



## Message from the President

Issue 4



November 1999

## 7th Annual ITS Texas Meeting

Texas has been a leader in ITS from the beginning. From large-scale deployments like the Houston Priority Corridor and the San Antonio Model Deployment Initiative to smaller, effective management centers in Laredo—from an ITS Research Center of Excellence to weather information systems in the Panhandle—Texas truly has been at the forefront of deployment. All of these ITS implementations provide considerable experience to learn from. As the 1990s come to a close, it is important to look back at these accomplishments and look forward to a successful vision for the next century.

Please join us in College Station for the 7th Annual ITS Texas Meeting. The meeting will include technical sessions, exhibitor booths, a M&O training workshop, and excellent opportunities to network with peers.

Be sure to stay through the lunch business meeting on Friday for important votes on membership, officer elections and annual awards.

## Call for nominations

All ITS Texas members are invited to submit nominations for the 1999 ITS Texas Awards Program. The Awards Program will recognize any individual or group (e.g., a city, agency or company) for a project, action, activity or other contribution in the fields of ITS policy, planning, design, deployment, research or education.

The nomination should include the name, phone number and e-mail address of the member making the nomination, identify the nominated individual or group, and describe the unique innovation, distinctive service or outstanding leadership that makes the nominee worthy of statewide recognition.

Members are encouraged to keep nominations brief—200 words or less. Nominations will be evaluated by the ITS Texas awards committee. Awards will be presented at the 7th Annual ITS Texas Meeting at the business meeting on November 19, 1999.

## QUICK!

Please submit all nominations to Dave Davis by e-mail at [davidd@ci.farmers-branch.tx.us](mailto:davidd@ci.farmers-branch.tx.us) no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 12.

ITS America President John Collins sees ITS as saving time, lives and money. This summarizes the goals of the national organization. In order to achieve this, we must quickly deploy ever-changing technologies to improve the mobility of our roadway network.

The new millennium is fast approaching. Help our state chapter achieve the new millennium's resolution by expanding membership, improving attendance at conferences and implementing ITS technology to save time, lives and money.

See you in College Station!

—Walter Ragsdale

## 7th Annual ITS Texas Meeting & Exhibit

*November 17–19, 1999*

*Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas*

Register on-line at  
[tti.tamu.edu/conferences/its](http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/its).

There are still exhibit spaces and sponsorship opportunities available.

Contact Sharon Perdue to reserve yours today!

(409) 862-3761 or  
[s-perdue@tamu.edu](mailto:s-perdue@tamu.edu)

## ITS Texas now on the Web!

ITS Texas now has a web site located at [itstexas.tamu.edu](http://itstexas.tamu.edu). The objective of the site is twofold:

- to serve as a resource to the ITS Texas membership, and
- to serve as a showcase of the organization.

The site consists of the following sections:

- **About ITS Texas**—all about ITS Texas and its history
- **Board of Directors**—a list of directors and their contact information
- **Membership**—membership information and application forms
- **Upcoming events**—ITS-related meetings in Texas and ITS America meetings
- **Newsletter archive**—electronic copies of chapter newsletters
- **Project showcase**—interesting ITS-related projects
- **Vendor showcase**—showcase of new products and technologies

To effectively use the web site, you need a browser such as Internet Explorer, Opera or Netscape Navigator, as well as a screen resolution of at least 800x600 with at least 16-bit color.

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) has graciously agreed to host the web site. Roelof Engelbrecht from TTI designed the site and is responsible for maintaining it.

Please send contributions to the project or vendor showcase pages and any comments to [itstexas@tamu.edu](mailto:itstexas@tamu.edu).

## New ITS America State Chapter Affiliation Agreement

ITS America has a new State Chapter Affiliation Agreement. Each state chapter must approve it to continue its affiliation with the national organization. ITS Texas members will discuss the details of the agreement at the annual meeting.

The key elements are summarized below:

- State chapters may have organizational members and/or individual members as they see fit.
- State chapters will collect dues and maintain their own records. They are free to set their own dues structure and keep all dues collected.
- ITS America will no longer provide national member benefits to “state chapter only” members.
- National members can designate the state chapters to which funding is given for their membership. ITS America will then give \$100 to state chapters for each national organization membership.
- ITS America will support state chapters at their option on a cost basis for mailing lists, membership database maintenance, dues collection and web site development.
- State chapters will pay an annual \$250 affiliation fee, payable at the beginning of each calendar year.

## New ITS Projects

Congress earmarked the entire fiscal year 1999 federal budget for ITS projects. They actually earmarked more money than was available (\$114.8 million vs \$105 million), so each location was proportionately reduced. Texas had five earmark locations: Laredo, Del Rio, Corpus Christi, Houston and the State of Texas.

TxDOT used the State of Texas earmark for three separate projects:

- a \$50,000 commercial vehicle business plan,
- additional work under the “Statewide Integrator” contract with Southwest Research Institute, and
- development of a plan for regional ITS architecture for the lower Rio Grande Valley (Pharr District).

Laredo, Del Rio and Corpus Christi are utilizing funds to develop regional architectures and ITS plans for their areas. The Houston earmark will be used to integrate and expand current Priority Corridor projects into the Houston TranStar system.

## Incident Management Conference

An exciting Incident Management Conference was held at the Holiday Inn Select in Farmers Branch September 15–16, 1999. One hundred six people attended the two-day event. Lively discussions were held on a variety of topics and the merits of new ideas were debated.

John O’Laughlin from PB Farradyne, Inc., provided information on the use of photogrammetry at incident sites, interagency cooperation and traffic control set-ups that minimize lane closures. Tom Corbett from Shadow Traffic discussed how the media could assist in informing the public of obstacles on the roadways.

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Other topics discussed included innovations in the towing industry and the incorporation of video into ambulance and freeway service patrols. In addition, participants held a number of informal discussions during the breaks, the reception and the luncheons.

The overall theme was communication, coordination and cooperation between agencies. A number of agencies in the Dallas area have requested a follow-up meeting, and we have reports of the police departments, courtesy patrol and wrecker companies utilizing some of the new ideas in handling incidents.

Special thanks go out to the conference sponsors: the Federal Highway Administration, ITS Texas, Houston Metro, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Fort Worth Transportation Authority, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition and the Texas Department of Transportation. Thanks also to the conference coordination committee. We had many compliments on the value of this conference.

## Hot off the Press!

The fiscal year 2000 budget has been signed by the President. ITS earmarks in this bill include the following Texas locations:

- College Station—\$1,000,000
- Corpus Christi—\$1,500,000
- Fort Worth—\$2,500,000
- Houston—\$1,500,000
- State of Texas—\$4,000,000

As with the 1999 earmarks, locations are asked to use ITS funding for integration and interoperability of existing systems.

## Transportation Calendar

<b>TxDOT Research Meetings</b>	November 1-5, 1999	Waco, TX
<b>ITS Architecture Outreach</b>	November 5, 1999	San Antonio, TX
<b>ITS World Congress</b>	November 8-12, 1999	Toronto, Canada
<b>ITS Texas Annual Meeting</b>	November 17-19, 1999	College Station, TX
<b>TexITE Winter Meeting</b>	January 27-29, 1999	Arlington, TX
<b>ITS America Annual Meeting</b>	May 1-4, 2000	Boston, MA
<b>TxDOT Research Meetings</b>	June 5-9, 2000	TBD
<b>TexITE Summer Meeting</b>	June 22-24, 2000	College Station, TX
<b>ITE Annual Meeting</b>	August 6-9, 2000	Nashville, TN
<b>TxDOT Transportation Conference</b>	October 9-11, 2000	College Station, TX
<b>ITS Texas Annual Meeting</b>	November 15-17, 2000	TBD

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# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## Your ad here

The Board of Directors wants to defray the production and distribution costs of the newsletter by soliciting advertising. With enough advertisements we can expand the length and content of the newsletter to improve service to members. The cost of a business card size ad is \$100 per year (2 newsletters). This is an inexpensive way to get your name in front of ITS professionals around the state, as well as to support your local ITS Chapter. Please contact Mark Olson for more information.

For more information on any of the articles featured here, contact the Information & Technology Exchange Center, Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M University System, M.S. 3135, College Station, TX 77843-3135.

The annual membership is \$25 (1999 calendar year). Please fill out the requested information, cut out this form and return it to the post office box below. Make checks or money orders payable to Treasurer, ITS Texas.

ITS Texas  
P.O. Box 2021  
College Station, TX 77840

