



ITS Texas Newsletter

August 2009

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe. Your Board has been hard at work finalizing preparations for the Annual Meeting. I encourage you to visit the [2009 ANNUAL MEETING](#) web page regularly for updated information.

Thank you to all of those that provided information for session presentations. Unfortunately, the Board is not able to accommodate all requests in the time allotted for the meeting. Never the less, all of your input is very much appreciated.

This Annual Meeting will continue the tradition of offering participants the highest possible value. This year, the technical training is offered at no cost.

This Annual Meeting would not be possible without the participation of the membership and exhibitors. I can not say it enough. Thank You.

If the exceptional value, exhibits, and session topics are not enough to convince you not to miss this event, remember the Galveston area needs our help. These tough economic times have stressed hurricane recovery efforts in the area. Your participation in this meeting and visits to local establishments will help this area complete the recovery.

Hopefully, this November will be full of cool Gulf breezes. I know I am hoping for some relief from this heat.

I hope to see each of you at the Annual Meeting in November. On to the rest of the newsletter.

If I can assist you in my capacity, contact me. It remains my honor to serve you as ITS Texas President.

Brian D. Burk, P.E.





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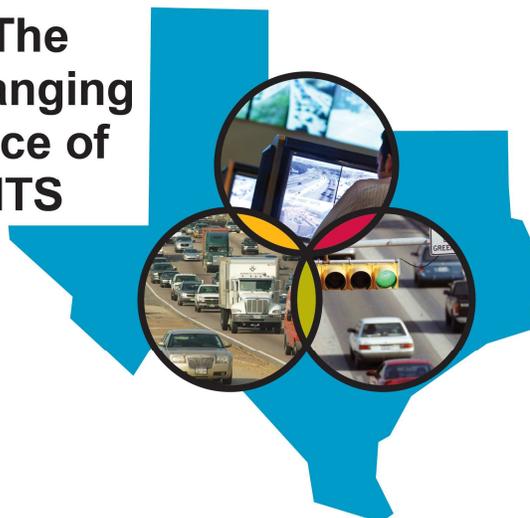
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2009 ITS Texas Annual Meeting

November is fast approaching and the Board is working hard on finalizing the last couple details to this year's annual meeting. The annual meeting will be November 11-13 in Galveston at the Historic Hotel Galvez. We have a very exciting agenda and a host of great speakers lined up. The Federal Highway Administration is sponsoring and presenting the Fall Technical training on Wednesday at the Hotel. Please see the article in this newsletter for more information on the training. We also have two tours scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. There will be a tour of the

Bayport Container Terminal. The \$1.2 billion Bayport Container Terminal is a state-of-the-art facility and at total build-out, will substantially increase the port's container handling capacity. The opening phase of the terminal became operational in January 2007. The Bayport Cruise Terminal will also provide three berths for modern cruise vessels. There will be a separate Ghost Tour of Galveston which is the islands first,

The Changing Face of ITS



foremost, and original haunted historical walking tour. This unique two hour tour combines history, mystery, ghost stories and legends taking you on a journey into Galveston's richly unknown past.



Registration is now open at a cost of \$190 per member. With less than three months remaining there is no reason not to register today. Please click [REGISTER](#) to link to the registration page.

The Hotel Galvez room block has been established so make your reservations today at the conference rate of \$85 per night. Click [HOTEL GALVEZ](#) for a link to the Hotel.





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Below is the session schedule and descriptions of each session as a preview of the upcoming meeting.

Time	Wed, 11/11/2009	Thurs, 11/12/2009	Fri, 11/13/2009
7:30 am	Registration	Registration	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am			Continental Breakfast
8:30 am			Continental Breakfast
9:00 am	Training	Registration	Vendor Exhibits
9:30 am			Texas TMCs
10:00 am			Intelligent Vehicles
10:30 am			Rural ITS
11:00 am	Tours	Vendor Exhibits	Sponsored Break
11:30 am			Sponsored Break
12:00 pm			Arterial Management Systems
12:30 pm			Commercial Vehicles
1:00 pm	Registration	Vendor Exhibits	Operations and Management
1:30 pm			Professional Development
2:00 pm			Kick-Off Luncheon
2:30 pm			Business and Awards Luncheon
3:00 pm	Registration	Vendor Exhibits	Traveler Information
3:30 PM			Tolling/ Pricing
4:00 pm			Sponsored Break
4:30 PM			Technologies
5:00 pm	Registration	Vendor Exhibits	Planned Special Events
5:30 pm			Vendor Reception
6:00 pm			
6:30 pm			

Texas TMCs

Over the past two decades numerous Traffic Management Centers have been built across the state of Texas varying in size from a couple software programs running on someone's work station to facilities larger than 50,000 square feet housing multiple agencies. As time has past many changes in operations, equipment, personnel, partnerships and many other facets have occurred. This session will look at three systems differing in size, complexity and organization and how they have evolved over the years including key changes that have or will be taking place in each.





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Arterial Management Systems

Advanced Traffic Management Systems have existed for years actually predating ITS programs in the form of traffic signal systems. With the advent of ITS, they have come to include additional components including those that make up Freeway Management Systems. This year, our session will focus back on its roots and examine the implementation of ITS components along arterials systems.

Commercial Vehicles – Keep it moving, get it delivered, safely and on time

Trucks are everywhere and the volume of truck traffic in Texas is increasing. Texas has state borders, international borders, sea ports, inland ports, and transportation corridors. This session will discuss commercial vehicle projects and activities at the national and state levels. What we are doing, what others are doing and some things we ought to consider for the future.

Traveler Information– Are we there yet?

This session explores the variety and variability of the public's traveler information needs, different technologies use to capture data, and the ways to present traveler information in an appealing and user-friendly format. Please join us for the Who, What and How in Traveler Information so travel inquiries can be answered with confidence and ease.

Tolling/ Pricing

As our highway system expands and the driver base increases, operation and maintenance costs have gone up and funding has become restricted. Toll roads are one answer to funding expansion and provide an alternative funding solution to highway operations and maintenance. Learn how tolling philosophy and technology has evolved in Texas and other states and find out what is new. "HOT" tolling is a hot topic today, find out how it is working in Texas.

Technologies

New and emerging technologies can rapidly change the face of ITS. As we are continually required to do more with less, we must look beyond traditional solutions and technologies to meet the transportation challenges of today as well as the future. This session will highlight several new technologies and how they were applied to solve specific ITS problems.

Planned Special Events

This session will highlight the use of ITS technologies to better manage and operate transportation systems, providing the ability to accommodate traveler demands for planned special events. Managing traffic flow in and around event venues allows for a more enjoyable experience for event attendees and those traveling through the event





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area. This session will feature the types of ITS technologies used for planned special events in Texas and their effectiveness.

Intelligent Vehicles

As intelligence within vehicles continues to evolve, more and more data is gathered that could be used for many purposes such as travel times, road conditions, weather conditions, etc. This session explores the state of technology and data generated within the vehicle, data communications from the vehicle to the infrastructure and other vehicles, and the future of how vehicle intelligence may continue to evolve.

Rural ITS

Do not let the title of this session fool you. While presentations in this session focus on technology and policy typically applied at rural levels, urbanites will also find the material applicable. Participate in this session for the latest in rural ITS technology and policy.

Operations and Management

In recent years, the transportation industry has come to learn that the growth in vehicle miles travelled has outpaced the construction of additional lane miles. Many have come to believe that we simply cannot build roads fast enough to satisfy the demand. As a result, organizations such as AASHTO and FHWA's Office of Operations have begun focusing on getting more out of existing facilities through better management and operations. This session will explore the idea of Operations and Management as a program.

Professional Development

Professional Engineers are required to complete one hour of engineering ethics each year. This session is designed to complete this requirement in a fun and informative way.

Plus, don't forget the vendor areas that are Thursday and Friday, keynotes speakers at lunch on both Thursday and Friday, and the vendor reception on Thursday night.

For additional information on annual meeting please visit the [ANNUAL MEETING WEB SITE](#).





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2009 Annual Meeting Training ACS Lite

Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration

ITS Texas will offer its Fall technical training in conjunction with the 2009 annual meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 in Galveston, Texas.

The training course is on ACS-Lite, a scaled down version of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Adaptive Control Software (ACS). ACS-Lite is a low cost solution to provide traffic signal timing that is appropriate for real time traffic conditions. While ACS-Lite is not for everyone, it was designed specifically for the closed loop arterial traffic signal system; which is representative of 90% of the traffic signal systems in the United States.



The **training course is free (\$0) due to the generous underwriting support of the Federal Highway Administration.** The number of seats for this unique opportunity is limited to 75. Training runs from 8AM to 4PM and includes lunch.



Course overview:

Retiming traffic signals on a 3-5 year frequency is considered best practice for traffic signal operations. Does this practice adequately meet the needs of system users; minimize fuel consumption and climactic impacts? Do we know enough about the performance of traffic signal systems, active traffic signal operations resource needs and the benefits of adaptive systems to make sound investment decisions? What adaptive technologies are currently available, are they effective and where does ACS-Lite fit into the mix.





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Course objectives:

At the conclusion of the training participants will be able to:

- Describe the current state of the practice in traffic signal operations from a national perspective.
- Describe the signal timing process and how it can be supplemented and improved with adaptive systems
- Describe the fundamental operations concept for ACS-Lite
- Describe the system configuration needs, detection and communications requirements for ACS-Lite.
- Describe the how the split tuning and offset tuning algorithms work within ACS-Lite to optimize signal timing.
- Describe the staffing and resource requirements to manage and operate adaptive systems.

Course presenters:

The training will be presented by a combination of skilled professionals from FHWA, Siemens, and Texas engineers who have deployed ACS-Lite in their jurisdictions.



RITA

Research and Innovative Technology Administration

For those of you interested in the latest information in the area of innovative then try visiting the RITA web site. RITA, the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, coordinates the US Department of Transportation's research programs and is charged with advancing the development of cross-cutting technologies to improve our Nation's Transportation System.



RITA contains a wealth of interest in numerous areas. There are links to 9 different areas of Communities of Interest including Vehicles Systems Research, Advanced communications, navigation and surveillance, Traffic Management/Command and Control, Human Factors Research and Applications and many others. RITA displays





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recent news stories from across the nations as well as upcoming training such as the Distracted Driving Summit scheduled for this September.

RITA also is a great link to numerous libraries of information such as the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Intelligent Transportation Systems Subject Index, the National Transportation Library, the Transportation Safety Institute and others.

So if have not yet found your way to this site and you want to get caught up on a particular area of interest in research and technology this site will probably be a good read.

Click [RITA](#) to visit the site.



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Your Article Here

The ITS Texas newsletter is a great way for you as an ITS professional to **share your projects, plans or other ITS related items with the ITS community**. If you have information concerning any ITS project within the state that you feel may be of interest to the membership, PLEASE contact [Andy Oberlander](#) . If you have an idea and are not sure of its interest go ahead and contact me so we can discuss. SERIOUSLY – the membership wants to hear about upcoming or ongoing ITS projects. I look forward to hearing from you.



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