



Ada County Highway District
Alliance for Transportation Research
City and County of Denver
Daktronics, Inc.
David Evans & Associates, Inc.
Douglas County Public Works
Federal Highway Administration
Frankie Friend & Associates
GE Multilin, Lenronics
Idaho Transportation Department
Kimely-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Meridian Environmental Technology, Inc.
Mixon/Hill, Inc.
Montana Department of Transportation
Nebraska Department of Roads
New Mexico Dept. of Transportation
Skyline Products, Inc.
ThomTech Design, Inc.
University of Utah, Traffic Lab
University of Wyoming
Utah Department of Transportation
Utah Transit Authority
Western Transportation Institute, MSU
Westwood One
Wyoming Department of Transportation

Message from the President

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. The mission of the ITS Rocky Mountain Chapter is to “develop partners for the effective deployment of ITS across all surface transportation modes, thus providing a viable and sustainable system for the Rocky Mountain Region that will benefit all users.” This issue of the newsletter focuses on our annual rite of spring - Traveler Information.



Providing better, more reliable and real-time system information is becoming an expectation of our customers. You can see it reaching the mainstream in such things as data supported GPS navigation systems now available on numerous models of motor vehicles, commercial advertising, and marketing programs. The challenge for public agencies, and for private companies as well, is delivering on the expectations that our customers have developed. The vision for ITS of “information available everywhere to everyone” places a tremendous burden on our ability to gather, manage, analyze and distribute volumes of data that were hard to comprehend just a decade ago. This newsletter highlights a few of the projects that are in action in the region that are attempting to address those public expectations.

I'd like to congratulate the Utah Department of Transportation for its impressive list of finalist projects at the ITS American Annual meeting in Phoenix and for their “Best of ITS” award for the Computer Aided Dispatch Integration project.

After numerous conversations with a wide range of attendees at the ITS America Annual meeting, I've come across an issue that I think needs some feedback. A challenge that I'd like to put before the members of ITS Rocky Mountain and our non-member subscribers, is to consider how the growing gap between day-to-day ITS operations and the vision of the future that the industry is presenting to the public can be lessened. It seems that the best opportunity to maintain the momentum of

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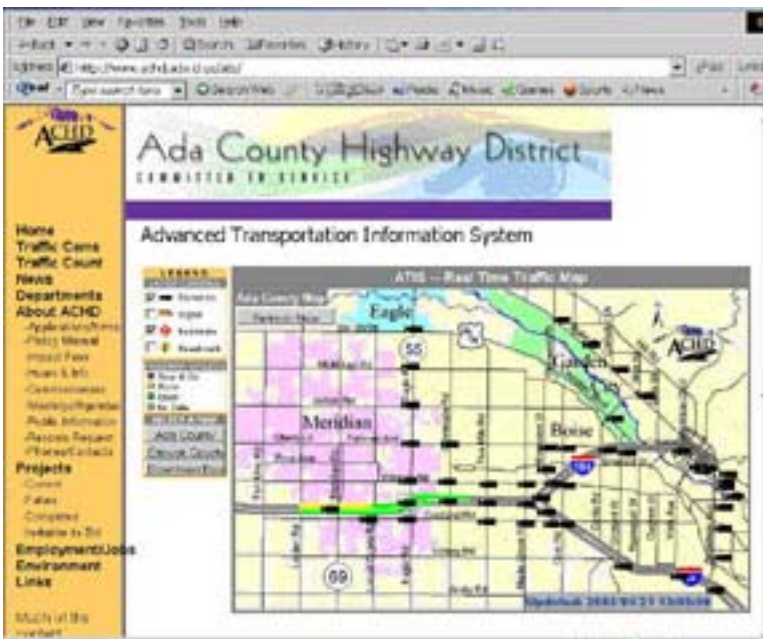
deployment in states and local communities is to take better advantage of our local and regional networking opportunities to provide technical assistance and advice based on combined experience. Does anyone else have any ideas about dealing with the gap?

Finally, we would like all members to become involved in the chapter and help get the word out about the quality of work being done in our region. Please phone, fax or email any comments, suggestions and opportunities to me or to our Chapter website www.itsrm.org.

- Richard Hodges, Chapter President (RHodges@uta.cog.ut.us)

New Traveler Information Web Page Unveiled in Boise

BOISE, ID -- The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department unveiled a new Advanced Transportation Information System (ATIS) web based map in April.



The ATIS site has images from all 51 Boise area CCTV cameras (arterial and freeway) that are updated every two minutes. The web site also shows current DMS messages, construction/incident information and freeway flow speeds.

The web page has maps of Ada County, Canyon County and Downtown Boise for users to check before hitting the roadways.

The new ATIS site has been a huge hit in the Boise area. Local TV and radio stations have all done news stories on the new web page and have linked this map to their web sites.

The ATIS page can be found at www.achd.ada.id.us and then by selecting the "traffic cams" button.



VMS Travel Times in Salt Lake

The Utah Department of Transportation began posting current travel times on I-15 electronic roadway signs between downtown Salt Lake and 10600 South in Salt Lake County in January of 2005. This new posting feature is part of a six-month trial designed to measure how the information helps commuters better navigate Utah roadways.

Travel times are posted weekdays for both directions between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. and between 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. The travel time information is also available on the CommuterLink web site so commuters can check travel times along their route before they leave work or home.

Initially, travel time messages were posted on the nine electronic message signs along the I-15 corridor. UDOT will begin posting I-15 travel times on 15 surface street signs in early May allowing motorists to know the travel times on the freeway at key decision points before entering the freeway.



The travel times are calculated automatically using data from speed sensors spaced approximately every half mile along the freeway. The distance of each segment is divided by the average vehicle speeds to determine the time it takes to travel each segment. The times for each segment are then summed to determine the travel time for each defined route. If a speed sensor is not reporting data for a segment, the algorithm will average the adjacent upstream and downstream speeds and apply this speed to the unreported segment. Before displaying the calculated travel time, the algorithm will also check to see how many speed sensors are

reporting data and will only display the travel times if more than 80% of the segments are reporting data. Travel time messages never show times faster than the posted speed limit. Travel time messages are updated every minute.



A survey has been posted on the CommuterLink web site to allow the public to provide feedback on the travel times. Although some respondents feel that the messages are a distraction, the majority appreciates the updated travel times, feeling it is good information and helpful to them during their commute. With over 1800 surveys filled out, 86% of respondents would like to see the travel time program expanded to other parts of the valley and on other freeways.

If UDOT officials are satisfied with the six-month trial results, then the posting of travel times will be added to electronic roadway signs throughout Salt Lake, Davis, Summit and Utah counties. ■



Signs of the Times

Out of state drivers may learn something about the laws of the road in Colorado these days. At the request of the Transportation Commission and folks from the six CDOT Regions, Colorado ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) has begun putting up informational messages on some of the dozens of VMSs (Variable Message Signs) across the state.

Brian Jordan, PIO
Colorado Department
of Transportation

*This article was originally
published in the Spring
Issue of CoTripQuarterly.*

This year a new law in Colorado states that drivers must keep right except to pass. This new law was passed by the legislature to fight road rage. During the warning period for this new law, Colorado State Patrol (CSP) troopers pulled people over and advised them of the new law with only a warning, no ticket. Some troopers reported that left lane drivers admitted they were hanging in the left lane to slow down speeders. Troopers tell me that's their job and not the job of everyday citizens on the road. Hogging the left lane can lead to road rage and that, in turn, can lead to dangerous incidents.

The law is in full effect now and troopers are writing tickets for cruising in the left lane. It was their suggestion that we advise drivers of this law. We also run messages for the CSP when they are operating traffic enforcement programs.

Of course, when we have a chain law in effect, inclement weather or conditions ahead, or a closure because of an accident or construction the public service messages are taken down. We also run reminder messages for truckers in the fall when winter weather will be coming to the mountains soon. TRUCKERS! WINTER IS COMING, DO YOU HAVE CHAINS?

I got a call from one grateful driver. He said he was roaring down Vail Pass eastbound when he saw an "ACCIDENT AHEAD" sign. He immediately slowed down. Otherwise he told me, he would have rear ended the last car in the backup. He told me, "You saved my life." Calls like that make the purpose of our jobs here at ITS Colorado crystal clear.

When applicable we also put up signs warning of wildlife on the highway and high fire danger. We even put up signs warning of controlled burns in forests and other outlying areas. These signs can save police and fire dispatchers from having to field dozens of calls asking things like, "What's all that smoke west of Boulder?"

Other public service messages include:

- Buckle Up State Law
- Truckers: Chain Laws Enforced in Colorado
- Road/Weather Info: 877-315-ROAD
- Wireless Road/Weather Info: go.cotrip.org
- Road Construction info: 303/639-1111
- Report Agressive Drivers Dial *CSP
- Fire Danger High No Open Burning



In the future we are planning to have real-time information on many of our VMSs. As ITS Program Director Frank Kinder says, "The signs will be like mileage signs. Instead of saying 30 miles to a destination, like Denver, the automatic programmable sign will say something like '40 minutes' to Denver." Here at Colorado ITS we are always on the lookout for new ways to use the various tools of our trade. If you have a suggestion for good public information messages don't hesitate to contact us with your thoughts. ■



News and Events...

Utah Department of Transportation Recognized as Best of ITS 2005

SALT LAKE CITY, UT -- Each year, ITS America honors the top industry achievers through its Best of ITS awards program. This year the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) was nominated in five categories for Best of ITS America 2005 awards:

Category

Return on Investment
Partnership Deployment Public-Private
Partnership Deployment Public-Public
Public Safety
Research Program
NTCIP Ramp Metering Control Firmware

Description

Migration to IP over Ethernet
CommuterLink Media Partnerships
Fiber Sharing between Utah County Agencies
Computer Aided Dispatch Integration
Development and Deployment of the First

UDOT was notified in March that four of the nominations, except for Partnership Deployment Public-Public, were selected as finalists. During the opening session of the ITSA Annual meeting in Phoenix, May 1st, UDOT was presented the Best of ITS 2005 award in the category of Public Safety for its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) integration project.

The project integrates six independent CAD systems through individual interfaces developed with IEEE 1512 standards using XML and http. The six CommuterLink partners participating in the project are UDOT, Utah Department of Public Safety, Valley Emergency Communications Center, Utah Transit Authority, and the Salt Lake City Fire and Police Departments. The agencies can now transfer information and coordinate responses more efficiently. The US DOT Joint Program Office is studying the effectiveness of this project through a Field Operational Test currently underway.

FHWA New Mexico welcomes new ADA

SANTA FE, NM -- The newest addition to the FHWA New Mexico Division office is Pamela Kordenbrock, Assistant Division Administrator. Pam has been with FHWA for 12 years, and has worked in the FHWA offices in San Francisco, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and most recently Washington, DC. For the past four years, she has been the Regional ITS Architecture Implementation and Systems Engineering Program Manager. In this capacity, she leads the regional architecture and systems engineering implementation programs that provide resources, training and technical assistance to the FHWA Field, State and local agencies. She has a BS and MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia.

Pam's work with FHWA has been in the areas of Operations and ITS and she hopes to bring that expertise to New Mexico to promote the use of advanced technologies and operations practices for enhanced transportation management.

NHI Course Offered: Integrated Transportation Management for Small and Medium Sized Communities

SANTA FE, NM -- The New Mexico Division of FHWA is hosting Integrated Transportation Management for Small and Medium Sized Communities, May 17, 2005. This is a new NHI course designed to help small communities (population of 250K or less) with the planning, design, implementation, and operation of ITS and the benefit of integrating systems. There is no cost, but space is limited and individuals are encouraged to register early. For more information, download the program brochure by going to www.itsrm.org/meetings.htm.

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T3 Session Offered: Federal Requirements/FTA Policy for ITS Architecture

WASHINGTON, DC -- The US DOT's ITS Professional Capacity Building program will present a T3 (Talking, Technology and Transportation) session entitled Federal Requirements/FTA Policy on Regional ITS Architecture on May 17th. The conference call and simultaneous webcast is free of charge to both federal and non-federal participants. Please see the PCB web site for details and online registration - www.pcb.its.dot.gov/T3/T3schedule.asp.

Mobility Applications for Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Initiative

WASHINGTON, DC -- The US DOT has released an RFI seeking input on its Mobility Applications for VII exploratory initiative.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is seeking information from all sources for its Mobility Applications for Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (MVII) initiative. This is a Request For Information only. This is NOT a Request For Applications (RFA) or a Request For Proposals (RFP). The MVII initiative is one of the six exploratory initiatives recently launched by the USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program to improve transportation safety, and enhance mobility and productivity.

Document Type: Special Notice

Solicitation Number: DTFH61-05-RFI-041405

Posted Date: Apr 14, 2005

Current Response Date: Jun 17, 2005

Classification Code: B — Special studies and analysis - not R&D

Go to http://www.its.dot.gov/explore/mvii_rfi.htm for a copy of the complete RFI.

ITS America Joins Mobility Coalition

WASHINGTON, DC -- ITS America joined Americans for Transportation Mobility, a national coalition working to ensure adequate investment in transportation infrastructure. The coalition is managed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The coalition works to “promote investment in infrastructure and fight to streamline the burdensome approval process that significantly delays and even prevents critical transportation safety improvements.”

According to the Chamber of Commerce, “a strong transportation system is critical to “creating economic growth, increasing international competitiveness, and improving quality of life.”

ITS Blueprint for Advanced Traveler Information and Traffic Management Systems for Highway 2 between Edmonton and Calgary

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA -- In response to continuous demand for safe and efficient flow of goods and people, Alberta Transportation has developed an ITS Strategic Plan for implementing Intelligent Transportation systems along Highway 2 between Edmonton and Calgary. The plan identifies several systems that will be implemented, including road weather information, animal-vehicle collision avoidance and others. To view the full report, go to <http://www.trans.gov.ab.ca/Content/docType255/Production/Hwy2SumRprt.pdf>.

Ohio Turnpike Commission Demonstrate Intellizone® Advancewarn™ System

INDEPENDENCE, OH -- Quixote Transportation Technologies, Inc. (QTT), in conjunction with the Ohio Turnpike Commission, has engineered and installed a unique highway information and traffic safety system – the IntelliZone® AdvanceWarn™ System -- on ap-

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proaches to the Cuyahoga Bridge near Cleveland. Being demonstrated to state and local highway agencies, the AdvanceWarn System is designed to improve the safety of motorists by providing real-time information to warn motorists of potentially dangerous conditions.

The AdvanceWarn System incorporates several highway information and safety technologies into one integrated system. The system consists of a QTT Road Weather Information System (RWIS) that monitors weather and pavement conditions, traffic monitoring sensors, highway advisory radio and changeable message signs. The RWIS collects data from sensors embedded in the roadway and adjacent to the road. IntelliZone software analyzes the data and then sends a message to highway advisory radios and changeable message signs along the roadway. The highway advisory radios and message signs automatically update, in real time, to provide hazardous weather and traffic conditions to motorists.

The IntelliZone AdvanceWarn System allows traffic and weather information to be sent directly to motorists with no operator involvement. NTCIP architecture allows the system flexibility and it can be expanded to meet the changing needs of the customer. Further, the system includes easy-to-use graphical user interface software. The software is web based and device icons are displayed on a geographic map with the device status shown. Data is logged and stored for easy retrieval, archiving and analysis.

“Fog, low visibility and other weather-related conditions have caused dangerous conditions on the Ohio Turnpike Commission’s Cuyahoga Bridge near Independence, Ohio, reports to Mark Holland, Director of Sales and Marketing for Quixote Transportation Technologies, Inc. “The Ohio Turnpike needed a solution to warn motorists about weather and traffic conditions on the bridge and thus installed the AdvanceWarn System.”

An RWIS, located near the half-mile bridge, transmits data to both a variable message sign and highway advisory radio frequency regarding conditions on and near approaches to the bridge. The AdvanceWarn System warns motorists about these conditions via real time data transmission to variable message signs and highway advisory radio.

The Ohio Turnpike only recently installed the system and has not yet been able to perform a cost benefit analysis. However, the Turnpike is confident that the system will reduce accidents on the bridge and more importantly save lives.

DOT Unveils New Web Site at ITS America Annual Meeting

PHOENIX, AZ -- The ITS JPO Web site has a new look and feel, with several new features that make this more than just a facelift - and DOT staff were out in force at ITSA '05 providing additional details in various educational sessions. One of the many new features is a “technology overview” section that lists a wide number of categories of solutions, allowing visitors to drill down to various elements within the solution and ultimately link to benefit, cost, and deployment information. The web site can be viewed at <http://www.its.dot.gov>.

Submit an Article...

You can submit an article for publication in the ITS Rocky Mountain Newsletter! Articles must be no more than 3 pages in length and must contain contact information for the author. While any article may be submitted, publication priority will be given to articles that match the respective Newsletter’s theme. Graphics and photos are welcome!

2005 submission deadlines are as follows;

July/August/September (Summer) - July 22nd. Theme: “ITS in Small Cities”

October/November/December (Fall) - October 14th. Theme: “Commerical Vehicle Operations”