



Issue 2

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New Federal Highway Legislation: TEA-21

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) was signed into legislation by President Clinton on June 9, 1998. The six-year bill continues many programs established under the previous highway legislation, ISTEA. Early estimates show an approximate 30 percent increase in federal funding to Texas.

Some TEA-21 provisions are of particular interest in the ITS arena. These include clarification that regular federal aid (NHS, STP, CMAQ) can be used for ITS projects; clarification that operations and management of ITS projects are eligible for regular federal aid; and requirements that ITS projects be consistent with the National ITS Architecture.

The selection of projects and use of federal funds remain a state and local decision accomplished through established procedures.

Specific ITS funds have been established in TEA-21, as they were in ISTEA. For ITS Standards, Research, Operational Tests and Development, \$603 million has been set aside. A category called ITS Deployment has been allotted \$679 million.

These ITS Deployment funds will focus on regional integration projects. The level of funding is nearly twice what ISTEA had for ITS. However, it is not much in the scope of the program.

Regular federal aid will continue to fund the bulk of Texas ITS projects.

Message from the President

We are proud of Texas people and projects because several won awards at the recent ITS America Annual Meeting in Detroit. I believe our members are involved in some of the best ITS efforts anywhere in the country.

We would like to highlight all past and present Texas winners by displaying the awards at our annual meeting at the Austin DoubleTree November 18-20.

If you have a project that has ever received an award from ITS America or ITS Texas or know a past award winner, please let me know. We have incomplete records and do not want to miss anyone.

Our annual meeting is shaping up nicely. We are working on ways to increase vendor participation in November because vendors bring value and excitement to the conference. We will solicit vendor feedback on what we need to do to get ITS Texas on their "must be there" list. I encourage vendors to contact me at any time about this.

ITS Texas is planning to sponsor a region-wide

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ITS Texas Contracts with TTI-ITEC

ITS Texas is an individual-based organization that relies on volunteers to manage its day-to-day affairs.

Unfortunately, when positions are filled by volunteers who must maintain their regular jobs, things cannot be done as efficiently as desired.

Therefore, the ITS Texas Board of Directors contracted with the Information & Technology Exchange Center (ITEC) at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to publish newsletters, maintain a membership database and plan meetings.

It is a one-year, renewable contract. Costs are based on actual time and expenses. The board will evaluate the arrangement periodically.

ITS America Awards—Texas Shines!

ITS Texas won an outstanding state chapter award for the Rural ITS Workshops sponsored throughout the summer of 1997.

The award was presented at the ITS America Annual Meeting in Detroit May 5.

Jim Carvell led the workshops with help from Curtis Beaty, Terry Carson, Peter Eng, Russel Henk, Jerry Jones, Bruce Nipp, Chip Perry, Fitzgerald Sanchez and Katie Turnbull.

Houston METRO received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Advanced Traffic Management Systems. Houston METRO is involved in Houston TranStar, the National Automated Highway System Consortium and the Regional Traffic Signal System.

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) was also recognized with the Outstanding Achievement Award in Emergency Services for the Advanced Law Enforcement and Response Technology (ALERT) research project. The ALERT Data Exchange Platform is an intelligent transportation system being developed in cooperation with local, state, federal and industry partners to enhance officer safety, improve collection and dissemination of data, and optimize incident response management.

ITS America also recognized Tom Griebel of TxDOT for his service on the Coordinating Council.

Proposed Revisions to Bylaws

The Board of Directors recommends the following revisions to the ITS Texas bylaws.

- ★ Make pronouns gender non-specific, e.g. "his" changes to "his/her."
- ★ Change IVHS to ITS.
- ★ Clarify that in addition to the five officer positions, there will be four directors-at-large.
- ★ Replace the requirement that there be one representative from each employment group (e.g., private, transit, city and state) on the board with language that encourages that there be cross-representation. This recognizes that with elective offices it may not always be possible to have representation from every group.
- ★ Have directors-at-large serve staggered two-year terms to avoid complete turnover in any one year. Limit directors to serving no more than two two-year terms.
- ★ Revise the election process to specify that the president appoint a nominating committee.
- ★ Allow for balloting by mail if elections at the annual meeting are not practical.
- ★ Specify that election results are based on the actual votes cast to ensure that the election will not have the question of a proper number of votes cast.
- ★ Allow for amendment of bylaws by mail or at the annual meeting.

There will be a vote on these revisions during the business meeting at the 1998 annual meeting.

Message from the President, *cont. from page 1*

incident management conference in Dallas-Fort Worth with FHWA, TxDOT and Houston METRO. Other agencies may get involved as the details firm up.

We have decided to hold the conference in the spring of 1999. Watch for future information.

Finally, I would like to

thank this year's officers and directors of ITS Texas—Tom, Walter, Chris, Mark, Andy, Pat, Bruce and Terry—for their interest and participation in the meetings and business we have conducted to date.

We have accomplished a number of important tasks, and your efforts are appreciated.

— Mark Olson

ITS Texas 1998 Board of Directors

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Call for Annual Award Nominations

The ITS Texas Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the 1998 ITS Texas Annual Awards by September 30.

Nominated projects should reflect excellence in ITS implementation in Texas.

All entries should include the description and scope of the project, project partners (agency, designer, contractor, etc.), benefits of the project, and successful or unique elements of the project.

1998 ITS Texas Conference & Expo

November 18-20
DoubleTree Hotel
Austin, Texas

**Have you
registered yet?**

ITS Texas Sponsors Next Generation of ITS Leaders

ITS Texas encourages student involvement in ITS and supports ITS education. This year marks the beginning of a program to sponsor student chapters. ITS Texas sponsored the two student chapters in Texas recognized by ITS America. Peter Koonce,

president of the ITS Texas A&M Student Chapter, and Josh Peterman, president of the University of Texas ITS Student Chapter, each received \$750 for their 1998 activities. Both chapters submitted proposals outlining their 1998 program activities

and must submit an annual report to ITS Texas. This program is open to any recognized ITS student chapter and is subject to annual funding availability. Any university interested in starting a chapter should contact ITS Texas President Mark Olson or ITS America directly.

ITS Texas Membership Form

Name (last, first, middle) _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Business phone _____
Business fax _____
E-mail _____
Areas of interest _____
Alma mater(s) and degree(s) _____

For more information on any of the articles featured here, contact the Information & Technology Exchange Center (ITEC), Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), 707 Texas Ave., Suite 101, College Station, TX 77840. The annual membership is \$25 (1998 calendar year). Please fill out all the requested information, cut out this form and return it to the above address. Make checks or money orders payable to Treasurer, ITS Texas.

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