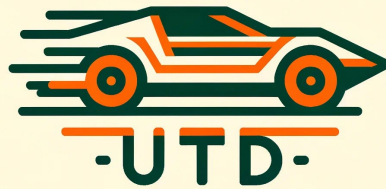


**Annual Report 2023**  
**ITS Texas Student Chapter**  
**The University of Texas at Dallas**  
**December 2023**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

Intelligent Transportation Systems



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## Executive Summary

Founded in 2023, the ITS UTD team has rapidly evolved under the leadership of its President, appointed during the Summer of that year. The President worked diligently to assemble a dedicated team of Ph.D. students, culminating in the establishment of our Bylaws by the end of the Summer Semester. As the fall semester unfolded, the club solidified its presence at UTD.

In its inaugural semester, the ITS UTD chapter celebrated significant achievements, including the successful organization of impactful events, substantial growth in club membership, and the establishment of robust connections with professionals across Texas. This notable progress positions us to provide an enriched learning environment, fostering meaningful interactions between UTD students and seasoned industry professionals.

## Introduction

### ITS Texas

Intelligent Transportation System Texas (ITS Texas) is a state chapter of ITS America, a national organization dedicated to promoting the development and implementation of intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The purpose of ITS Texas is to promote and enhance public safety and community welfare by fostering research, development, and implementation of plans and programs to reduce motor vehicle deaths and injuries, improve mobility and to promote, encourage, and advance a system of safer, more economical, energy efficient and environmentally sound highway and other surface transportation through research, development, and implementation of advanced technology.

### ITS UTD

The ITS UTD is an exciting and emerging student chapter dedicated to the world of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). Founded by passionate Ph.D. students, the ITS UTD is committed to exploring the cutting-edge intersection of transportation, technology, and innovation. The ITS UTD provides a platform for students to delve into the fascinating realm of intelligent transportation, where we investigate and discuss the latest trends, developments, and challenges in this dynamic field.

The primary goal of the ITS UTD is to curate an exciting lineup of events that provide invaluable learning opportunities for students. These events include Ideathons, Hackathons, and insightful talks delivered by industry experts. By engaging in these activities, students not only gain knowledge from the industry's

finest but also create networking pathways for potential internships and career prospects. The mission of the ITS UTD is to facilitate a platform where students can learn, grow, and connect with industry leaders, opening doors to a wealth of internship and job opportunities.

### Current Leadership Team

<b>Advisor</b>	Dr. Rym Zalila Wenkstern
<b>President</b>	Rishita Bansal
<b>Vice-President</b>	Sameer Dhole
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mestan Celiktug
<b>Secretary</b>	Yuxiang Guan
<b>Event Coordinator</b>	Mercy Koech
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	Amisha Srivastava

## Year in Review

### Activities and Events

#### Officer Meetings

Throughout the Fall 2023 semester, we held a total of 9 officer meetings, each focusing on critical aspects of our club's operations and event planning. Topics covered in these meetings included setting up essential UTD accounts to facilitate club functions, developing the ITS UTD website, and managing various event planning tasks such as venue bookings, poster design, prize procurement, event presentation creation, and quiz development, among others. It's worth noting that meticulous documentation was maintained for all meetings, ensuring clarity and accountability in our club's activities.

#### ITS UTD Grand Launch

The ITS UTD was launched in the fall of 2023 at the University of Texas at Dallas. The launch event included an orientation session that was attended by over 40 students from different majors and backgrounds who were interested in learning more about ITS. The orientation featured an introduction to the ITS UTD's mission, vision, goals, and activities, as well as a presentation by Dr. Rym Zalila Wenkstern, a professor and researcher in the Department of Computer Science and the director of the Center for Smart Mobility (COSMO). Dr. Wenkstern gave an overview of the current state and future trends of the ITS, as well as some of the ongoing projects and opportunities at the COSMO. The launch event also included the quiz

competition organized by the ITS UTD. The quiz was designed to test the participants' knowledge and skills in various aspects of ITS, such as traffic management, vehicle communication, smart mobility, and more. The quiz was open to all UTD students, regardless of their membership status in the ITS UTD. Over 40 participants took part in the quiz, and the top three scorers were awarded prizes.



Figure 1. Rishita giving the presentation, Dr Wenkstern addressing the audience



Figure 2. Rishita awarding the quiz competition winner.





Figure 3. Group picture at ITS UTD Grand Launch

## 2023 ITS Texas Annual Meeting

The ITS UTD recently attended the ITS Texas annual meeting, a pivotal event where our team engaged with professionals from various companies and actively interacted with esteemed members of the ITS Texas council. This invaluable experience allowed us to establish meaningful connections, laying the foundation for future collaborations and events at ITS UTD. The firsthand insights gained from industry leaders and council members will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and success of our club, solidifying ITS UTD as a dynamic hub for intelligent transportation systems.



Figure 3. ITS UTD group attending ITS Texas Meeting

### Membership Growth

In our first year, the ITS UTD has made significant progress in establishing a strong and engaged membership base. We started from scratch and successfully launched the chapter with a team of 5 passionate individuals who are currently leading the chapter. Within a few months, our membership grew to 32, which is a clear indication of the growing interest among students in the field of intelligent transportation systems. This remarkable achievement in membership growth is a reflection of the compelling vision and objectives set forth by our chapter, which strongly resonated with the student body. Our dynamic outreach and engagement strategies, including informative sessions, interactive workshops, and active social media engagement, have been key to this early success. This initial surge in membership is not only encouraging but also instrumental in shaping the direction and potential of our chapter. It highlights the enthusiasm of students to collaborate, learn, and contribute to advancements in intelligent transportation, laying a solid foundation for the chapter's future growth and impact in both the university setting and the wider ITS community.



## Financial Details

In Fall 2023, our total expenditure amounted to \$1007.51, with event costs amounting to \$235.82 and the remainder allocated to travel expenses for three officers attending ITS Texas. It's important to note that our student chapter began and concluded the semester with no available funds. Fortunately, our chapter Advisor generously covered expenses during the initial semester. However, looking ahead, our chapter will be solely responsible for its expenses. With this in mind, we're currently in dire need of funds. We estimate that our expenses for the upcoming year will total \$1500. Any support or contributions would be immensely valued as we endeavor to sustain our chapter's operations and activities aimed at educating students in the field of Intelligent Transportation.

Expense Name	Price	Category
Hotel Room 1	117.43	ITS Texas Travel
Hotel room 2	86.78	ITS Texas Travel
Rental Car	234.38	ITS Texas Travel
Gas	24.15	ITS Texas Travel
Food	83.95	ITS Texas Travel
Conference Registration	225	ITS Texas Travel
<b>ITS Texas Subtotal</b>	<b>771.69</b>	
Event Pizza	112.91	ITS UTD Event
Event Pendrives	25	ITS UTD Event
Event Prizes and Stationary ( Walmart )	97.91	ITS UTD Event
<b>Event Subtotal</b>	<b>235.82</b>	
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>1007.51</b>	

## Conclusions

In its inaugural semester, the ITS UTD chapter achieved significant milestones by successfully organizing impactful events, expanding our club's membership, and fostering strong connections with professionals across Texas. This progress positions us to offer an enriched learning environment, facilitating meaningful interactions between UTD students and seasoned industry professionals.

## Future Plans

The goals of ITS UTD for the upcoming year are to:

- Provide opportunities for students to learn and apply the skills and knowledge needed to create and implement intelligent transportation systems in various fields such as engineering, computer science, urban planning, and more.

- Connect students with mentors, experts, researchers, and industry partners that can support and guide them in their ITS projects and careers.
- Connect students with mentors, experts, researchers, and industry partners that can support and guide them in their ITS projects and careers.

To achieve these goals, the ITS UTD is planning to organize various events and activities throughout the year, such as:

- Seminars and workshops on topics related to ITS, featuring guest speakers from the academia, government, and the private sector.
- Hackathons and Ideathons, where students can form teams, brainstorm ideas, and develop prototypes for solving transportation-related problems or creating social impact.
- Competitions and exhibitions, where students can present their ITS products and solutions to a panel of judges and audiences and compete for prizes and recognition.
- Networking events, where students can meet and interact with other like-minded students, alumni, faculty, and professionals in the field of ITS.

## Acknowledgement

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the members, advisors, and supporters of the ITS UTD for their valuable contributions and guidance throughout this year. We are especially thankful to our faculty advisor, Dr. Rym Zalila Wenkstern, for her constant encouragement, feedback, and expertise. We are also grateful to the ITS Texas for their collaboration and support. We hope that the ITS UTD will inspire more students to pursue their interests and passions in the field of intelligent transportation systems.

## Appendix A – Member List

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