

# ITS TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT**

By STEVE NOVOSAD, ATKINS GLOBAL

Howdy all,

As my tenure on the ITS Texas Board of Directors winds down and I reflect on how ITS has changed over the last seven years, there has been many up and downs. We survived the 2007 depression and continue to fight our way up. ITS has hung in there and began a transformation in technology and membership. The Connected Vehicle technology is broadening ITS reach beyond what we have traditionally thought as ITS. Connected Vehicle not only bring new types of infrastructure into play, but

yields an opportunity to reach travelers, vehicles, transit, pedestrians, bicycles, etc. in a whole new way with information that can be tailored to their positions and their needs. This opportunity is moving ITS to the forefront of safety and mobility in a whole new way. With the recognition by local agencies such as cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, etc. are identifying the need for ITS in their planning and implementations, ITS now has a new set of people who are learning what ITS is and how it can benefit them. One of our focuses last year was to increase our membership by adding more city and county members. As we move forward, we will continue to work to grow this base. Our goal is to bring ITS to everyone who is interested and wanting to learn more about it. We have come a long way from being able to put messages on a Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) one a time to essentially providing virtual DMS messages inside the vehicle in real time. The next seven years are going to be exciting and fast paced. I encourage all of you to stay tuned and watch how ITS in Texas takes off.

Steve Novosad  
ITS Texas Past President

## MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT

By GARY JOST, TEAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Greetings,

Let me begin by thanking all of you that planned, exhibited, presented, and attended our 2011 annual meeting in San Marcos. It is your efforts that make our annual meetings successful. I have received several positive comments on the presentations, the facilities, the exhibits, and keynote speakers. As always, the organization owes a debt of gratitude to the speakers, sponsors, and vendors. Most importantly, you, the membership, make our meetings successful, by your attendance, participation, enthusiasm, and interaction.

Our theme for the 2011 conference was ***ITS 2020, What's your Vision***. Defining the future of ITS has never been more important or challenging. While our industry continues to look ahead to applying new and exciting technologies to improve mobility and safety through ITS, our organization must also continue to look ahead for ways to better serve our membership and industry. Our Board is already hard at work planning our 2012 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held October 24-26 at the Double Tree Hotel in Dallas. We hope that you will consider presenting at the 2012 meeting. We will be sending out additional information about the 2012 annual meeting in the coming months.

We are also looking into new training opportunities for our members. Our Systems Engineering training in San Marcos was well attended and well received. For 2012, we will be investigating new training opportunities from FHWA, ITS America, and other organizations that would be beneficial to our members. If there is a particular training topic that you would like for us to provide, please let me or one of our board members know.

Finally, let me say what an honor it is to serve as the ITS Texas President this year. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an extremely hard working board of directors that is dedicated to serving you, the members. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me. Simply go to our website and select the ITS Texas President email link. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Gary Jost



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## ITS TEXAS 2011 CONFERENCE REVIEW



The ITS Texas Board of Directors wants to thank everyone who attended the 2011 Annual Meeting for making the conference an outstanding event. Nearly 200 participants attended the conference in San Marcos, which included 31 sponsors and vendors. The San Marcos Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center provided exceptional facilities for the event, including spacious hotel rooms for its guests and stellar service.

The annual meeting kicked off with the *Introduction to Systems Engineering* training on Wednesday. The workshop was an introduction to systems engineering for ITS project managers and project staff, introducing basic concepts to individuals who are working on ITS projects. The goal is to allow these individuals to understand the benefits of applying systems engineering approaches as a means of developing quality systems. The course covers technical practices such as modeling, prototyping, trade-off analysis and testing, and management practices such as risk assessment and mitigation, which make up “best practices” in the systems engineering arena.

The conference featured a variety of sessions on the following topics:

- Social media
- Arterial Traffic Management Systems
- TxDOT Regional ITS Projects
- Assessments of ITS Implementations
- Ethics Training
- ITS and Special Events
- ITS Data
- ITS Operations

Links to the PowerPoint presentations given for each of these sessions can be found on [the ITS Texas 2011 Meeting Presentations](#) Page

Thursday's activities kicked off with the Opening Session, featuring Ms. Shelley J. Row, P.E., P.T.O.E., Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovation Technology Administration (RITA). Ms. Row's presentation focused on the current and future developments in vehicle to infrastructure technologies and its impacts on traffic safety.



Thursday's lunch session included a thought-provoking and entertaining presentation by Futurist Garry Golden on the future of our transportation system for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



Conference attendees were treated to two separate receptions Thursday evening. The Embassy Suites held a Manager's Reception, providing refreshing beverages to hotel guests. Following this, ITS Texas Conference exhibitors sponsored a reception providing not just fine eats but also an opportunity for conference attendees to check out showcased technologies and to socialize with fellow implementers.

The Annual Meeting closed with its business luncheon, which recognized 2011's ITS Texas award winners and scholarship recipients, welcomed new Board member Tony Voigt, and gave thanks for the efforts of Past-President Bob Brydia for his extraordinary contribution to ITS Texas.

The ITS Texas Board of Directors would like to express its sincerest gratitude to Kerry Phillip from TTI's Event Management and Planning section, who was the key force in making the 2011 Annual Meeting happen. Her tenacity, her persistence, and her ability to deal with the ITS Texas Board without resorting to excessive alcohol consumption resulted in a great conference. We look forward to our continued relationship in putting together a great conference in 2012.



## THANKS TO CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

ITS Texas would like to acknowledge and express its gratitude for the commitment and support of our conference sponsors and exhibitors, whose help made our annual meeting a success:

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## 2011 ITS TEXAS AWARD WINNERS

The following awards were given at the 2011 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:

### **CITY OF HOUSTON & HOUSTON TRANSTAR: Anonymous Wireless Address Matching (AWAM)**

Through two separate initiatives our award recipients have deployed probe based travel time systems. The system utilizes Anonymous Wireless Address Matching (AWAM), which is a cost-effective, reliable, real-time travel time data collector that detects MAC addresses from Bluetooth-enabled devices such as cell phones and GPS. The system gathers time and location information for each device. The MAC address is a unique identifier assigned to every Ethernet network interface, including Bluetooth adapters. MAC addresses contain no personal information that could "track" an individual, rendering them completely anonymous. The system was developed by Texas Transportation Institute and TxDOT.

In the Spring of 2010 the first initiative deployed 20 sensors along 197 miles of IH 45 from Houston to Dallas to monitor traffic during evacuations. Travel speeds are broadcast on the agency's website and to mobile devices. The total cost was less than \$300,000 including equipment and contract wages. Benefits include installation flexibility, zero traffic delays for installation, equipment/personnel savings, ease of equipment replacement, decreased maintenance needs and high-quality information.

In 2011, the second initiative deployed the first phase of its system on arterials. The deployment covers a 62 square mile arterial area in a metropolitan region. Within this area, there are approximately 250 signalized intersection, 250,000 residents and parts of four major activity centers. It is estimated that 12.7 million miles are traveled daily in this area. Collection devices were placed at 50 intersections within the project area and, the system broadcasts speeds on the agency's partner website. This is the largest deployment of a real-time probe based travel time system on arterial streets to date. In the coming years, the agency hopes to expand the system to cover additional arterials.

### **TxDOT – EL PASO DISTRICT: Incident Management Utilizing Alternate Freeway Diversion Routes**

Our award recipient, in cooperation with regional partner agencies, developed an Incident Management Plan that defines alternative freeway diversion routes based on incident severity and location. The agency pushed the Incident Management Plan to the next level by automating guidance along the defined detour routes.

This new automation required the design of a first-of-its-kind directional device. The sign displays standard guide sign information under normal conditions. When an incident occurs, the drums rotate and provide the appropriate detour information. Our award winner installed over 100 of these "rotary drum" signs controlled from their TMC through a combination of wireless Ethernet and fiber optics. With a flip of a switch in the TMC, the signs go into action. This all occurs in "real time". The entire area is alerted at once. The signs have been operational since June 2011.

### **RECOGNITION OF ROBERT BRYDIA (in the words of Past-President, Steve Novosad)**

I had the pleasure of becoming an ITS Texas Board member at the same time as Bob. Over the past 5 years, I have followed Bob up from the ranks from a Director to President. From day one, Bob set the bar very high. He worked tirelessly on the Web Site. He became the de facto webmaster and made many many enhancements and updates to the website ALL on his own time. Bob has been our

webmaster throughout his tenure on the board up until the year. As is unique to Bob, he was very concerned (really I should use another word here) about the continued upkeep of the website. Bob led the charge for moving our website from being hosted by TTI to an independent ISP. He also led the redesign of the website, worked with the selected web developer and got our new website up and running. He trained our new webmaster Andy and has been the constant behind the website. But more than that, Bob has made it his mission to broaden ITS Texas both at the professional level and the collegiate level. Bob working with other ITS Board members, created the one page "What is ITS Texas" brochure that is now shared with prospective members. Bob worked with Texas Southern University to establish a new Student Chapter of ITS Texas and we are proud to have their representation today. In the course of working with TSU, Bob created the guidelines for future board members to follow when adding a new Student Chapter. As Past President, even though Bob claimed he was checking out, he has continued to use his energy to continue to improve the image of ITS Texas. Specifically, Bob led the rewriting of the ITS Texas Mission statement to reflect what ITS and ITS Texas are today.

On a personal note, I just want to say to Bob, Thank You! For your tireless efforts to improve our organization. Without your sacrifice of untold number of personal hours, we would not be where we are today. As I am sure everyone is aware, being on the board is the 2nd or 3rd job and is a completely volunteer effort. I can't tell you how many times, I receive emails/phone calls (really hated the calls) at midnight or 1 in the morning because Bob was working on something for ITS Texas. Without going into details, I want to let everyone know that during a significant portion of this time. Bob was also dealing with some very substantial personal issues. I do not know how he continued to perform his day job, ITS Texas and take care of his family. Bob, my hat is off to you and it has been a privilege and an honor to follow and work with you on the board.

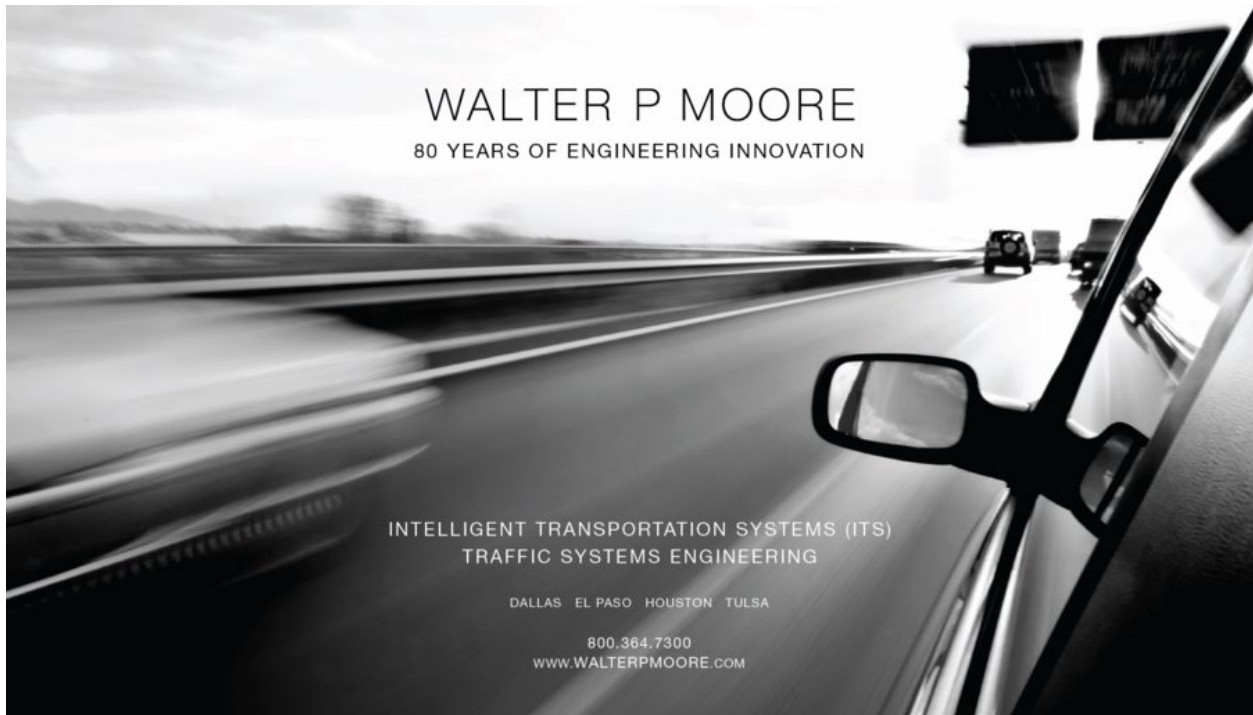
I know we all have kidded Bob over the years because of the "attention to detail" and his ability to keep the website up to date. So Bob the board has one last thing to say to you.

Bob, IT's on the website. You may now retire.

You are a colleague and a friend. I have treasured the years we have worked together.

## 2011 ITS TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**T. Donna Chen** and **Christopher Melson**, both from the University of Texas at Austin, **Jinpeng Lv** from Texas A&M University and **Piena Yuan** from Texas Southern University, each received a \$1000 scholarship at the 2011 Annual Meeting. The ITS Texas Board of Directors wishes our scholarship winners continued success in their educational and professional efforts.



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## 2011 STUDENT CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORTS

ITS Texas has two very strong student Chapters, the University of Texas Student Chapter and the Texas Southern University Student Chapter, which received their charter from our organization in 2010. Each Chapter had a very busy year with numerous activities, both professional and social.

Both chapters participated at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) annual conference in Washington D.C., attending sessions and submitting various papers and posters for the event. Both chapters also participated in the second annual Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC) conference, held in Winedale, Texas. Students had the opportunity to work with fellow students from other universities to discuss the future of transportation and share their knowledge in transportation planning, operations and management.

Both chapters also held topical seminars, bringing in experts in the transportation field to speak about the state of transportation, not just in general, but in their respective localities. The University of Texas chapter held sessions on various topics, including intersection design, long-range transportation planning, bus-rapid transit (BRT), and even the transportation needs in Haiti. Texas Southern University's chapter held sessions on wireless applications in ITS, toll-road operations, emissions modeling, and the use of artificial intelligence in transportation.

ITS Texas would like to express its appreciation for its student chapters and their continued interest and efforts in the field of intelligent transportation systems. The full reports from [The University of Texas at Austin](#) and [Texas Southern University](#) can be found on the [Student Chapters](#) page on the ITS Texas Website.

## ITS SHOWCASE – SAN ANTONIO WRONG-WAY DRIVER INITIATIVE

By BRIAN FARIELLO, TxDOT-SAN ANTONIO

The Texas Department of Transportation has launched a \$500,000 initiative to combat the wrong-way driving problem in the San Antonio area. In 2011 TransGuide operators logged 185 wrong-way driver events and San Antonio Police Department recorded 385 calls to report wrong-way drivers. Over that year wrong-way drivers caused 17 crashes in the San Antonio area, killing seven people. Since May 2011, there have been 15 documented events where TransGuide operators, using CCTV cameras, were able to work with police to identify the location of wrong way drivers, preventing a crash



To address this issue, a Wrong-Way Driver Initiative was developed by TxDOT in conjunction with the San Antonio Police Department, the city of San Antonio's public works department, the Bexar County Sheriff's Department, the Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Transportation Institute. As part of the initiative TxDOT will fund the installation of illuminated wrong-way signs and radar detectors configured to detect wrong-way drivers and provide real-time reports to police.

The signs and detectors will be installed at four locations on the U.S. 281 main lanes and on 32 ramps on U.S. 281 between Interstate 35 and Stone Oak Parkway. This 15-mile stretch was determined using a geographic information system map depicting the locations of all reported wrong-way drivers developed from information from TxDOT and the police department. The new countermeasures along U.S. 281 should be installed and active in late February 2012.

**US 281 Test Corridor:** The corridor is a freeway section from IH 35 to Sonterra (12 miles), and is a 4 to 6 lane divided highway from Sonterra to Stone Oak (3 miles). The divided highway section has a wide median with cable barrier separation, limited lighting, A "Superstreet Configuration", and has 2 development locations with multiple bars. The corridor has 32 exit ramps; 17 northbound and 15 Southbound.

The 281 Corridor project is referred to as an Operational Test Corridor because the project presents the opportunity to measure the effectiveness of the implemented countermeasures in an operational environment. TxDOT has selected proven technologies that have been installed in other cities. This will be the first deployment of the devices on an entire corridor section.

**Exit Ramps:** TxDOT will be installing 1 detection device and 2 LED illuminated Wrong Way Signs at each exit ramp. The LED Illuminated Wrong Way Signs will be photocell activated, and will be set to flash during night time and low light conditions. The detection device on each ramp will be connected to the TransGuide Operations Center, and will provide an alarm notifying TransGuide operators and SAPD dispatchers of the location of the wrong way entry.



**Mainlanes:** TxDOT has selected four locations on US 281 for the installation of wrong way identification and warning systems on the freeway mainlanes. The mainlane systems will consist of detection devices and detector activated illuminated signing at each location. To minimize exposure of the wrong way illuminated signing to drivers traveling in the correct direction on the other side of the median, the illuminated signing installed on the mainlanes will be activated by the radar devices installed on the mainlanes, and will remain activated only until the wrong way vehicle has passed the illuminated signing.

Like the detection devices installed on the ramps, the detectors installed on the mainlanes will provide an alarm notifying TransGuide operators and SAPD dispatchers of the location of the wrong way vehicle. In addition to the LED Illuminated Wrong Way Signs, an Illuminated Message Sign (called a Blank Out Sign) will be activated when a wrong way driver is detected on the mainlanes.



**Future Corridors:** TxDOT is currently working on securing funding for the installation of wrong way driver countermeasures on IH 35 from US 90 to IH 37 (on the west and north sides of downtown San Antonio). This corridor has experienced the highest number of crashes per the data accumulated by TxDOT and the San Antonio Police Department. As a downtown corridor, this section of IH 35 has a number of unique features that need to be considered in selecting the appropriate countermeasures:

- Numerous Non-Typical Exit Ramp Situations
- Upper and Lower level freeway sections
- Several ramps that exit directly into signalized intersections



The high concentration of non-typical exit ramps situations may require different or additional countermeasures than the countermeasures selected for the US 281 corridor.

For more information, please visit the Wrong-way Driver Initiative information page on the TransGuide web site at: <http://www.transguide.dot.state.tx.us/>

## WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBER – TONY VOIGT, P.E.

Mr. Anthony Voigt has been a member of TTI's staff for 17 years and currently serves as the Program Manager for the Houston Research and Implementation Office and is a Research Engineer. Mr. Voigt has over 17 years of traffic and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) experience in both the public and private sectors and holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Mr. Voigt's activities include support for the Houston TranStar transportation and emergency management center in Houston, Texas. In this role, Mr. Voigt completes tasks related systems engineering, technology evaluation, performance monitoring, and multi-agency coordination. His other work areas include hurricane evacuation planning, corridor analysis, traffic modeling, roadway operations and safety research, signal design, interconnect design, signing design, priority corridor development, and project mapping to the ITS Architecture. Mr. Voigt was also involved in developing methodologies to determine the estimated benefits of ITS deployments and the incident management activities of Houston TranStar using probe-based (automatic vehicle identification & Bluetooth-based data), travel delay calculations, and historical accident data. Mr. Voigt is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

Tony is active in ITS Texas and other professional organizations and is an advocate of how ITS technology can be used to better operate, manage & maintain our transportation facilities. He has been involved with ITS America in various activities, including during the 2010 ITS America annual meeting in Houston serving as a session coordinator and a panelist. He also participated in a recent incident management charette in Houston with national experts and ITS America staff members. Tony will seek to leverage these relationships for the benefit of the Texas chapter.

## FREE ONLINE ITS STANDARDS TRAINING

The ITS Professional Capacity Building Program (ITS PCB) is offering free online ITS standards training geared towards practitioners in state and local highway agencies and transit agencies who seek the skills needed to procure, implement, and operate ITS standards-based devices and equipment. The training consists of 18 modules with topics including procurement, needs identification, writing test plans, and developing and applying design specifications. Most of the modules are available with all 18 available by the end of January. For more information, please visit the ITS PCB's Standards Training website at <http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/standardstraining>.



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## 2012 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING – DALLAS, TX



The 2012 ITS Texas annual meeting will be held in north Dallas at the Double Tree near the Galleria. The meeting will be **OCTOBER 24-26**. That's right, the meeting date is shifting a little earlier in the year so go ahead and block out those days on your calendar now.



We will have a day-long training class on Wednesday, October 24, with the opening session starting Thursday morning, October 25. The Board of Directors has already begun creating the program with session topics.

The Double Tree which has over 30,000 square feet of meeting space has been newly renovated. Rooms are equipped with 42" flat screen televisions, high-speed wired and wireless Internet access and a complimentary oversized fitness center, featuring new Precor weightlifting and cardiovascular equipment. The hotel also provides complimentary 3 mile radius transportation including the nearby Galleria Mall. As the meeting planning continues, more information will be provided. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas in October!

## 2012 ITS AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION



ITS America will be holding its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition on May 21-23, 2012 in National Harbor, MD, just outside of our nation's Capitol. The meeting theme will be "Smart Transportation: A Future We Can Afford," focusing on how ITS offers affordable solutions to the world's transportation challenges, improving system efficiency, safety and the environment, especially when organizations are asked to do more with less.

The conference will have more than 40 Executive, Special, Technical, Scientific, and Interactive Sessions covering a range of tracks including:

- Policy and Strategy;
- Next Generation Traveler Information;
- Infrastructure, Traffic and Congestion Management;
- Public Transport;
- Freight and Commercial Vehicles;
- Cooperative Mobility;
- Vehicle Systems and Electronics;
- Environment;
- Training and Education

In addition, the conference will have USDOT and Congressional plenary sessions to address the federal ITS program and future legislation, Capitol Hill Day to meet with lawmakers, an exhibit hall with over 150 exhibitors, several technology tours and demonstrations.

For more information about the 2012 Annual Meeting and Exposition, please visit the conference website at <http://www.itsa.org/events/majorconferences/2012-meeting>.

## IN MEMORIAM – SALLY WEGMANN, P.E. (1947-2011)



On December 19, 2011, Sally Wegmann, P.E., a champion for ITS in the Houston area and the State of Texas, passed away. Sally's career stretched over 27 years, including 22 years at the Texas Department of Transportation, serving as the East Harris Area Engineer and then the Director of Transportation Operations for the Houston District in 1997 through her "retirement" in 2006. As great public sector engineers never really retire, Sally served as a consultant for Atkins Global engineering until her death.

Sally graduated from Texas A&M in 1967 with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology. She was one of the first 300 women to graduate from Texas A&M. Sally returned to school to get a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Lamar University.

Sally's contribution to the ITS world is still evident, especially in the Houston area. She helped secure funding to complete Houston's freeway ITS network, as well as ensured funding to be allocated for continued maintenance and operations. Sally understood the potential of Houston TranStar to provide better day-to-day freeway operations and understood the value of the center during emergency operations, working to see that both of these functions were interwoven in TranStar's operations.

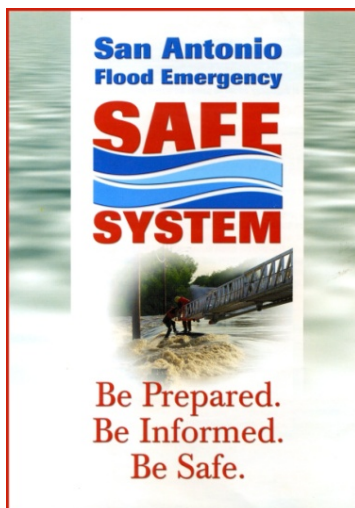
Sally also utilized ITS to make traffic information available as widely as possible. Under her direction TranStar significantly increased access to all local and major national media and internet sources through data sharing agreements. During her tenure TranStar won many state and national awards for website innovation. The website was a national model for freeway travel speed maps, transit information, and was vital to our region to disseminate emergency information during Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Ike, and many other regional emergencies.

Finally, Sally constantly looked at ways to increase the capabilities of ITS including daily posting of travel times on DMS using AVI technology and fiber networks on thoroughfare signal systems. After the Hurricane Rita evacuation, Sally led Texas' efforts to install very low cost remote web based camera and speed sensors on key coastal evacuation routes and took the initiative to install these between Houston and Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin. This low cost system was proven effective for State and local leaders and emergency management officials during Hurricane Ike. Sally helped shape the future of ITS for the greater Houston area and made it a showcase for intelligent transportation systems worldwide. Her presence will be sincerely missed.

Sally is survived by her husband of 44 years, William Anthony Wegmann of West Point; son, William A. Wegmann of Anchorage, Alaska; daughter, Cinda Davidson and husband Jon of West Point; two sisters: Georgeann Wertheim and husband Larry of San Antonio, and Suzan Jonas and husband James of Spring Branch; three grandchildren: Will and Sinenna Davidson and Sasha Wegmann; and numerous nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – Austin Chapter, 3420 Executive Center Drive, Suite 108, Austin, Texas 78731.

## ITS SHOWCASE – SAN ANTONIO FLOOD EMERGENCY SYSTEM

By SUE SWENOR, HIGH SIERRA ELECTRONICS



In 2004 The City of San Antonio contracted with High Sierra Electronics (HSE) to provide equipment and software that would allow the integration of their High Water Detection System (HWDS) that warns motorists of flooded roadways with the Early Flood Warning System (EFWS) network of ALERT rain and stream gauges. Both systems had been installed in the 1980's and had fallen into disrepair during the 1990's following a period of drought. Interest in the system was dramatically restarted by catastrophic flooding in October of 1998.

Equipment was supplied to reactivate the system's nineteen Low Water Crossing Master Gauging Stations and fifty-four Advance Warning Sites. Equipment was also supplied to refurbish ten ALERT EFWS gauge sites. DEC Data Systems' DataWise software was installed to collect, process, and display data at four stormwater operations facilities.

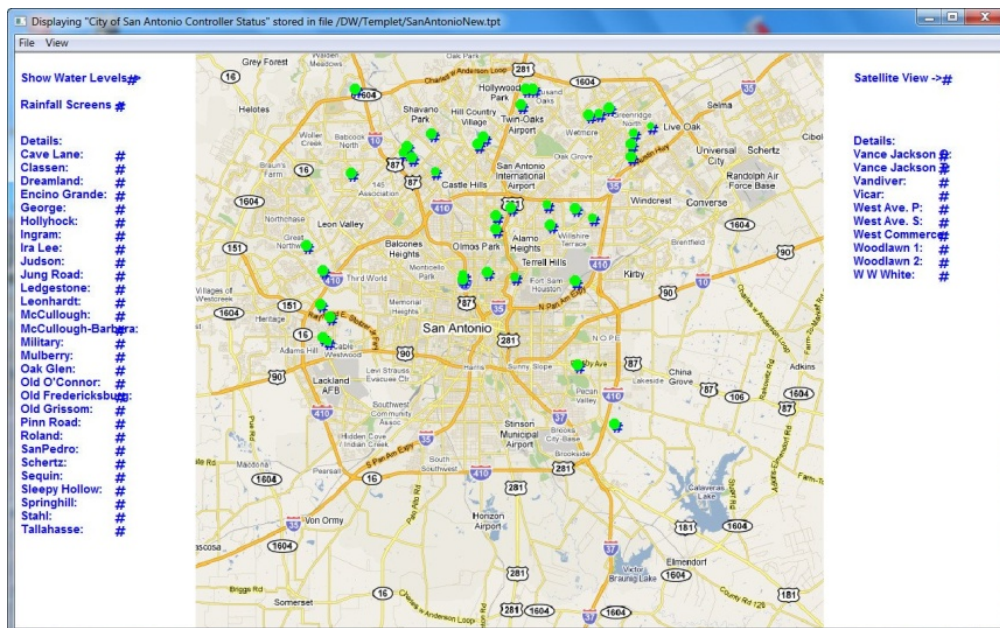
Following the successful revitalization and integration of the two systems, a bond measure was passed to expand the number of low water crossing sites and to refurbish the remaining fifty-four ALERT EFWS sites. HSE completed the system expansion in 2010 including installation of thirteen new low water crossing sites with a total of thirty-six advance warning sites. These sites advise motorists of an impaired or flooded roadway by activating flashing lights and in some cases an automated barrier gate.

The next phase of the project involved enhancement of the City's data collection system. In addition to the four real-time data collection sites located at the stormwater operation facility, the City's IT Department has DEC's DataWise software program collecting data directly at two of its data centers. These data centers host a public website and serve as secure, redundant back-up for the stormwater operational computers. All computers are connected via the City's Ethernet LAN and provide updates to one of the Storm Water Operations' computers which automatically replicates information on the other DataWise computers.



By mid-2011 HSE also completed the rehabilitation of fifty-four ALERT gauge sites with the installation of new transmitters and other sensors and equipment as necessary.

This monitoring and warning network is now an integral part of a public education and flood preparedness program called S.A.F.E. (San Antonio Flood Emergency System). The mission of S.A.F.E. is to provide early flood notification during heavy rain events and educate the public on actions necessary to protect life and property.



In addition to the advance warning sites alerting motorists when a road is unsafe, a network of S.A.F.E. routes has been established at key low water crossing locations throughout the City of San Antonio so that citizens can easily find alternate routes away from flooded roads. Maps are available online for people to print out and have in their vehicles, and signs are being installed at low water crossings that direct motorists around the hazardous area.

To date, more than sixty of these advance warning sites have been deployed by HSE throughout the city. There's no doubt that all of these activities make for safer road conditions and result in more effective operations and everyone's goal: greater traffic safety.

More information about this innovative program can be found at [www.safloodsafe.com](http://www.safloodsafe.com).

## ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

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

[2012 Membership Application](#) – The application form for membership is electronic. After completing and submitting the form, you will receive an e-mail confirming your application with directions on where to send your \$25 membership fee. Sorry, no credit cards accepted, just checks. If you become a member, you receive discounted rates at the annual meeting and ITS Texas training."

[The 2012 membership list](#) is on-line. You can use this list to check your membership status prior to registering for the annual conference, to make sure you get the best rate. The list is dynamic and pulls directly from our membership database. As soon as it is updated, the on-line list is updated. You can also access the list under the membership section.

[2012 ITS Texas Annual Meeting](#) – Your one stop information place for all things "annual meeting." Information will soon become available about the hotel, sessions, speakers, and tours, vendors and more.

[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.

ITS Texas also publishes update information via the RSS feed. Do you know what RSS is? If not, it stands for Really Simple Syndication. Sometimes it is difficult to visit the home page of every web site you are interested in. Many people use RSS feeds to "bring the news to them", using an RSS feed reader. ITS Texas also utilizes this method of distributing information and has an RSS feed available at: <http://www.itstexas.org/its-texas-rss.xml>



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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 or other ITS related items with the ITS community**. If you have information concerning any ITS project within the state that you feel may be of interest to the membership, please

contact any of your ITS Texas board members. If you have an idea and are not sure of its interest go ahead and contact us and we can discuss it with you. SERIOUSLY – the membership wants to hear from YOU about completed, upcoming or ongoing ITS projects.

## TRANSPORTATION IN THE NEWS

The following are recent news events that have occurred in the ITS and Operations arena. Please click on the story to take you to the full story:

- [RITA has released its December 15, 2011 Webinar for Systems Engineering for Adaptive Signal Control Technology for general viewing](#) (from USDOT-RITA)

- [ITS America Releases New 4G Wireless Report \(released Nov. 2011\): “Fourth Generation Wireless Vehicle and Highway Gateways to the Cloud” \(from ITS America\)](#)
- [2011 DOT Year in Review: RITA pushes the envelope on safety and advanced technologies \(released Dec 31, 2011\) \(from USDOT-RITA\)](#)

Did you know that the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) routinely publishes an assessment of benefits derived from ITS deployments? A sampling of recent benefits published include:

- [Benefit-to-cost estimates for dynamic pricing applications on freeway shoulder lanes ranged from 1.1 to 8.2. \(MnDOT, 2010\)](#)
- [Deploying ITS transit technologies, such as CAD/AVL and traveler information services, to coordinate community transportation services for the transportation-disadvantaged improved non-Medicaid demand response trips by 18 percent and non-emergency Medicaid response trips by 40 percent. \(Aiken, SC, 2011\)](#)
- [The conversion of HOV to HOT lanes on I-394 reduced mainline crashes by 5.3 percent. \(MnDOT, 2011\)](#)

You can get the full listing of Benefits at the [ITS Benefits web site](#).

## YOUR 2012 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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