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MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

ITS Texas Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds all of our members healthy and safe as we begin 2021.

I think more so than just about any new year that I can remember, it feels like a great time to look forward to a new start. And there is much to be excited about in 2021.

For ITS Texas Members we hope you are excited about our upcoming Joint ITS Texas–TexITE Annual Meeting in DFW this Fall. We are optimistic that we'll be able to meet in person this year and look forward to being able to connect with our friends and colleagues in a non-virtual way again. I am personally excited to pass on the mantle of ITS Texas President to Joe Hunt from the TxDOT Traffic Safety Division. Joe has some exciting ideas for the Annual Meeting this year and wants to welcome all of our members back in person with the biggest and best Annual Meeting ever. And our entire ITS Texas Board is excited to welcome John Gianotti from the TxDOT San Antonio District onto the Board. We always look forward to the fresh perspectives and ideas our new board members bring.

In my final message I just want to thank our ITS Texas Board, our members, and most importantly all of our ITS Texas sponsors for supporting our first ever ITS Texas Virtual Annual Meeting. It was great to spend a day with everyone learning about ITS programs and initiatives in Texas and across the country. We were thankful that ITS Texas is in a strong financial position to offer the Annual Meeting at no cost to members while still being able to fund our scholarship program and other ITS Texas activities. Our strong financial position is due in large part to the Board Members that came before me, including our outgoing Past President Marian Thompson, whose dedication and leadership at ITS Texas helped our organization grow and prosper no matter what came our way.

Happy New Year!

Tom Fowler
ITS Texas Past President



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ITS Texas Members and Friends,

I want to thank you for making the 2020 ITS Texas Annual Meeting a success. Our virtual meeting was well attended, we had a range of speakers, and lots of positive feedback. I am sure you, like myself, also hope it was our last virtual meeting. While you got to enjoy the faces of the board and presenters, mainly the presenters, I can speak for everyone when I say that it will be great to see everyone in person again next year.



A special thank you to our board for all the hard work they put in to make this meeting a success. From arranging speakers, to the vast amount of time spent determining the best path forward for a virtual platform, it was a test that I am proud to say this board passed. A special thank you to Marques Allen for his work on developing the Whova platform that was used and the technical expertise he provided. Another special thank you goes to our 2020 ITS Texas President Tom Fowler who navigated this board through an anything but normal year and kept us all on track. Thank you, Tom.

As we move forward into 2021 expect a much different year. Our 2021 annual meeting will be in the DFW area. In addition, it will be a joint TexITE meeting. This means we can expect a larger than average attendance both by vendors and attendees. The board is still evaluating locations with the assistance of TTI. Be on the lookout for an announcement in the coming weeks. The potential dates are between late October and early December. Get to work on your travel budget now.

For 2021 we have a new member to our board. Welcome John Gianotti of TxDOT San Antonio District. John has hit the ground running and we look forward to his contributions.

I also want to thank Marian Thompson for her dedication to the board as she has completed her term as Past President. The many years of service she dedicated to ITS Texas have set a foundation for the future for this organization. Her work will carry on in that form and her presence will be missed. Marian has taken a next step to join the ITS America State Chapters Council. I want to congratulate her on her new role and know that she will continue to make a difference for all of us in the profession.

Our board is here to serve the members of ITS Texas. Please reach out to any of us if you have any suggestions on how to make ITS Texas a better organization. Congratulations on making it to 2021!

Joe Hunt
ITS Texas President

An advertisement for StreetSmart Rental. The background is orange with a white swoosh. At the top left, it says "Connect with us 888.653.6800 StreetSmartRental.com" with social media icons. The main image shows various pieces of portable ITS equipment: a traffic light, a speed sign displaying "SPEED AHEAD 51 MPH", a camera on a pole, a sign on a trailer, and a sign on a truck that says "STOPPED OR SLOW TRAFFIC WHEN FLASHING". The StreetSmart Rental logo is in the top right. At the bottom, it says "PORTABLE ITS EQUIPMENT INTELLIGENT WORK ZONES" and "CONFIGURE | DEPLOY | COMMUNICATE".



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2020 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING

2020 was definitely a unique year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which virtually turned everyone's lives upside down. As with many other professional conferences, the ITS Texas Board of Directors decided to replace the in-person 2020 ITS Texas Meeting planned for San Marcos with its first virtual version of the annual meeting on Tuesday, November 10th. The meeting was also available at no cost for anyone to attend (members or nonmembers). The meeting was a success despite everyone's "COVID fatigue" towards the end of 2020. ITS Texas used the Whova platform to facilitate the meeting and had 291 registered attendees (121 public and 170 private) with the following breakdown by track.

Welcome and ITS TX Awards	164
Business Luncheon	114
Technical Session	152

This year's meeting included the following amazing speakers from top industry leaders. All presentations will be available at <https://www.itstexas.org/copy-of-meeting-archives>. There was a fair amount of session question and answers and community posts, all of which are still available in the Whova app.

- **Keynote Speaker** – Shailen Bhatt, President and CEO, ITS America
- **ITS and Safety** – Michael Chacon, Division Director, TxDOT Traffic Safety Division
- **Impacts of COVID-19 on Transportation** – Ted Trepanier, Senior Director – Public Sector Services, INRIX
- **TxDOT Ransomware Attack Lessons Learned** – Steven Pryor, Chief Information Security Officer, TxDOT Information Technology Division
- **Transportation Systems Management and Operations** – Patrick Son, Managing Director, National Operations Center of Excellence
- **Texas Connected Freight Corridor** – Kristie Chin, Center for Transportation Research – University of Texas

In celebration of our first virtual meeting, our very own Lester "Sajak" Miyaski presented ten \$100 Amazon gift cards as 'door prizes' for meeting attendees. Congratulations to all of our door prize winners!

1. Fidel Garza
2. Lauri Brady
3. Jason Ore
4. Lynne Randolph
5. David Carey
6. Asma Tuly
7. Jorge N. Rodriguez
8. Lideana Laboy
9. Neelam Fatima
10. Raj Basavaraju

ITS Texas is busy planning for the 2021 annual meeting. We are very excited to offer our second ITS Texas/TexITE Joint Meeting in the fall of 2021 in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. We had great reviews from

both ITS Texas and TexITE members on the first joint meeting in Houston in 2018, and we look forward to gathering in person with everyone! More details to come.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

ITS Texas would like to acknowledge and express its gratitude for the commitment and support of our conference sponsors, whose help made our first virtual Annual Meeting in 2020 a huge success!

2020 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

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Southwest Research Institute	WSB
Pacheco Koch	Pape-Dawson Engineers
B&B Roadway Security Solutions	UrbanLogiq
DKS Associates	AGS Engineering & Construction

2020 ITS TEXAS PROJECT AWARD

The ITS Texas Annual Awards Program was created to recognize 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.

The Awards Committee evaluated all the nominations and selected the winners. Awards were presented at the ITS Texas Virtual Annual Meeting during the Opening Session on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Below is a summary of the project award. The individual award winner will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

CAMPO Region Open Roads Policy

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the TxDOT Austin District were awarded an ITS Texas Award for implementing the first Open Roads Policy in Texas. Open Roads Policies have been put into place in states across the country as a means for State Departments of Transportation and State Law Enforcement agencies to commit to safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents. This focus on opening roads quickly provides an increase in safety for first responders and the traveling public, and can significantly reduce congestion from traffic incidents.

34 to 1
Benefit Cost of
Deploying HERO on
Urban Freeways



In Texas, a statewide Open Roads Policy does not currently exist. Recognizing the importance of quick clearance, especially in light of major construction planned for IH-35 through the Austin Region, CAMPO and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District have been developing strategies to reduce the

impact of traffic incidents. Strategies that the agencies have focused on include expanding the coverage of the TxDOT freeway management system, continued operation and expansion of the HERO freeway service patrol, and 24-hour operation of the TxDOT Traffic Management Center located at the Combined Transportation, Emergency and Communications Center (CTECC) in Travis County.



In order to elevate the importance of incident management in the region and encourage the continued support of incident management strategies in central Texas, CAMPO and the TxDOT Austin District developed an Open Roads Policy for the CAMPO Region. The policy urges all transportation and first responders to work together for safe and quick clearance of traffic incidents and to do whatever is reasonable to reduce the risk to first responders on scene, reduce the risk of secondary traffic incidents, and reduce delays associated with incidents, maintenance, construction, and enforcement. The policy also adopts the National Unified Goal of clearing all traffic incidents from the travel portion of the roadway within 90 minutes.

The CAMPO Transportation Policy Board, which is made up of elected officials from central Texas and the TxDOT Austin District, approved the Open Roads Policy on November 2, 2020. While several metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in the U.S. have endorsed their statewide Open Roads Policy, the CAMPO Region Open Roads Policy is believed to be the first such policy developed and approved by an MPO.

ITS Texas recognized CAMPO and the TxDOT Austin District at our November 10, 2020 ITS Texas Virtual Annual Meeting for their forward thinking and proactive approach to incident management. Please contact Ashby Johnson, CAMPO Executive Director (ashby.johnson@campotexas.org, 512-215-8225) or Nirav Ved, CAMPO Data & Operations Manager (nirav.ved@campotexas.org, 512-215-9357) for more information.



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ITS IN THE NEWS

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

- [U.S. Department of Transportation Awards \\$49.6 Million in ATCMTD Grants](#)
- [More than eight years in, Texas high-speed rail company still lacks permits to build Dallas-to-Houston route](#)
- [High-speed train between Dallas and Houston gets federal approval](#)
- [Statement of ITS America President & CEO Shailen Bhatt on FCC Vote Reallocating 5.9GHz Safety Spectrum](#)
- [High-Tech Roads Are Powering Electric Cars, Sensors and More](#)
- [Truck safety group asks Biden to mandate crash avoidance tech on big rigs](#)
- [Europe's Driving Recovery Stalls with Virus Restrictions Growing](#)
- [Virgin Hyperloop completes first test with actual passengers](#)
- [White Paper: TSMO Paraprofessional Workforce Development](#)

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.

ITS TEXAS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

ITS Texas gave five scholarships for a total of \$5000 at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Any student pursuing a graduate degree related to the field of intelligent transportation systems at an accredited Texas university was eligible. There were 13 applicants from eight different Texas universities and in six disciplines. Congratulations to all our winners!

\$1200 to Hanzhen Wang - Texas Southern University

\$1200 to Sheida Khademi - University of Texas at Arlington

\$925 to Sayantan Biswas - Texas A&M University

\$925 to Sruthi Ashraf - Texas A&M University

\$750 to Subroto Singha - Texas A&M University-Commerce

Don't miss next year's opportunity to display your knowledge in ITS and meet nationally known ITS professionals at the 2021 Joint ITS Texas-TexITE Annual Meeting in DFW. More details to come!





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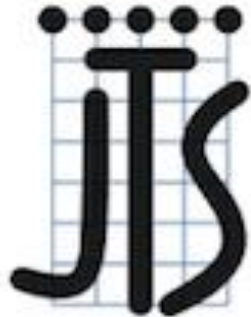
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2022 AND BEYOND!

ITS Texas is looking forward to holding the 2022 ITS Texas Annual Meeting in San Marcos on September 28-30. The meeting promises to be exciting with dynamic speakers, an informative ITS related workshop, and a fun evening of networking and socializing with a possible cornhole tournament as the student fundraising event. **We look forward to seeing you in San Marcos!**



ITS America will also be bringing their Annual Meeting to Texas in the Spring of 2023. This event will be held at the beautiful Gaylord Texan Resort and Conference Center in Grapevine.

Be sure to mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming events and keep an eye out for more details to come!



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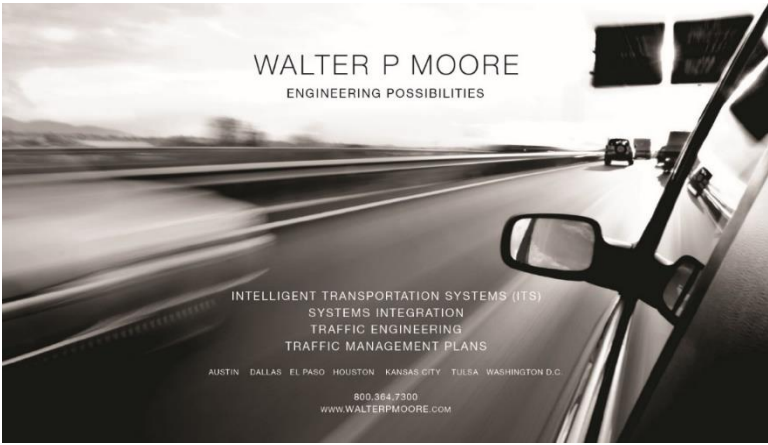
The ITS Texas newsletter and website are great forums for advertising your company and products. ITS Texas is excited to offer our sponsors more choices in 2021 than the historical \$200 fee for an ad in the newsletter or the website. As shared in previous newsletters, the new fee structure shown below is aimed at providing options as well as savings when different advertisement options are packaged together. For example, “Website” means the sponsor’s logo will be advertised on the website for 12 months or “Newsletter” means a sponsor’s ad will be published in the newsletter at least three times per year and distributed to 900+ ITS Texas members and friends. An “Email Blast” is the newsletter email notification that is sent out to the same 900+ members and friends. This means that a sponsor that paid \$400 previously (\$200 for newsletter and \$200 for website) can now have a medium-size newsletter ad plus a logo on the ITS Texas website and in the email blast for only \$350! Please contact ITS Texas to order your 2021 ad option(s) now.

Venue	Size W x H	Material	Annual \$	+ Web	+ Email Blast	+ Web + Email Blast
Website	3.5"x2"	Logo	\$ 100	NA	\$ 175	NA
Email Blast	3.5"x2"	Logo	\$ 100	\$ 175	NA	NA
Newsletter	3.5"x2"	Logo	\$ 50	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 200
	4"x2.5"	Ad-Small	\$ 100	\$ 175	\$ 175	\$ 250
	4"x5"	Ad-Medium	\$ 200	\$ 275	\$ 275	\$ 350
	7"x4.5"	Ad-Large	\$ 400	\$ 475	\$ 475	\$ 550

YOUR 2021 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Current Board member information can always be found at <https://www.itstexas.org/board-of-directors>.



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