety of the public and manage emergencies that may occur.

I don't need to tell you that virtually all cities and counties rely on police, fire, emergency managers and other safety personnel to identify and respond to emergencies. It is similarly the case on university campuses and at airports, which have their own police and emergency personnel, and within park districts and historic sites, which have rangers or other safety personnel on staff to police their areas.

An example of this, which AASHTO should recognize, is evident within the many state departments of transportation which AASHTO represents. Each department of transportation has its own emergency and safety personnel, and each interface with other state agencies such as the state police, the state department of emergency management and other safety agencies within the state's government. It should be clear from this example that not only are DOT's prepared to respond to and communicate with the public about emergencies, but all governmental entities are likewise prepared to identify and respond to emergencies, and can be trusted to leverage their seasoned experience and extensive training when utilizing the TIS medium to communicate to travelers regarding emergencies.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeff D. Braun
Emergency Management Coordinator

JDB:vr