

Mitigating Damage to ITS Assets from Rodents and other Critters

The Problem

State departments of transportation (DOTs) with intelligent transportation systems (ITS) field equipment encounter issues with rodents and other unwanted critters entering cabinets and shelters, accessing equipment, and causing damage. Rodents will chew into fiber or other assets, build nests in cabinets, and occupy enclosures which inhibits staff access to field equipment. It is costly to repair or replace ITS assets when damage occurs. Damage can also create operational disruptions and outages. Further, agencies need to consider whether to repair damage or take measures to deter rodents and other critters.

Mitigation Strategies

Many possible mitigation strategies exist, including:

- Seal entry points to cabinets and fiber
- Poison
- Traps
- Sound, vibration, or scent deterrents
- Chemical repellents
- Manage the surrounding environment
- Maintenance schedule
- Cameras in shelters
- Bait to other areas (away from equipment)

These approaches vary in effectiveness, safety to humans, and protection of nearby birds or animals that may encounter the deterrent.



Photo Courtesy of Michigan DOT



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Project Overview

The [ENTERPRISE Pooled Fund Study](#) is researching approaches for mitigating damage to ITS assets from rodents and other unwanted critters. The project will complete an online search and a State DOT survey to investigate various mitigation strategies. The research will document:

- Strategies used and their effectiveness
- Cost of strategy versus cost to repair damage
- Ability to access ITS assets after the strategy is installed or deployed
- Agency construction drawings and specifications for effective strategies

For additional information about this project, contact:

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