

ITS TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By TONY VOIGT, GRADIENT GROUP

The last year has been a wild and crazy ride! In 2017 we saw a large part of the state of Texas decimated by Hurricane Harvey, including our annual meeting hotel in Houston. Within two months we went from having no meeting venue to hosting one of the most successful annual meetings in the organization's history at the Hilton Houston North, with nearly 60 vendors, 33 sponsors, and over 370 attendees. We held a scholarship event at TopGolf with about 60 participants, enabling us to provide six well-deserving students with \$9,000 in scholarships. We recognized Jack Whaley with the Wallace Ewell Award, and the TxDOT Houston District, City of Frisco, and City of Baytown with excellence awards in ITS project delivery. We also took time to recognize Jeff Kaufman for his service to the organization as he departed as past-president. Thanks again to all the hard-working volunteers that made the 2017 Annual Meeting such a great experience and huge success and thank you, ITS Texas Members, for your participation.

What does 2018 have in store for us?

At the time I write this, we are preparing to have possibly the largest annual meeting in our organization's history – a joint meeting with TexITE – slated for November 7-9, 2018 at the Omni Houston Hotel. More details will be coming soon, and your ITS Texas Board is looking forward to working with TexITE on this epic event! We are also slated to overhaul the ITS Texas website this year with the goal to provide even more functionality to membership from that important resource.

I began service to the board in 2011. It is an honor and privilege to serve the membership of this organization, and to do so with the great folks on the ITS Texas Board of Directors. This is a working board – and in addition to the annual meeting in November, we will be bringing you monthly informational webinars, a mid-year training event, and upcoming newsletters over the next year.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you this year and I look forward to seeing you at our mid-year training, and at our next annual conference in Houston on November 7th, 2018!

Sincerely,

Tony Voigt

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2017 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

The ITS Texas Board of Directors would like to extend a very sincere thank you to everyone who attended the 2017 Annual Meeting in Houston. With over 370 participants attending the meeting, we set a record for attendance at an ITS Texas Annual Meeting. In addition to our attendees, we also were very excited to have nearly 60 exhibitors displaying their products and services in the vendor showroom. The ITS Texas Annual Meeting truly has something for everyone, providing an exciting and energetic environment to learn, network and have fun. If you have not been to an ITS Texas Annual Meeting in the past, we want to encourage you to come out and experience our next Annual Meeting in Houston November 7th – 9th, 2018.





The 2017 Annual Meeting began with training and a TopGolf event on Wednesday, November 8, 2017. Training on Cyber Security for Surface Transportation Systems was provided by Ray Murphy of USDOT and Kenneth Vaughn of Trevilon, LLC.

This year we decided to have a TopGolf event to benefit our scholarship fund and provide a great opportunity to build professional and personal relationships with your ITS Texas colleagues. Thank you to everyone that participated and supported our scholarship program.

On Thursday, the Annual Meeting got underway at the Hilton Houston North. Highlights included an opening session with Mike Lukuc and Christopher Poe from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute as well as Jeffrey Weatherford from the City of Houston; and a luncheon with keynote speaker Greg Winfree, new director of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Technical sessions throughout the day included discussions on Arterial Traffic Management Systems, Performance Measurement, Connected Vehicles, ITS Technology Toolbox, and Asset Management. A session on Professional Practice Ethics was also conducted by Dr. Lance McKinney, P.E. of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.



The day concluded with the always popular Vendor Reception. As always, the reception provided not just an opportunity for wonderful food and drinks, but also a great opportunity to see the innovations and new products being offered by our vendors.

Friday continued with sessions on Incident Management and Special Events, ITS Data and Research, and Planning for ITS Projects. A second session on Connected and Automated Vehicles was also held. Our business luncheon speaker was Chris Murray, ITSA Board Member and Chair, who

provided an overview on ITSA initiatives and upcoming ITSA conferences. The business luncheon also included the presentation of the ITS Texas Awards, Scholarship Awards, and election of your 2018 ITS Texas Officers. Each of these topics is covered in more detail later in this newsletter.

If you would like to review any of the presentations from this year's Annual Meeting, please go to the [ITS Texas 2017 Annual Meeting Presentations](http://www.itstexas.org) web page.

The ITS Texas Annual Meeting continues to grow each year. As always, the success of our Annual Meeting relies primarily on our members. Thank you for your attendance, participation, presentations, and energy at this year's ITS Texas Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you in 2018 at the Annual Meeting in Houston.

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2017 ITS TEXAS AWARD WINNERS

The following awards were given at the 2017 ITS Texas Annual Meeting in recognition of an individual or group (e.g., a city, agency or company) for a project or other contribution in the fields of ITS policy, planning, design, deployment, research or education.

<p>The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas honors the</p> <p>Texas Department of Transportation Houston District</p> <p>for the development and implementation of an Over-height Vehicle Detection System</p> <p>Award Presented by the ITS Texas Board of Directors and Membership November 10, 2017</p>	 A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt, is presenting a clear glass award to a woman with long dark hair wearing a patterned top. They are standing in front of a Texas state flag.
<p>The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas honors the</p> <p>City of Frisco</p> <p>for the use of Transportation Systems Data Sharing Pioneer program</p> <p>Award Presented by the ITS Texas Board of Directors and Membership November 10, 2017</p>	 A group of five men are on a stage. One man in a light-colored shirt is presenting a glass award to another man in a dark jacket. A man in a suit is standing at a podium in the background. A Texas state flag is visible on the right.
<p>The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas honors the</p> <p>City of Baytown</p> <p>for the development and implementation of the City of Baytown's Adaptive Signal Timing Control System</p> <p>Award Presented by the ITS Texas Board of Directors and Membership November 10, 2017</p>	 Three men are on a stage. A man in a dark polo shirt is presenting a glass award to another man in a dark polo shirt. A man in a suit is standing to the left. A Texas state flag is visible in the background.

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas honors
Jack Whaley
with the Wallace Ewell award
in recognition of his contribution in
moving ITS forward in Texas
Award Presented by the
ITS Texas Board of Directors and Membership
November 10, 2017
(accepted by David Fink on Jack Whaley's behalf)



The Intelligent Transportation Society of Texas honors
Jeff Kaufman
for his steady leadership, steadfast services and
excellence in all undertakings as a member,
board member and President of the organization
Award Presented by the
ITS Texas Board of Directors and Membership
November 10, 2017



The full award citation for each ITS Texas Award is included below.

The Houston District's Over-height Vehicle Detection System

The Houston District is being honored for deploying an over-height vehicle detection system which dramatically reduced the number of bridge hits within the first year of operations.

In January 2015, as a response to numerous low clearance bridge hits (including 35 in 2014), the Houston District of TxDOT deployed two over-height vehicle detection systems as a pilot project on Interstate 10. One was deployed eastbound at Wirt, on the Katy Freeway (IH-10 West), and one westbound at Mercury (on IH-10 East). These systems included a Trigg Industries, LLC active dual-beam infrared sensor on each side of freeway at 14' above the roadway, a dedicated fixed CCTV aimed downstream to capture violator photos, and dedicated downstream DMS (5 ft x 14 ft) that is activated whenever alarm occurs. A single-phase, 3-line message is "Over-height, Must Exit, I-610" is presented to the over-height vehicle driver. The average number of alarms are 64 per day on IH-10 West and 27 per day on IH-10 East. An evaluation conducted in 2015 and 2016 indicated that the OVDS system increased the percentage of trucks using the IH-610 alternative route by 5-7% and the number of bridge hits dramatically reduced by two-thirds, from

35 bridge hit events in 2014, to 12 in each of the years of 2015 and 2016. With a cost to deploy of about \$100k each, and with each bridge hit estimated to cost between \$100,000 and \$300,000 to repair, the avoidance of 20 bridge hits per year is a significant savings to TxDOT and taxpayers, and a reduction in delay during these incidents.

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The advertisement features a server cabinet with its door open, revealing internal components. The background is a blurred cityscape at night with light trails from traffic. The Trafficware logo is prominently displayed at the top left, and the Naztec logo is to its right. A list of products is shown in the center-left, and the server cabinet is on the right.

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The City of Frisco - Transportation Systems Data Sharing Pioneer Program

Frisco, Texas is using transportation system data to improve mobility and save lives. Frisco is a national leader in traffic signal data sharing and is making significant advances in connecting to new data sources to more effectively operate the transportation system.

Real-time Traffic Signal Data to the Driver

Frisco was the second city in the United States to provide real-time traffic signal data to the driver on a heads up display in the vehicle through a partnership with Trafficware, Traffic Technology Services (TTS), and Audi America. Frisco, with the help of Tom Bamonte with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), demonstrated and championed this technology to the NCTCOG and the rest of the region. Frisco's success enabled Tom to obtain support and establish a grant that will allow several more cities and TxDOT in the North Central Texas region to begin streaming traffic signal data. Through Frisco's leadership, North Central Texas is poised to become a national leader in traffic signal data sharing and will drive innovation by attracting the businesses and entrepreneurs needed to advance mobility and safety.

Faster Response to Emergencies

For emergency services, such as police and fire, Frisco has developed a closest to dispatch system. Typically, each fire station covers emergencies in a defined area, even if another unit is closer. Through Frisco's SAFER (Situational Awareness for Emergency Response) GIS software, the real-time position of each police and fire vehicle is known and will be used to dispatch the unit closest to an emergency. By the end of 2017, closest to dispatch technology will decrease response times and potentially save lives.

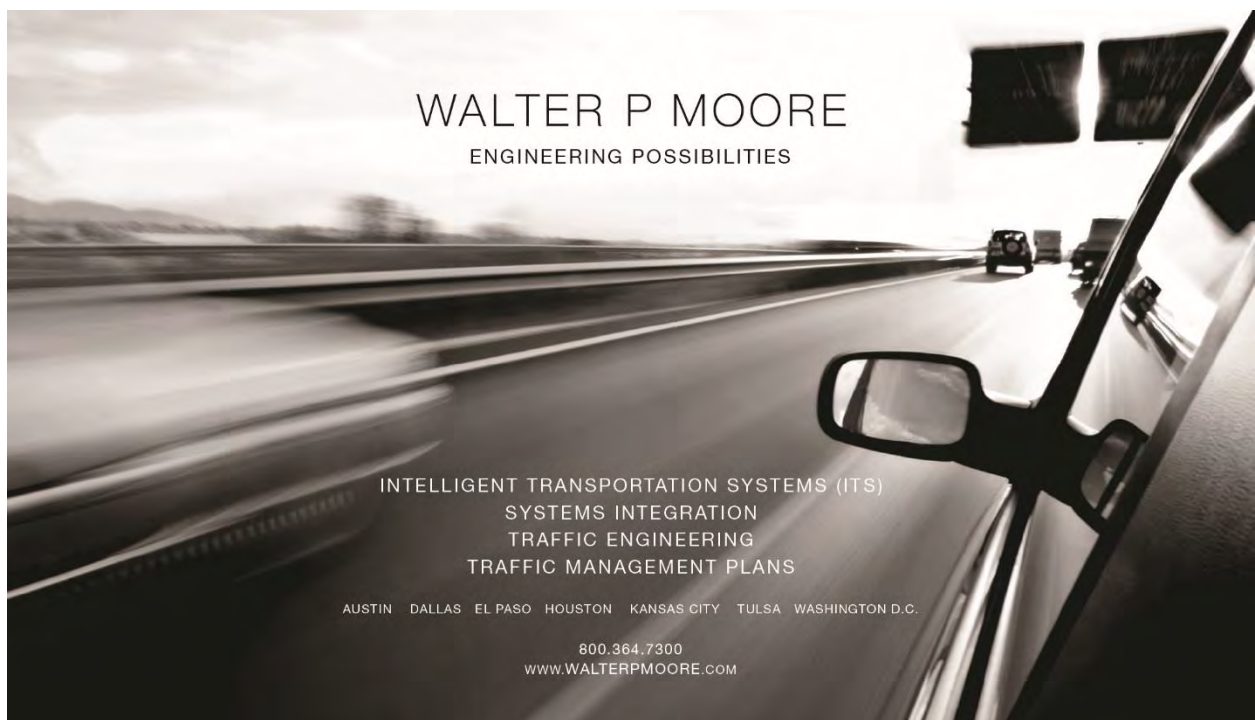
Incident Management Performance Measures

Frisco started collecting a rich set of data for traffic incident management in September 2017. By collecting the time the accident was reported, the time first responders arrived, the time the roadway was clear, and the time traffic returned to normal, Frisco will have the data needed to examine and improve incident response on freeways and arterials.

Waze Connected Citizen Program

Frisco has become part of the Waze Connected Citizens Program. Initially, Frisco GIS services will integrate with Waze so road closures and major accidents are automatically posted to the Waze map for the public. Frisco is going to leverage the Waze data stream to improve city services by using hazards reported by the Waze users, such as crashes, objects on the road, potholes, stopped vehicles, missing signs, icy roads, and flooding.

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City of Baytown - Implementation an Adaptive Signal Timing Control System

Over the past two years the City of Baytown, providing Houston area motorists one of the most advanced traffic management systems in the area, installed three corridors of Adaptive Signal Control Technology controlling 37 intersections or over 40% of the City's 90 intersections to improve mobility on the most heavily traveled commercial corridors.

Baytown, a major hub for oil refining, chemical, plastics and rubber manufacturing implemented ATCS on Garth Road, SH146 and Main Street. These busy corridors are vital links for a large concentration of commercial and retail businesses that can cause unpredictable levels of congestion.

This initiative included a complete solution of central based Trafficware ATMS and SynchroGreen ASCT software, new Linux 980ATC traffic controllers, magnetometer POD detection, wireless modem communication, video for monitoring and BlueTOAD travel time equipment for validation.

To measure the overall system effectiveness, Baytown utilized data from the BlueTOAD Bluetooth readers for accurate and historical travel time comparisons. Before and after data clearly showed travel time improvements averaging 20-25%. As importantly, traffic improvements have been noticeable to Baytown's citizens who have commented positively on the new system.

For cost savings and to meet tight commitments, the City's Public Works Department took ownership of the system installation and self-installed 100% of the detection, communication and validation system.

Baytown serves as a role model for other Texas communities challenged to deploy advanced traffic systems and manage increasing demands on their infrastructure network.

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Jack Whaley - The Wallace Ewell Award

For nearly 20 years (from August 1998 through October 2017) Jack Whaley served as Director of Houston TranStar, the nation's first combined transportation and emergency management center. In this role, Jack served to coordinate staff of the TranStar consortium, all of which are employees of four agencies under one roof (TxDOT, City of Houston, Harris County and Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County). In this position, Jack has fostered the use of shared resources and information exchange among the four agencies, and has provided the framework for leveraging each agencies strengths for the benefit of the region. Jack has been instrumental in coordination of multi-agency and multi-modal ITS initiatives, including shared wired and wireless communications systems and expansion and modernization of the Houston TranStar facility. Mr. Whaley has been involved in groundbreaking initiatives including the Houston Priority Corridor Demonstration in the 1990's and early 2000's and Integrated Corridor Management projects. Jack's experience with emergency management has included numerous activations for weather events, including for Hurricanes Rita (2005), Ike (2008) and Harvey (2017); as well as special events including Super Bowls, World Series and many others.

Prior to Houston TranStar, Jack's experience included roles as City Traffic Engineer for the City of Houston and City of Mesquite, Texas; Assistant Director of the West Palm Beach, Florida Traffic Division, and stops at The Texas Transportation Institute and Texas Engineering Extension Service. In addition, Jack served in the Tennessee and Texas Air National Guards. Jack holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Tennessee and is a PE in Texas and Florida, a Life Fellow in ITE, and holds memberships in TRB, IMSA and APWA.

Jeff Kaufman

Jeff was honored for his steady leadership, steadfast services, and excellence in all undertakings as a member, board member and President of ITS Texas. The ITS Texas Board of Directors extends a big thank you to Jeff for all he has done for our organization. Now that Jeff has transitioned off the Board from his most recent role as Past President, he will be greatly missed.

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2017 ITS TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Every year ITS Texas provides scholarships to deserving graduate students at Texas colleges and universities who are pursuing educations in fields which contribute to ITS. Your attendance at the Annual Meeting, your sponsorships, and participation in the golf tournament all contribute to ITS Texas' ability to provide funding for graduate study in Texas in the field of ITS.

The Board of Directors, through the scholarship award committee, selected six recipients for 2017, with a total of \$9,000 being awarded. The recipients included:

- Kartikeya Jha**, Texas A&M University, received a \$2,000 scholarship
- Stefanos Politis**, University of Texas - Austin, received a \$2,000 scholarship
- Krishna Gurumurthy**, University of Texas - Austin, received a \$1,500 scholarship
- Junxuan Zhao**, Texas Tech University, received a \$1,500 scholarship
- Qichun Dai**, University of Texas - Austin, received a \$1,000 scholarship
- Yorguo El Hachem**, University of Texas - Austin, received a \$1,000 scholarship

Each scholarship recipient received recognition at the Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas.

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2017 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The ballot provided at the 2017 ITS Texas Annual Meeting in November provided two candidates from which to choose one new Director At Large. The Board would like to thank the student chapter of the University of Texas for counting the ballots. Anthony Voigt was elected to the position of President, Marian Thompson to Vice President, Tom Fowler to Treasurer and Joseph Hunt to Secretary. The new At Large Director is Marques Allen with HDR Engineering, Inc. Dave Carter will serve in the role of Past President, Victor De la Garza, and Lester Miyasaki will continue to serve their terms as At Large Directors; and Alex Power and Marques Allen were elected to a two-year term as At-Large Directors.

The Board of Directors appreciates the participation of all the candidates and encourages any individuals interested in serving on the Board to submit a statement of interest when self-nominations are invited in 2018. Thanks to all who voted and to the candidates for agreeing to serve on the Board of Directors.

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2018 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

Please save the dates of November 7th – 9th, 2018 in your calendar now! The 2018 ITS Texas Annual Meeting will be a combined meeting with TexITE held at the [Omni Houston Hotel](#). The Omni Houston is centrally located in the prestigious Uptown Post Oak/Galleria area. The preliminary program is under development at the time of this writing, with more details to come.



The ITS Texas Board is currently working on session topics, which will be released in late Spring or early Summer. If you have ideas for sessions or a topic for a presentation, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the ITS Texas Board. We also welcome any other input to make the Annual Meeting more valuable for our members. Board members are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Located in the Post Oak/Galleria area, the Omni offers upscale accommodations with plenty of restaurant, shopping, and entertainment options close-by. The Galleria Mall is less than two miles away and is the largest mall in Texas (and fourth largest in the United States), with over 400 stores and numerous restaurants. The Omni itself offers a full-service spa and salon, a large fitness room, and plenty of options for dining.



We look forward to seeing everyone in Houston in November!

VENDOR WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS

ITS Texas is continuing our vendor webinar series in 2018 to highlight the products and transportation solutions offered by many of the vendors that are members of ITS Texas. These free webinars offer a great opportunity to learn about new and innovative products.

Additional details on each webinar will be sent out to our members prior to the webinar. Please continue to check the [ITS Texas Website](#) for updated information on the vendor webinar series.

Archives of past vendor webinars, if available, are also located on the [Webinar Archive](#) section of the ITS Texas Website.

ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

Have you visited the ITS Texas Website recently? Located at <http://itstexas.org>, the website is your source of information for what's going on in your state chapter of ITS America. We are always working to improve the website and make it a source of information for you. Here are just a few highlights from the website.

[2018 Membership Application](#) – The application form for membership is electronic. The annual cost of membership is \$25 and payment can be made on-line with a credit card or you can send a check. If you become a member, you receive discounted rates at the annual meeting and at ITS Texas training events.

[Membership List](#) is on-line. You can use this list to check your membership status prior to submitting a membership application. The list is dynamic and pulls directly from our membership database. You can also access the list under the membership section.

[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](#)? You can visit the site and see at a glance if there's new information that you'd like to read.

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WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

The ITS Texas newsletter is a great way for you as an ITS professional to **share your projects, plans, initiatives or other ITS related items with the ITS community**. If you would like to share something with the ITS Texas members through the newsletter, please contact any of your ITS Texas Board members. They are listed at the end of the newsletter and you can send an email to any by simply clicking on their name.

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ITS IN THE NEWS

The following are news events and other items of interest that have occurred recently in the ITS arena. Please click on the story name to take you to the full story:

- [Commentary: Cities need to be prepared for autonomous vehicles](#) (Forbes)
- [Kansas City, Mo., to expand smart city data collection](#) (Route Fifty)
- [Apple increases number of autonomous vehicles used in testing](#) (Bloomberg)
- [Drivers' comfort with autonomous vehicles increases, AAA says](#) (USA Today)
- [Report: Daimler, BMW to Merge Their Car-Sharing Services](#) (US News)

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YOUR 2018 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Tony Voigt	Gradient Group, Houston
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