Overview

The Alabama Department of Transportation is organized into five geographic regions, with a central office located in Montgomery. The agency has two priority missions: one is to provide a safe, efficient and environmentally sound intermodal transportation system for all users, especially Alabama taxpayers, and the second is to facilitate economic and social development, and prosperity through the efficient movement of people and goods, and to enable intermodal connections within Alabama.

Problem

Hurricanes and other extreme weather events can be crippling to any transportation system, but by preparing and planning for these events operationally, their impacts can be minimized. Every year, Alabama is at risk of being impacted by major hurricanes coming off the Gulf Coast. Planning for these hurricanes takes a lot of effort and collaboration between departments, a process that starts as early as May and can include practice runs of contraflow exercises.

Alabama was seeking a tool to help augment their planning efforts that could provide access to historical data from past storms to prepare for upcoming hurricane seasons. Specifically, Alabama experiences an influx in traffic from Florida and Louisiana during evacuations. This traffic negatively impacts their evacuation routes. One location, the George C. Wallace Tunnel, is a large choke point for the I-10 in Alabama during normal traffic conditions. This known choke point is put to its limits when the state sees evacuations out of Florida hit its roadways.
Solution

Iteris set Alabama up with ClearGuide™, our premier transportation performance measures solution, which provides real-time contextual mobility intelligence. With ClearGuide, Alabama is able to analyze and share past trends in preparation for future storms. Intelligence gleaned from ClearGuide, such as incident and congestion data, has been used in pre-storm planning meetings to quantify any success or learnings from previous storms. This enables Alabama to incorporate data-driven strategies into its hurricane response plans.

More specifically, on and around the George C. Wallace Tunnel, ClearGuide enables Alabama to view the top bottlenecks on its roadway network, identifying where any choke points are and leveraging these insights for their planning measures. Once choke points are identified, ClearGuide allows Alabama to easily create routes to track effectiveness of newly implemented tactics on alleviating congestions at any major choke point.