

# ITS Texas News



Issue 3

May 1999



## 1998 ITS Texas Awards

At the 1998 Annual Meeting in Austin last November, ITS Texas presented four awards for outstanding ITS efforts in Texas. These awards recognized significant Texas achievements in ITS activities.

For the first time we honored an individual, Mr. Robert G. MacLennan, P.E., of Houston METRO. The Individual Achievement Award plaque noted Bob's outstanding and visionary leadership in the ITS arena at the national, regional and local levels.

Bob has been a tireless leader in the ITS profession. From serving as Chair of the ITS America Board of Directors during 1996, to Past Chair of the Houston TranStar Executive Committee and as General Manager of Houston METRO, he has demonstrated how technology can be used to improve the safety and efficiency of our transportation system. Bob's leadership has been enthusiastic and visionary.

He retired as General Manager for Houston METRO at the end of 1998. He was very pleasantly surprised by this award. ITS Texas wishes him the very best during his retirement.

The Texas A&M University ITS Research Center of Excellence (RCE) was recognized for five years of nationally significant ITS research in partnership with various transportation agencies. The ITS RCE program began with the ISTEA legislation and was competitively awarded to three universities after an intense application process.

The Texas A&M ITS RCE had three fundamental missions: research, technology transfer and human resource development. The research mission had three technical thrusts: public transportation services, transportation management services and international border transportation Services/Institutional Issues. The technology transfer mission focused on outreach, professional capacity building, and the sponsorship of workshops and seminars. Finally, the human resource development component worked to expand the number and diversity of transportation professionals and increase the extent of their ITS-related expertise. Tom Urbanik accepted the award as director of this program.

ITS Texas recognized TxDOT

## Message from the President

ITS Texas is an organization of people with a common vision to improve transportation through the use of technology. In this day and age, keeping up with technology is challenging to all of us. ITS Texas helps in this endeavor by educating us and forming a network of professionals that can learn from each other. Membership in ITS Texas is a valuable way to improve your knowledge in this field. Please make sure your membership is current or take time to join now.

The Board of Directors has been working actively to take care ITS Texas business. These are the people who volunteer their time to run the business end. The current and previous boards have been dedicated to bringing us a high-quality organization. The board this year has been busy planning the Incident Conference in Dallas and our annual meeting in College Station.

ITS America is continuing to grow rapidly. ITS Texas was one of the first state chapters organized; there are now twenty. One reason for this growth is vast opportunity as we go from research to implementation. Our members will make Texas a leader in transportation in the next century.

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Dallas and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) agencies for cooperation in the implementation of a regionally significant traffic

management center. This jointly staffed center is located near the very busy I-635 and US 75 interchange. TxDOT operates the freeway management system and

## ITS Texas Annual Meeting Call for presentations

The ITS Texas Board of Directors invites you to submit an abstract of a presentation you would like considered for the next ITS Texas Annual Meeting in College Station, Texas, Nov. 17-19, 1999. This call for presentations is a new idea to allow the ITS Texas membership to have direct input into the planning of the program. The topics should focus on deployed projects, current implementations and lessons learned (both successes and failures).

### Format

Your abstract should be 200 to 300 words in length and should fill no more than one typewritten page. Your name, title, mailing address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address must appear on the abstract.

### Deadlines

Abstracts must be received no later than June 30, 1999. You will be notified by Aug. 1, 1999 as to whether your abstract has been accepted for presentation at the meeting. If your abstract is accepted, you will be required to make a 20-minute presentation with appropriate visual aids. No paper is required, but individuals may bring papers to the meeting for distribution at a session.

### Submittals

Please mail, fax or e-mail a single copy of the abstract to:  
*ITS Texas Annual Meeting*  
*c/o Christopher Poe*  
*410 CE/TTI Building*  
*College Station, TX 77843*  
*Fax: (409) 845-6001 or*  
*cpoe@tamu.edu*

### Possible Topics

- Deployment lessons learned
- Intersections safety
- ITS evaluation tools
- System operation/management
- Arterial flow optimization
- Using ITS data
- System integration
- Transit signal priority
- Intelligent vehicles
- Regional interoperability
- Toll operations
- Commercial vehicle operations
- National architecture experiences
- Rail applications
- Texas border experiences
- Performance measures
- Emergency services
- Standards implementation
- Incident management
- TMC operations
- Standards compliance
- Traffic management
- Weather systems
- ITS education and training
- Traveler information
- Rural ITS
- Communications management
- Public transportation
- ITS benefits
- Public outreach campaigns

courtesy patrol, while DART manages HOV enforcement efforts from this facility. Andy Oberlander accepted the award plaque for the TxDOT/DART partnership.

ITS Texas recognized the San Antonio TransGuide partnership for outstanding success in the nationally significant ITS Model Deployment Initiative (MDI). The San Antonio MDI proposal was one of four selected nationwide. A number of TransGuide MDI projects built upon existing capabilities of San Antonio's freeway management system infrastructure, resulting in a showcase of the benefits that ITS can provide.

Accomplishing the eight projects that comprise the TransGuide MDI within the timeframe given for the program was truly impressive. Pat Irwin and Brian Fariello accepted the plaque on behalf of the TransGuide partnership.

## 1999 ITS America Awards

The society's 9th annual meeting in Washington, D.C., marked the first time ITS America members selected winners by sealed ballot with the honorees unknown until the awards ceremony, which Intel sponsored. ITS America presented 16 achievement awards for outstanding efforts in 1998. Texas projects won two of these awards.

The TransGuide MDI won the Outstanding Achievement in Advanced Traffic Management Services Award, and its LifeLink Project won the Outstanding Achievement in Emergency Services Award. More hardware for the trophy case!

# National ITS Deployment Strategy

ITS America is in the process of drafting an ITS Deployment Strategy as a part of an agreement with the U.S. DOT Joint Program Office. The deployment strategy will be "...a tightly focused 40-50 page document oriented towards policy makers, media and the general public." The ITSA Coordinating Council is soliciting input on

the current circulation draft, and ITS Texas will have comments.

Individual members are encouraged to review the circulation draft, which can be obtained three ways:

- ☆ <http://www.itsa.org/subject.nsf/Urls/nitsds.html>
- ☆ [bill-stockton@tamu.edu](mailto:bill-stockton@tamu.edu)
- ☆ Bill Stockton, TTI, 7715 Chevy Chase Dr., Ste. 4160, Austin, TX, 78752, or call him at (512) 467-0946.

Bill is coordinating the ITS Texas Chapter response. You may submit comments to him or send them to ITS America. Please note the form of response requested by ITS America: use specific words, not general comments. Any comments provided to Bill prior to June 11 will be considered for the Chapter response.

Please take a look at this document as it is important to the future of transportation.

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## 1999 Federal ITS Earmarks

Texas had five locations identified to receive ITS funding in fiscal year 1999: Corpus Christi, Del Rio, Houston, Laredo, and the State of Texas. The local areas are developing project proposals to meet the "integration" requirements spelled out in the legislation which identified the areas.

## Year 2000 Federal ITS Program

FHWA headquarters received 12 Texas applications for fiscal year 2000 ITS Integration funding from Austin, Cayuga, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Houston, Laredo and San Antonio.

An ITS America Peer Review Panel will review the proposals and determine which ones support the goals of the ITS Integration program. This will be a "pass/fail" review, not a numerical ranking.

ITS America will then submit the proposals that pass to Congress before they recess for Memorial Day. Those selected for funding will be required to provide more detailed technical and financial proposals prior to receipt of funds in FY 00.

# Incident Management Conference

ITS Texas, the Federal Highway Administration, the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and the North Central Texas Council of Governments are sponsoring an Incident Management Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas on Sept. 15 and 16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Select located at IH 635 and IH 35E. The registration fee is \$75 per person.

The conference will explore traffic, police, fire and public expectations on handling incidents, equipment to facilitate incident clearance and a hands-on session evaluating the management of an actual freeway incident. We are bringing presenters in from around the country to describe their "success stories" and provide their secrets to making

incident management work. This conference is open to all interested participants and we are hopeful to get participation from neighboring states. Mark your calendars and look for registration materials to be mailed in the near future.

***Mark Your Calendars!***  
**1999 ITS Texas  
Conference & Exhibit**

*November 17-19*  
*College Station, Texas*

## 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 (1999 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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