DAY 2 Weather Scenario Messaging Activity - Minnesota

Type of weather event/scenario: Blizzard. A large winter storm produced 10-16" of snow across most of southern Minnesota with wind speeds of 45-60 MPH on Saturday, April 14th, 2018. Widespread blizzard conditions occurred across the area, closing major interstates for several hours. Blizzard Warnings were initially issued for most of southern Minnesota in the days leading up to the storm, and were expanded to include the Twin Cities metro area prior to the arrival of the storm.

Date/ Location of weather event/scenario: Saturday, April 14th, 2018. The event impacted southern Minnesota, including portions of the I-90, I-94, and I-35 corridors.

NWS Forecast Information:

- How did your WFO present forecast information to the DOT leading up to the event (scale of days)?
  The information was presented to the DOT through the mn-pathfinder chatroom in nwschat, email briefings, and webinar/conference calls. Initial chats began 4-5 days prior to the event. Email briefings were sent 2-3 days prior, with webinars/conference calls occurring 1-2 days prior.

- What services were provided at ~24 hrs leading to event? ~12 hours?
  24 hours prior to the event, updates were posted in the mn-pathfinder chatroom, email update briefings were sent and webinars were conducted by WFOs. In addition, the DOT hosted an internal webinar in which the NWS and private sector gave briefings and collaborated on messaging. 12 hours prior to the event, continued updates were posted in the chatroom, in addition to email briefings.

- How was confidence communicated during these times? The NWS forecasters verbalized their confidence levels in terms of timing, snow amounts, and impacts during the webinars, in addition to the chats posted in the mn-pathfinder chatroom.

- What communication methods were used by NWS or the state DOT?
  - NWSChat
  - Email
  - GoToWebinar
  - Skype For Business

Any other relevant information:

Table Activity Questions to Answer:

1) How would you (e.g. DOT; industry) determine the level of the storm and expected impacts to various roadway types in the scenario geographic area.
    i) What data do you need? Where would you get the data? How is it shared?
2) Given the level of storm/roadway impacts, what consistent and impact-based messages would be appropriate? Explain the types of messages for various dissemination approaches (DMS/VMS, website, 511, social media). Consider messages both before and during the event.
    i) What messages are needed 24 hours out, based on the forecast?
    ii) What messages are needed 12 hours out, based on the forecast?
    iii) Any messages post-event?
3) How would you define roles and responsibilities across sectors (e.g. state DOT, NWS, industry)?
    i) Communication
    ii) Processes
4) What stakeholders are missing?