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MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT

By GARY JOST, TEAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Hello ITS Texas Members and Friends,

As we approach the halfway point of 2012, your ITS Texas Board of Directors is busy on several fronts to enhance member benefits and services.

First, we are very busy planning the 2012 Annual Meeting. This year’s meeting will be held October 24-26 at the Doubletree Hotel in Dallas. As this year’s theme **“Back to the Present”** suggests, the 2012 Annual Meeting will focus on the current state of ITS on the Federal, State, and local levels. We look forward to showcasing current ITS projects throughout the State, providing information on current and future research activities, and discussing new policies and how they impact our industry. If you would be interested in presenting at this year’s meeting, please contact one of our board members.

Second, we are working to enhance training opportunities for our members. Our first training course will be on Active Transportation Demand Management and will be held on June 27th in Houston, Look for additional details for this training in this newsletter. We are also teaming up again this year with ITS America to provide training at the annual meeting. Look for additional details on this training in the coming weeks.

Third, we will be looking for ways to promote and provide opportunities for participation at local events. I will be presenting some ideas discussed at a recent ITS America State Chapter Workshop to our board in the near future.

Finally, I would like to thank our board members for their tireless efforts in making ITS Texas work for you. I would especially like to thank Andy Oberlander, the board's vice president, for his leadership and devotion in planning the 2012 annual meeting and to Robert Bacon for planning and organizing this year's training program. I also want to thank you the membership for allow me to serve as your ITS Texas President. If you ever have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. .

Sincerely,
Gary Jost

2012 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING – DALLAS, TX



The 2012 ITS Texas annual meeting will be held at the [DoubleTree Hotel near the Dallas Galleria](#). At last year's event, we looked at what ITS may be for the future. This year, our theme has us returning **BACK TO THE PRESENT** to look at what we're doing now in the world of ITS to better operate our transportation system.

In order not to interfere with Veterans Day or our trick-or-treating responsibilities with our children, the meeting will be a little earlier in the year on **OCTOBER 24-26, 2012**. As with previous annual meetings, ITS Texas will be sponsoring a day-long training class on Wednesday, October 24th. More information about this upcoming 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:

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.

Incident Management - A significant percentage of congestion on our highways can be attributed to events such as crashes, stalls, road debris, and construction. Incident management is increasingly seen as a cost-effective approach to alleviating this component of congestion and maintaining the operations of our roads. While billions of dollars can be spent to construct a multilane freeway, a single incident can potentially render that investment worthless for several hours, disrupting the commute and impeding the flow of goods. This session will focus on the implementation of incident management programs and the use of ITS to help detect, clear, and even prevent these incidents and help maintain the flow of traffic on our roadways.

ITS Projects - This session will cover ITS Project information from around the State that will include general scope and size, timelines, equipment needs, and expectations for ITS Projects that are planned or currently in the design/construction stages.

Technology - In today's world, ITS has become mainstream for many of the major metropolitan areas of the country. So the big question is what is the next latest and greatest technology coming that will elevate ITS to a level that it has not seen before. This session will discuss the up and coming (sooner than you think) technologies that will play a role in evolving ITS to the next level.

ITS Data - 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.

Mass Transit - The Mass Transit session will cover ITS related curriculum on projects, and project expansion plans for Houston Metro, DART, CMTA and VIA. Additionally, there will be some discussion regarding future implementation of rail services between Austin and San Antonio.

Tolling/Concessionaire Projects - This session will discuss some of the large tolling/concessionaire projects currently being constructed in Texas with an emphasis on construction activities and operational plans for the various facilities.

Dave's ITS Potpourri - This session will be a catch-all for presentations that don't exactly fit in our scheduled sessions.

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.

V2V and V2I Implementations Session - As 2013 approaches, the USDOT is working to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with sufficient Vehicle to Vehicle (V2V) data that will be utilized as NHTSA determines whether to move forward with the rule making that ultimately will require a Connected Vehicle device in all light vehicles. Currently, there are several research efforts that are ongoing across the country and internationally with the largest and most important being the Safety Pilot Model Deployment that is being implemented in the Detroit/Ann Arbor area. This session will explore some of the ongoing research projects to provide a perspective into where the technology and applications are today and where they are headed.

Costs for this year's conference will be **\$210 for ITS Texas members** and **\$275 for non-members**. Students may participate for **\$25**. In addition, Wednesday's training will cost **\$50 for ITS Texas members** and **\$75 for non-members**. Stay tuned the [2012 ITS Texas Annual Meeting Website](http://www.itstexas.org/node/1429) for more information at <http://itstexas.org/node/1429>.

Time	Wed, 10/24/2012	Thur, 10/25/2012	Fri, 10/26/2012	
7:30 AM				
8:00 AM	REGISTRATION	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall	REGISTRATION Exhibit Hall Open	
8:30 AM				Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
9:00 AM		Training		OPENING SESSION - ITS: BACK TO THE PRESENT
9:30 AM			SESSION 5B DAVE'S ITS POTPOURRI	
10:00 AM		Sponsored Break	Sponsored Break	
10:30 AM		SESSION 2A ATMS	SESSION 6A PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE UPDATE / ETHICS	
11:00 AM		Session 2B INCIDENT MANAGEMENT	SESSION 6B V2V AND V2I IMPLEMENTATION	
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM				
12:30 PM		Kick-Off Luncheon: Keynote Speaker	Business and Awards Luncheon	
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM		SESSION 3A ITS PROJECTS		
2:00 PM		SESSION 3B TECHNOLOGY		
2:30 PM		Sponsored Break		
3:00 PM				
3:30 PM		SESSION 4A ITS DATA		
4:00 PM		SESSION 4B MASS TRANSIT		
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM		VENDOR RECEPTION Sponsored by TEAL Engineering Services, Inc.		
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM				
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM				
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM				

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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. These opportunities include 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 - \$590

- 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 - \$850

- 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 the recognition at the platinum level below, ITS Texas will provide special recognition at the event. The sponsorships for training is available on a first-come, first-serve basis..) - **\$1,500.00**

Platinum Sponsor

(Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; One 7.5 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; One 5.0 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 One 2.5 square inch company logo on display at registration desk) - **\$500.00**

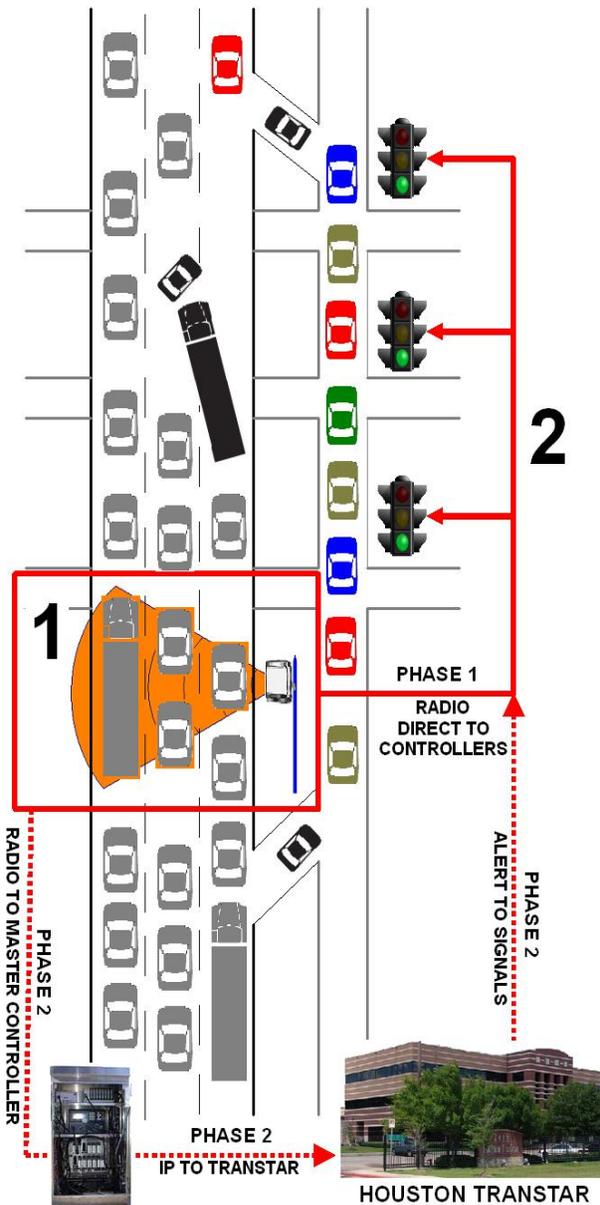
Bronze Sponsor

(Recognition in ITS Texas Annual Meeting program and ITS Texas website; and One 1.0 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.

ITS SHOWCASE – HOUSTON FREEWAY ADAPTIVE SYSTEM

By JEFF KAUFMAN, HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL



The TxDOT-Houston District has teamed up with Twincrest Technologies to provide relief to motorists on Houston's highways. The Freeway Adaptive System aims to increase traffic flow when an incident occurs on the main travel lanes by allowing more traffic along the frontage road. The system utilizes Wavetronix SmartSensor HD detectors provided by Twincrest Technologies, which monitor travel speeds and system capacity on freeway main lanes throughout the Houston District (**Item 1 on Diagram**).

When an incident occurs and traffic on the main lanes drops below specified thresholds, the SmartSensor HD generates an alert that is sent to individual nearby intersections using a network of Intuicom DIO radios (**Item 2 on Diagram**). The alert signal triggers a timing adjustment at intersections downstream to provide additional green time to motorists diverting to the frontage road. This initial phase of this system, which came online in October 2011, was implemented on US 290 in Harris County incorporating three intersections (Muschke, Cypress Rosehill, and Spring Cypress).

Currently, TxDOT is working on the second phase of the system, which will allow for the planned expansion of the system to 20 intersections along US 290 and allow for detection for both directions of traffic.

Phase Two will involve utilizing the radios to transmit Wavetronix signals to master traffic signal controllers, which will then communicate via IP through TranStar's local fiber Ethernet network and eliminate the need for a radio at each controller location. In addition, a planned upgrade in signal controller software will allow for more versatility in the system.

For more information about TxDOT's Freeway Adaptive System, please contact either Steve Chiu, TxDOT-Houston at 281-686-9927 or Ian Lee at Twincrest Technologies at 817-539-2200.

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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP – JUNE 27, 2012 - HOUSTON

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ITS Texas are co-sponsoring an Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM) workshop on June 27, 2012 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. The workshop will be held in the Houston area at the Houston-Galveston Area Council Office (3555 Timmons, Houston, TX 77027) in 2nd Floor Conference Room A.

Active Transportation and Demand Management (ATDM) is the dynamic management, control, and influence of travel demand, traffic demand, and traffic flow of transportation facilities. Through the use of available tools and assets, traffic flow is managed and traveler behavior is influenced in real-time to achieve operational objectives, such as preventing or delaying breakdown conditions, improving safety, reducing emissions, or maximizing system efficiency. Under an ATDM approach the transportation system is continuously monitored. Using archived data and/or predictive methods, actions are performed in real-time to achieve or maintain system performance. Some ATDM approaches include:

Active Traffic Management	Active Demand Management	Active Parking Management
Dynamic Lane Use Control	Dynamic Ridesharing	Dynamically Priced Parking
Dynamic Speed Limits	On-Demand Transit	Dynamic Parking Reservation
Queue Warning	Dynamic Pricing	Dynamic Way Finding
Adaptive Ramp Metering	Predictive Traveler Information	Dynamic Parking Capacity

This workshop will provide an overview of ATDM, current activities planned or ongoing in Texas, knowledge and technology transfer among peers with a focus on active traffic management (ATM) and active demand management (ADM) approaches.

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. Credit cards will not be accepted. 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.

For out-of-town attendees, the following are a list of nearby hotels to the Houston-Galveston Area Council that currently offer rooms at the per diem rate of \$109/night per FedRooms.com:

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON HOUSTON SW
 2828 Southwest Freeway
 Houston TX 77098
 713-942-2111

CROWNE PLAZA RIVER OAKS
 2712 Southwest Freeway
 Houston TX 77098
 713-523-8448

WESTIN OAKS HOUSTON AT THE GALLERIA
 5011 Westheimer At Post Oak
 Houston TX 77056
 713-960-8100

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL HOUSTON
 2222 West Loop South
 Houston TX 77027
 713-627-7600

For more information on the FHWA's ATDM Program please contact:

Jim Hunt, FHWA Office of Operations
Jim.Hunt@dot.gov
 717-221-4422

James Colyar, FHWA Office of Operations
James.Colyar@dot.gov
 360-753-9408

Bob Sheehan, FHWA Office of Operations
Robert.Sheehan@dot.gov
 202-366-6817

Greg Jones, FHWA Resource Center
GregM.Jones@dot.gov
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ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

Have you visited the ITS Texas Web recently? Located at <http://www.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.

[2012 Membership Application](#) – The application form for membership is electronic. After completing and submitting the form, you will receive an e-mail confirming your application with directions on where to send your \$25 membership fee. Sorry, no credit cards accepted, just checks. If you become a member, you receive discounted rates at the annual meeting and ITS Texas training."

[The 2012 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 database.

[2012 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 web site. – Did you know that all major information updates to the website are listed on the [home page](#)? Please visit the site to see if there's new information available.

ITS Texas also publishes update information via the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed. ITS Texas 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:

- [RITA released its National Deployment Estimate of the Metropolitan ITS Infrastructure, estimating capital expenditures in the top 75 metropolitan areas as of FY 2010](#) (from USDOT-RITA)
- [ITS America released a synopsis of its 22nd Annual Meeting held in National Harbor, MD in May](#) (from ITS America)
- [The University of Michigan is seeking 3,000 Ann Arbor residents to participate in an intelligent vehicle deployment initiative](#) (from Ann Arbor News)

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 include:

- [In Washington D.C., allowing transit vehicles priority during a no-notice evacuation resulted in a 26 percent time saving for transit buses without impacting on personal vehicle travel time.](#) (Journal of Homeland Security, May 2011)
- [Intersection-related crashes decreased 11 percent overall at signal controlled intersections in Texas after the installation of automated traffic enforcement systems](#) (Texas Transportation Institute, June 2011)
- [RITA released its Intelligent Transportation Systems Benefits, Costs, Deployment, and Lessons Learned: 2011 Update](#) (RITA, September 2011)

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

YOUR 2012 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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