



ITS Texas Newsletter ***October 2009***

President's Message

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe. Your Board is putting the finishing touches on the Annual Meeting. Visit the [2009 ANNUAL MEETING WEB SITE](#) to view detailed session information.

If you need approval from your agency or company to attend the Annual Meeting, now is the last opportunity to make that request. On-line registration will cease after November 2, 2009.

Complementary training, varied technical session speakers, exhibitors, and fellow members are preparing to share the latest in ITS technology and experience with you. You and your company or agency can not afford to miss this opportunity.

The Board realizes the economic times have strained the ability of many to participate in the Annual Meeting. However, the time is right to catch up on the latest ITS trends, technologies, and products. This knowledge will be invaluable when the economy ramps up again.

I encourage you to make every effort to attend this Annual Meeting. Just the opportunity to share and discuss experiences with your colleagues is well worth the expense. For many of us, this is the most affordable ITS meeting and exhibition opportunity all year.

Thanks to the speakers, vendors, and participants. ITS Texas Annual Meeting Program would not be a success without you.

As good as the Annual Meeting is, it lasts a very short time. You can help extend the benefit by providing a short article for the newsletter. I can assure you that the rest of the membership is interested in hearing of your ITS project, experience, or opinion, great or small. Give serious consideration to sharing this information in your newsletter.

If I can assist you in my capacity, contact me. As always, it is an honor to serve you as ITS Texas President.

Brian D. Burk, P.E.





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2009 ITS Texas Annual Meeting

In just three weeks on November 11, the 2009 ITS Texas Annual Meeting will begin in Galveston. In addition to all the sessions associated with the meeting, there will also be training, tours, exhibitors' area, and a venter reception and ice cream social.

Training:

ITS Texas is offering a training course on Wednesday, November 11. The training course sponsored by the FHWA is on ACS-Lite, a scaled down version of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Adaptive Control Software (ACS). ACS-Lite is a low cost solution to provide traffic signal timing that is appropriate for real time traffic conditions. ACS-Lite is designed specifically for the closed loop arterial traffic signal system, which is representative of 90% of the traffic signal systems in the United States. Thanks to the generosity of the FHWA, there will be no cost to course attendees.

Tours:

Two tours are being scheduled for the annual meeting which will both occur on Wednesday afternoon. One technical tour and one, well not so technical.

Tour 1: The Bayport Container Terminal. The \$1.2 billion Bayport Container Terminal is a state-of-the-art facility and at total build-out, will substantially increase the port's container handling capacity. The opening phase of the terminal became operational in January 2007. The Bayport Cruise Terminal will also provide three berths for modern cruise vessels.

Tour 2: The Ghost Tour of Galveston. The Ghost tour is the islands first, foremost, and original haunted historical walking tour. This unique two hour tour combines history, mystery, ghost stories and legends taking you on a journey into Galveston's richly unknown past.

Exhibitors' Area:

The Terrace Ballroom will host the exhibitors. In this large open area there are 26 exhibitors and vendors who will be displaying their products. Come by and visit with them to find out about their latest products, their features and get the latest information.

The Changing Face of ITS





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Vender Reception and Ice Cream Social:

Join us Thursday evening from 5pm to 7:30pm in the exhibit hall for drinks (2 free drink tickets per participant), food, and ice cream. Drinks and ice cream sponsored by

TELVENT

On-line registration is open at a cost of \$190 per member and \$240 for non-members through November 2. After November 2 registration will be available on site only at a cost of \$300 per attendee regardless of membership. With three weeks remaining now is the time to register. Please click [REGISTER](#) to link to the registration page.

The Hotel Galvez room block has been established so make your reservations today at the conference rate of \$85 per night. Click [HOTEL GALVEZ](#) for a link to the Hotel.

For additional information on annual meeting please visit the [ANNUAL MEETING WEB SITE](#).





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Deaths Dropping on the Nation's Highways

There was a record low in U.S. motor vehicle traffic fatalities for the first six months of 2009, according to information recently released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

A statistical projection of traffic fatalities for the first half of 2009 shows that an estimated 16,626 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes. This represents a decline of about 7 percent as compared to the 17,871 fatalities that occurred in the first half of 2008, as shown in Table 1. Fatalities declined by about 10 percent in the first quarter and declined by about 4 percent in the second quarter of 2009, as compared to the respective quarters in 2008. The second quarter of 2009 will be the 13th consecutive quarter of declines in fatalities as compared to the same quarter from the previous year, as illustrated by the highlighted percentages in Table 1. Traffic fatalities have been declining steadily since reaching a near-term peak in 2005. Preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) shows that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first half of 2009 dropped by about 6.1 billion miles, or about a 0.4-percent decline. On a quarterly basis, the VMT dropped by 1.7 percent during the first quarter and increased by 0.7 percent in the second quarter. Also shown in Table 1 are the fatality rates per 100 million VMT, by quarter and for the first half. The fatality rate for the first half of 2009 declined to 1.15 fatalities per 100 million VMT, down from 1.23 fatalities per 100 million VMT in the first half of 2008.

Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Quarter, First Half and the Percentage Change From the Corresponding Quarter or First Half in the Previous Year

Quarter	1st Quarter (Jan-Mar)	2nd Quarter (Apr-Jun)	3rd Quarter (Jul-Sep)	4th Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Total (Full Year)	1st Half (Jan-Jun)
Fatalities and Percentage Change in Fatalities for the Corresponding Quarter From the Prior Year						
2005	9,239	11,005	11,897	11,369	43,510	20,244
2006	9,558 [+3.5%]	10,942 [-0.6%]	11,395 [-4.2%]	10,813 [-4.9%]	42,708 [-1.8%]	20,500 [+1.3%]
2007	9,354 [-2.1%]	10,611 [-3.0%]	11,056 [-3.0%]	10,238 [-5.3%]	41,259 [-3.4%]	19,965 [-2.6%]
2008	8,451 [-9.7%]	9,420 [-11%]	9,900 [-10%]	9,490 [-7.3%]	37,261 [-9.7%]	17,871 [-10%]
2009 ¹	7,567 [-10%]	9,059 [-3.8%]	-	-	-	16,626 [-7.0%]
Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)						
2005	1.32	1.42	1.54	1.54	1.46	1.37
2006	1.35	1.41	1.47	1.44	1.42	1.38
2007	1.31	1.35	1.41	1.37	1.36	1.33
2008	1.22	1.24	1.32	1.31	1.27	1.23
2009 ¹	1.11	1.19	-	-	-	1.15

¹2009 Statistical projections and rates based on these projections.

Source: Fatalities: 2005-2007 FARS Final File, 2008 FARS Annual Report File

VMT: FHWA Traffic Volume Trends, June 2009





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2010 ITS America Annual Meeting & Exposition - Houston



INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

20th Annual Meeting & Exposition
May 3-5, 2010 • Houston, Texas

Co-chairs Invitation

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County Chief of Police Thomas C. Lambert and TransCore Executive Vice President of Transportation Systems & Services David Sparks invite you to join a diverse community of policy makers, engineers, government leaders, and researchers at ITS America's 20th Annual Meeting & Exposition, May 3-5, 2010 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

Connecting Communities through Smart Transportation Solutions

Imagine a future where cars help prevent crashes, where rush hour is a thing of the past, and where vehicles have wireless connectivity to an infinite range of traveler services, from real-time traffic, transit and parking information to collision avoidance systems and even the ability to reschedule a bus, train or plane ticket from your cell phone or in-vehicle navigation device.

Intelligent Transportation Systems technologies are readily deployable to make this vision a reality and serve as a major tool for helping communities address their transportation problems with fewer traffic fatalities, less congestion, more efficient and reliable movement of goods, and greater financial and environmental sustainability for future generations.

Make the Connection

Take this opportunity to connect with a diverse community of transportation professionals, business leaders, elected officials, and federal and state public agency representatives at ITS America's 20th Annual Meeting & Exposition.

- **Connect with decision makers** dedicated to developing and deploying technology solutions to help solve your community's transportation challenges.





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- **Gain new knowledge** on everything from border and freight security, congestion management and tolling, emergency evacuation, intermodal transportation, and the status of the upcoming surface transportation legislation through top-notch educational sessions.
- **Network with peers** to share experience and learn about new deployments.
- **Meet potential solution providers** with new, innovative products in the exhibition hall.

Join us from May 3-5 in Houston to learn more about how the transportation industry is ***Connecting Communities through Smart Transportation Solutions.***

ITS America's Annual Meeting & Exposition Contact: Sandra Collier, scollier@itsa.org



2010 ITS Texas Annual Meeting

ITS Texas has selected the site and date for the 2010 annual meeting. Mark your calendars for November 10-12, 2010 where we will be meeting in far north Fort Worth at the DFW Marriott Hotel & Golf Club. More information to follow in 2010.





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ITS Texas Spring 2009 Training - Recap

The ITS Texas Spring 2009 training session on May 28th in Austin by Corning Cable was a resounding success with attendees from across the state representing TxDOT, other government agencies, consultants, and vendors. We had a great turnout for the Corning Cable Fiber Optic training. Corning built on their previous successful training session last November at our 2008 annual ITS Texas meeting and added new material. TxDOT provided the training location at their Austin Riverside location. We had a large turnout this spring and want to thank TxDOT for providing training facilities at their Riverside Campus in Austin. We had the benefit of an on site cafeteria and one of our participants, MaxCell was kind enough to bring donuts and coffee for everyone.

The session was highly interactive, with the audience encouraged to participate with questions and examples of real life experiences. Feedback from those attending indicated that this format was very useful, and informative. Corning had displays to show some of the technology and they covered a wide variety of technical aspects of fiber optic system design and installation.

One of the benefits of ITS Texas membership is the opportunity to receive free or low cost training on a variety of ITS related subjects. We are beginning to plan our training for next year and welcome any suggestions on topics the membership would like to see us bring to Texas. Of course for those of you who we will see at this year's conference, we have a really great training opportunity presented by the FHWA that is absolutely free and we are including lunch!





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My Last Newsletter (Maybe)

With the close of calendar year 2009 fast approaching I find myself putting together my fifth and perhaps last newsletter from over the past 2 years. Over this time we have changed the format a couple of times in an attempt to make the newsletter more easily readable and perhaps more presentable. I have also strived to provide relevant and recent information on areas in the ITS field. I hope that you have enjoyed reading these as much as I have enjoyed putting them together and I look forward to continuing to serve ITS Texas and the Board in the coming year in other areas. With that, as my last act as newsletter provider, please enjoy the below word search. Andy Oberlander.

ITS Texas Presidents

o h b r i a n b u r k v m n m	1994	Gary Trietsch
d c n n a m t r a h e n a u d	1995	Roy Wilshire
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i e a l k o s i k u l m p s l	2006	Duane Hartmann
r y s l a t r e b m a l m o t	2007	Paul Luedtke
e k l a b n i v e k w p s n e	2008	Natalie Bettger
	2009	Brian Burk





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Your Article Here

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 [Andy Oberlander](#) . If you have an idea and are not sure of its interest go ahead and contact me so we can discuss. SERIOUSLY – the membership wants to hear about upcoming or ongoing ITS projects. I look forward to hearing from you.



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