



Commissioner's Message: INDOT Values Work Because Of Teamwork

Just as our state highway system connects Indiana citizens with each other, teamwork keeps us interconnected at INDOT.

Teamwork is a critical part of our 2012 INDOT Values. INDOT's value definition for teamwork reads: "Share information and seek input from co-workers and agency partners to achieve goals."

If you think about it, teamwork divides the task but multiplies the success. This year's Governor's Public Service Achievement Award winners are perfect illustrations of this point.

INDOT was bestowed with two **team** awards. In one, 15 employees from several INDOT divisions were honored for their role in the DamageWise program. In the other, four employees from – again – multiple divisions were commended for their actions in the Hoosier Helper program.

In these examples, INDOT employees experienced first-hand the power of teamwork. Individually, each contributed mightily to the projects, but collectively, they accomplished so much more. To make it happen, they shared information, sought input from each other, and worked together.

Another representation of INDOT teamwork was spotlighted in The Indianapolis Star last month. Highway Technician Ellis Holder explained to the newspaper that summer work crews share advice and instructions during safety meetings, and keep track of each other for signs of heat exhaustion. "It's a team effort to keep everyone safe and make sure everybody goes home safe and healthy at the end of the day," Holder stated.

Teamwork needs to be a focal point for all of us. Supervisors still have full responsibility for decision-making, but those decisions will be better ones if they inform their staffs and petition their input.

As automaker Henry Ford once said: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Best regards,

Michael B. Cline