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## MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT

By ANDY OBERLANDER, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

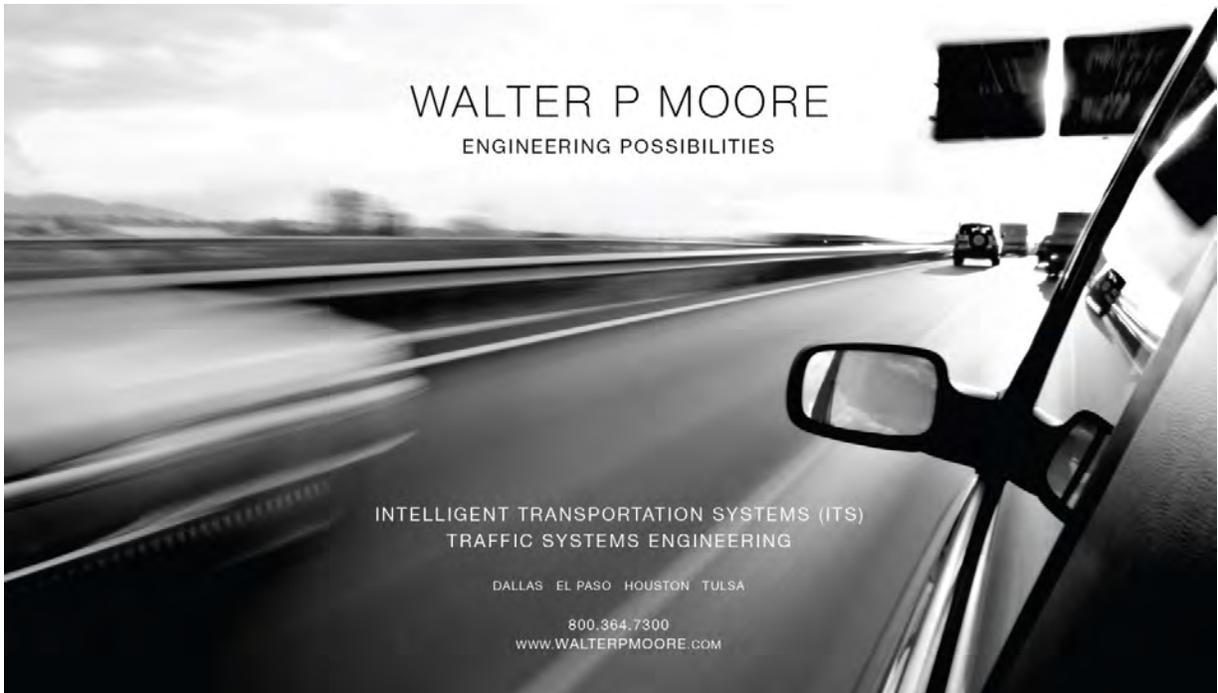
Hello ITS Texas Members and Friends,

As we've reached the halfway point of 2013, I hope everyone is having a great year. Your ITS Texas Board of Directors is busily working on the upcoming annual meeting to be held Monday, November 18 through Wednesday, November 20 at the Omni Hotel in Houston. While the Opening Session will be Tuesday morning, on Monday, November 18, we are happy to have ITS America providing an all-day training course on ITS Procurement. We are also very pleased to let you know that on that same Monday, we will have an ITS Texas golf tournament. As the plans continue to be developed, we'll provide more information as it becomes available.

ITS Texas understands that continued education in different areas of Intelligent Transportation Systems is a great benefit to our membership and our profession. Keeping up with changing technologies and operations can be a challenge. In an effort to continue to provide diverse training opportunities, we are currently finalizing the plans for an August training, 'First Responder and Managers' course to be held in Dallas. More information on this course will be made available later this month.

Though I touched on this in the February Newsletter, I would like to thank the entire board for all their hard work. As you know, the board is a "volunteer" position and squeezing in board activities can sometimes be a challenge. If you happen to see a board member, let them know you appreciate their efforts. I want to thank you for the opportunity to be your ITS Texas President and you are always welcome to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Andy Oberlander



## 2013 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING – HOUSTON, TX



The [2013 ITS Texas annual meeting](#) will be held at the [Omni Houston Hotel near Houston's Galleria](#) on **November 18-20, 2013**. This year's event focuses on **PROJECTS: WHERE TECHNOLOGY HITS THE ROAD**, where we'll be looking at various implementations throughout Texas and elsewhere. A major highlight of this year's conference involves presentations on ITS implementations within the greater Houston area, followed by tours of these implementations in order for you to see these projects operate in real-time.

As with previous annual meetings, ITS Texas will be sponsoring a day-long training class on ITS Procurements on Monday, November 18th. This course, developed by FHWA's Professional Capacity Building (PCB) program, will focus on how to procure ITS systems and the various issues to consider when purchasing the right systems for your agency's needs.

More information about this training will be posted on the [ITS Texas website](#) in the near future.

The ITS Texas Board has developed a preliminary set of sessions for this year's meeting, which will showcase the various ITS technologies and operational approaches that are being implemented today. The preliminary program includes:

**Local ITS Projects and Tours** – In keeping with this year's theme of Projects: Where Technology Hits the Road, this session will focus on two key projects in the Houston Metropolitan Area and how ITS is integrated into them. The first project is the Reconstruction of U.S. 290 (Northwest Freeway) and the interchange between U.S. 290 and IH-610. The second project is the expansion of Light Rail throughout the City of Houston by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County.

**Technical Tour #1** – US290 Reconstruction Project: This tour will visit various sites related to the U.S. 290 project in order to gain a better understanding of the scope of the project as well as how technologies are being used both during construction and in the final project.

**Technical Tour #2** – LRT Expansion: This tour will visit various sites related to the Light Rail expansion in order to allow members to gain a better understanding of the project and how technologies are being integrated into the projects.

**Incident Management** - Congestion on our highways can be attributed to planned and unplanned incidents such as crashes, stalls, road debris, special events and construction. Incident management is increasingly seen as a cost-effective approach to alleviating this component of congestion and maintaining the operation of our roads. When an incident occurs during high travel demand or on a facility without adequate capacity, the resulting congestion has even greater impact on the transportation network. This session will focus on the implementation of incident management and ITS programs to help detect incidents, identify necessary response, manage, clear, and even prevent some incidents to improve safety, maintain traffic flow and reduce congestion.

**Professional Practice Update / Ethics** - Texas Board of Professional Engineers – Updates on Board rule changes within the last year, general updates on initiatives the Board is working on, information on enforcement statistics, and the engineering Code of Conduct.

**ITS Technology Toolbox** – An added value session, tailored for the End User, The Consultant, and The Motoring Public, where you'll learn about the Tools of the Trade in ITS. Our Lineup of Vendors will be sharing beneficial information on the technologies they provide, and the positive impacts they bring to the ITS Industry, for today and the future

**ITS Data and Research** - Deployment of ITS infrastructure is only half the story. This session will explore how various types and sources of ITS data are being used to operate our transportation systems smarter and more efficiently and enabling assessment of their performance in quantitative terms.



**Design-Build/Tolling/Concessionaire Projects** - This session will discuss some of the large design-build/tolling/concessionaire projects currently being designed in Texas with an emphasis on ITS/tolling networks being proposed for the various facilities.

**Mass Transit** - The Mass Transit session will cover various approaches of how ITS is being integrated into transit to make systems more efficient and to bring up-to-date transit information to the traveling public.

**Emerging Technologies** – This session will be focusing on the future of ITS, ranging from upcoming initiatives on vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure, and other technological advances that are on the horizon for managing traffic and improving safety on our roadways.

**Arterial Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)** - As the early deployments of ITS along the freeway systems reaches its maturity, the focus is now shifting to the deployment of ITS devices along arterial roadways. This session will cover examples of how ITS is being used on city streets.

Costs for this year's conference will be **\$210 for ITS Texas members, \$275 for non-members, and \$300 at the door**. Students may participate for **\$25**. In addition, Wednesday's training will cost **\$50 for ITS Texas members and \$75 for non-members**. For more information, visit the conference website at [http://itstexas.org/annual\\_meeting/2013\\_annual\\_meeting](http://itstexas.org/annual_meeting/2013_annual_meeting).

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## ANNUAL MEETING EXHIBITOR AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ITS Texas will once again be offering exhibitor space for companies to showcase their products and services to attending agencies. Each exhibitor registration includes full access to all meeting sessions and meals for two participants (any additional exhibit personnel will need to register and pay admission as a meeting participant for a fee of \$210). This year, breakfast and breaks, as well as the exhibitor reception, will all be held in the exhibit hall. Exhibitor space will include the following:

### **Six-foot Tabletop Exhibit Space - \$650**

- One (6' wide x 8' deep) space
- One draped and skirted 6' table
- Two chairs
- One wastebasket
- One 110V electrical outlet\*

### **10-foot Vendor Pop-up Exhibit Space - \$900**

- One (8' wide x 10' deep) space
- One draped and skirted 6' table
- Two chairs
- One wastebasket
- One 110V electrical outlet\*

There are also several great opportunities to register as a sponsor of the annual meeting. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit the [Sponsorship Page](#) on the ITS Texas site.

### **Training Event Sponsor**

Sponsors have the opportunity to sponsor the training for the annual meeting. In addition to recognition at the platinum level below, ITS Texas will provide special recognition at the event. The sponsorships for training are available on a first-come, first-served basis. - **\$1,500.00**

### **Platinum Sponsor**

Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; 17.5 square inch company logo on display at registration desk; co-sponsor of break with company logo on display during breaks; and company logo on display during lunches - **\$1,000.00**

### **Gold Sponsor**

Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; 15.0 square inch company logo on display at registration desk; and co-sponsor of break with company logo on display during breaks - **\$750.00**

### **Silver Sponsor**

Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; and 12.5 square inch company logo on display at registration desk - **\$500.00**

### **Bronze Sponsor**

Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; and 10.0 square inch company logo on display at registration desk - **\$250.00**

For more information about purchasing exhibitor space or signing up as a sponsor, please contact Jordan Bertling at TTI's Event Management and Planning at 979-862-1219 or at [j-bertling@ttimail.tamu.edu](mailto:j-bertling@ttimail.tamu.edu).



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## FREEWAY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP - AUGUST 29, 2013

ITS Texas and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) are co-sponsoring a Freeway Incident Management training course on **August 29, 2013 from 8:30am to 4:30pm**. The workshop will be held at the DalTrans Transportation Management Center, 4625 US 80 East, Mesquite, TX 75150.

The goal of the Freeway Incident Management (FIM) training course is to initiate a common, coordinated response to traffic incidents that will build partnerships enhance safety for emergency personnel reduce upstream traffic accidents, improve the efficiency of the transportation system, and improve air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. FIM training is typically provided to first responders and managers, and executive level policymakers and explains the goals, objectives, and benefits of multi-agency incident management coordination. This course provided by ITS Texas extends this training to the engineers and planners of ITS in order to share “real-world field experiences” so better systems may be developed. The course, will detail the “best practices” methods used throughout the country. Local incident management policy and procedures will also be discussed. This course is specifically designed for ITS engineers and planners to address traffic incidents on their region’s freeways.

The training will be followed by a one hour tour of the DalTrans Transportation Management Center. The tour will visit a number of areas of the facility including the Operations floor where TxDOT, Dallas County Sheriff’s Office and DART personnel operate the highway system in the Dallas region.

The cost of this training opportunity is **\$20 for ITS Texas members** and **\$30 for non-members**. Lunch will be provided at the event. Cash and checks will be accepted at the workshop. To pay by credit card, [click here for ITS Texas members](#) and [here for non-members](#). **Credit cards will not be accepted at the**

**door.** If you are interested in attending please contact Robert Bacon, P.E. at MICA Corporation at (817) 847-6121, ext. 217 or via e-mail at [Robert.Bacon@micacorporation.com](mailto:Robert.Bacon@micacorporation.com).

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## WEBMASTER WANTED!

In 2011, ITS Texas developed our new website which is written in DRUPAL a Content Management System application. For many years, I believe from 2006 – 2011, Bob Brydia from Texas A&M Transportation Institute served outstandingly as our webmaster in addition to serving almost every position on the Board including President in 2010. In 2011, after our new web site was developed, Bob reluctantly chose to no longer be our webmaster and trained myself, Andy Oberlander, to take over the position. I would like to turn over the duties of the ITS Texas webmaster to a willing volunteer in early 2014.

The web site is very self-supportive. The webmaster will not be ‘writing code’ but utilizing an application to add and alter information in the web site and all of its pages. Though it would useful, no previous web experience is required, just a strong ability to learn new applications. Tasks include keeping the membership data base up to date, posting current information like newsletters, training classes, annual meetings, awards, scholarships and other ITS Texas activities. The job is purely voluntary meaning no compensation for your time. I will train the new webmaster and help out throughout all of 2014 with any web site issues that arise.

Please e-mail [webmaster@itstexas.org](mailto:webmaster@itstexas.org) if you have interest in providing this great service to our organization. If you need more information, I’d be happy to discuss in more detail, just e-mail me.

Andy Oberlander  
ITS Texas webmaster

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## ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

Have you visited the ITS Texas Web recently? Located at <http://itstexas.org>, the website is your source of information for what's going on in your state chapter. We are always working to improve the website and make it a source of information for you. Here are just a few highlights of the website.

**[2013 Membership Application](#)** – The application form for membership is electronic. The annual cost of membership is \$25 and payment can be made on-line with a credit card or you can send a check. If you become a member, you receive discounted rates at the annual meeting and ITS Texas training.

**[The 2013 membership list](#)** is on-line. You can use this list to check your membership status prior to registering for the annual conference, to make sure you get the best rate. The list is dynamic and pulls directly from our membership database. You can also access the list under the membership section.

**[2013 ITS Texas Annual Meeting](#)** – Your one stop information place for all things “annual meeting.” Information will soon become available about the hotel, sessions, speakers, and tours, vendors and more.

[Student chapters of ITS Texas](#) - Visit this section to learn more about the student chapters of ITS Texas, links to their website, their annual report, and requirements for starting a student chapter at your school!

Updates to the Website. – Did you know that all major information updates to the website are listed on the [home page](#)? You can visit the site and see at a glance if there's new information that you'd like to read.

ITS Texas also publishes update information via the [RSS feed](#). Do you know what RSS is? If not, it stands for Really Simple Syndication. Sometimes it is difficult to visit the home page of every web site you are interested in. Many people use RSS feeds to “bring the news to them”, using an RSS feed reader. ITS Texas also utilizes this method of distributing information and has an RSS feed available at: <http://www.itstexas.org/its-texas-rss.xml>

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## TRANSPORTATION IN THE NEWS

The following are recent news events that have occurred in the ITS and Operations arena. Please click on the story to take you to the full story:

- [TxDOT Unveils First-in-Texas, Hi-Tech Warning System for Drivers in Effort to Increase Work-Zone Safety Along Stretch of I-35](#) (from TxDOT)
- [Oregon DOT plans to raise the IQ of Portland-area highways to improve commute times](#) (from The Oregonian)
- [Technology for cars to talk to each other urged](#) (from Associated Press)

Did you know that the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) routinely publishes an assessment of benefits derived from ITS deployments? A sampling of recent benefits published includes:

- The implementation of ramp metering in Kansas City increased corridor throughput by as much as 20 percent and improved incident clearance by an average of four minutes, with these benefits remaining consistent in the long term. (RITA, July 2013)
- The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) achieved a 92 percent accuracy rate for real-time bus arrival prediction, building from AVL/CAD technology to include GPS. (RITA, July 2013)
- In Staten Island, New York City, a transit signal priority pilot along a 2.3 mile corridor reduced travel times by approximately 17 percent. (RITA, June 2013)

You can get the full listing of Benefits at the [ITS Benefits web site](#).

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