

# ITS TEXAS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18    ISSUE 1    APRIL 2015



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT**

By ROBERT BACON, MICA CORPORATION

Hello,

I hope the first quarter of 2015 has been good for everyone. I would again like to thank those that attended the 2014 Annual Meeting held at the Sheraton-DFW Airport last November, with special thanks to our presenters, vendors/exhibitors, our sponsors and last but not least your Board of Directors. This conference would not have been successful, or even possible, without all of these people.

As one meeting comes to a close, the Board starts planning for the next. The 2015 ITS Texas Annual Meeting will be held November 11-13, 2015 at the Marriott Sugar Land Towne Square Hotel in Sugar Land, TX. As the year goes on, the Board will have more details on this upcoming event and would like to invite everyone to attend.

This is an exciting time to be a professional in ITS. With the development of the connected vehicle standards moving forward as well as private development in autonomous cars, the landscape of transportation in our country could be in for a rapid change in the coming years. I believe it is our

responsibility as the leaders in ITS in Texas to help shape what that future is! Let's not just sit idly by; let's get involved in the conversation and keep Texas in the forefront of transportation in this country! If your company or agency is actively working on connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, vehicle to infrastructure projects, or any other cutting edge ITS project please share this information with a Board member so we can keep our membership informed of the great work being done in Texas!

We continue to have two very strong and active student chapters at the University of Texas and Texas Southern University. Both chapters have attended and presented papers at several national and international transportation conferences over the last year. They have also both been active in campus activities as well as community outreach. I encourage everyone to go onto the ITS Texas website and read their annual reports.

I look forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact any of the Board members or me if you have questions or comments and I look forward to seeing you all in Sugar Land this November.

Robert Bacon  
ITS Texas President

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## ITS TEXAS VENDOR WEBINAR SERIES

ITS Texas is presenting a vendor webinar series to highlight the products and transportation solutions offered by many of the vendors that sponsor our organization. These free webinars offer a great opportunity to learn about new and innovative products. The first two webinars have been scheduled as follows:

**April 23, 2015 10:00 – 11:00 AM CST Dynamic Travel Time Systems Utilizing Solar Power Webinar**

**May 6, 2015 2:00 – 3:00 PM CST Wavetronix SmartSensor HD Technical Webinar**

The webinars listed below have been scheduled. Details will be provided soon.

**May 22, 2015 – Wireless Technology, Inc.**

**June 11, 2015 – Emerson**

**June 23, 2015 – ITS Plus, Inc.**

**July 6, 2015 – Versilis**

Additional information on the April 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> webinars is provided on the following pages, including a link to the registratoin website.

### ITS TEXAS ADVERTISER

The advertisement for SES America is set against a background of a city skyline at night. It features several key elements:

- Top Left:** A photograph of a "WRONG WAY" sign with the text "LCS & Blank Out Signs" below it.
- Top Center:** The SES America logo, which consists of a red triangle with the letters "SES" in white and "AMERICA" in black below it.
- Top Right:** A white box containing the text "Your trusted partner in Texas for more than 20 years" and the website "www.sesamerica.com" with the phone number "(401) 232 3370".
- Bottom Left:** A photograph of a solar panel mounted on a tall pole next to a traffic sign, with the caption "Solar Powered DMS" below it.
- Bottom Right:** A photograph of a highway overpass with a large electronic message sign displaying "DELAYS 4.95 EAST TO EXIT 32 AND EXITS 36 TO 38", with the caption "DMS Retrofit" below it.

## ITS TEXAS VENDOR WEBINAR – APRIL 23, 2015 10:00 AM CST

### Dynamic Travel Time Systems Utilizing Solar Power Webinar Mike McKay, Western Business Manager, SES America

#### Overview

SES America, a quality manufacturer of messaging technologies in the NTCIP transportation world, manufactures solutions-oriented dynamic messaging technologies for North American roadways.

In addition to employing energy efficient technologies for DMS signs in amber and color, considerable focus is on client oriented needs, notably, wrong way, limited view, retrofitting old signs, blank out mobility solutions, and integrating solar power into ITS devices.

This webinar will review lessons learned on a statewide travel time system deployment project utilizing integrated solar power.

#### Speaker Bio

Mr. McKay's senior executive level experience in business operations includes 20 years in the roadway improvement industry introducing a variety of newly patented technologies to the ITS, road, and bridge industry. His focused business experience in creating Right Solutions / Right Client business programs has led to vendor of the year awards with several nationally prominent companies.

#### How to Register

Please register now for the Dynamic Travel Time Systems Utilizing Solar Power Webinar on **April 23, 2015, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST** at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6149652462756952578>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Participation is limited to the first 100 registrants.



## ITS TEXAS VENDOR WEBINAR – MAY 6, 2015 2:00 PM CST

### Wavetronix SmartSensor HD Technical Workshop Ian Lee, Owner and General Manager, Twincrest Technologies

#### Overview

This workshop will teach you about the Wavetronix SmartSensor HD side-fire radar detection system. You will learn how to improve your ITS system by detecting up to 22 lanes of traffic using the only radar traffic detector that offers true high definition.

In addition to the easy installation and configuration of the sensor, you will discover the many different applications of the SmartSensor HD, including ramp metering, incident management, and trip times.



## Speaker Bio

Ian Lee was born in Tampa Florida in 1975 and early in his childhood his family moved to Texas. He grew up in the Arlington area and attended Nolan High School in Fort Worth. Following high school Ian attended the University of Oklahoma where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He later went on to obtain a Master's degree in Business Administration from TCU.

Ian has been involved in the traffic industry since 2000 as a traffic signal equipment supplier. He is currently the owner and general manager of Twincrest Technologies which he started in 2008 as the Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi distributor for Wavetronix, LLC, a traffic radar detection company. Ian has a lovely wife Lindsay and 3 boys; Ian – 13, Carson – 10, and JD - 5. Ian enjoys golf, boating, and working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Arlington where he sits on the board of directors.

## How to Register

Please register now for the Wavetronix SmartSensor HD Technical Webinar on **May 6, 2015, 2:00 – 3:00 PM CST** at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5667199954609623553>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Participation is limited.

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## 2015 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING – SUGAR LAND, TX



The 2015 ITS Texas annual meeting will be held in the Sugar Land Town Center at the Marriott Hotel on November 11-13, 2015. We will have a day-long training class on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, with the opening session starting Thursday morning, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Training on Connected Vehicles is anticipated, which would build on the Connected Vehicles training material offered at the 2014 Annual Meeting. While sessions will address the

various aspects of ITS, there will be increased emphasis on Connected Vehicles, with discussion on the potential infrastructure requirements and costs that could be impacting us all down the road.

The Sugar Land Marriott has over 26,000 square feet of meeting space and a variety of amenities including high-speed wireless Internet access, heated outdoor pool and a fitness center. It is located in the heart of the Sugar Land Town Square, surrounded by great dining and shopping venues all within walking distance.



Mark your calendars – We hope to see you there!

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## 2015 ITS TEXAS CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The ITS Texas Board of Directors is currently looking for presentations for the 2015 ITS Texas Annual Meeting in Sugarland on November 11-13, 2015. This is a great opportunity for your community to showcase a project, concept, or new technology to hundreds of your peers in the ITS community. If you would like to have a topic considered for a presentation at the ITS Texas Annual Meeting, please contact Jeff Kaufman via e-mail at [jeff.kaufman@h-gac.com](mailto:jeff.kaufman@h-gac.com).

Topics that we are considering for the ITS Texas Annual Meeting are included below. We are in the process of developing the agenda now so please don't feel limited by this list...we are looking for all good ideas and can adjust our agenda to fit any presentation that the ITS Texas Board determines would be of interest to the Annual Meeting attendees.

- Arterial Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)
- Connected Vehicles
- Cost-Benefit Assessments/Performance Measurement of ITS Implementations
- Incident Management
- ITS Data and Research
- ITS Projects Grab Bag
- ITS Technology Toolbox
- Maintenance and Asset Management
- Multi-agency Operations Partnerships
- Professional Practice Update/Ethics
- Using Social Media for ITS
- Utilizing ITS for Special Events (Evacuations, Events, Work Zones)
- Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Initiative

We are ideally looking for spokespeople from implementing agencies to give the presentation. While we welcome you to bring your vendor or consultant to assist in the presentation, we would prefer that the implementing agency be the primary speaker.

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## 2015 TU-AUTOMOTIVE CONFERENCE



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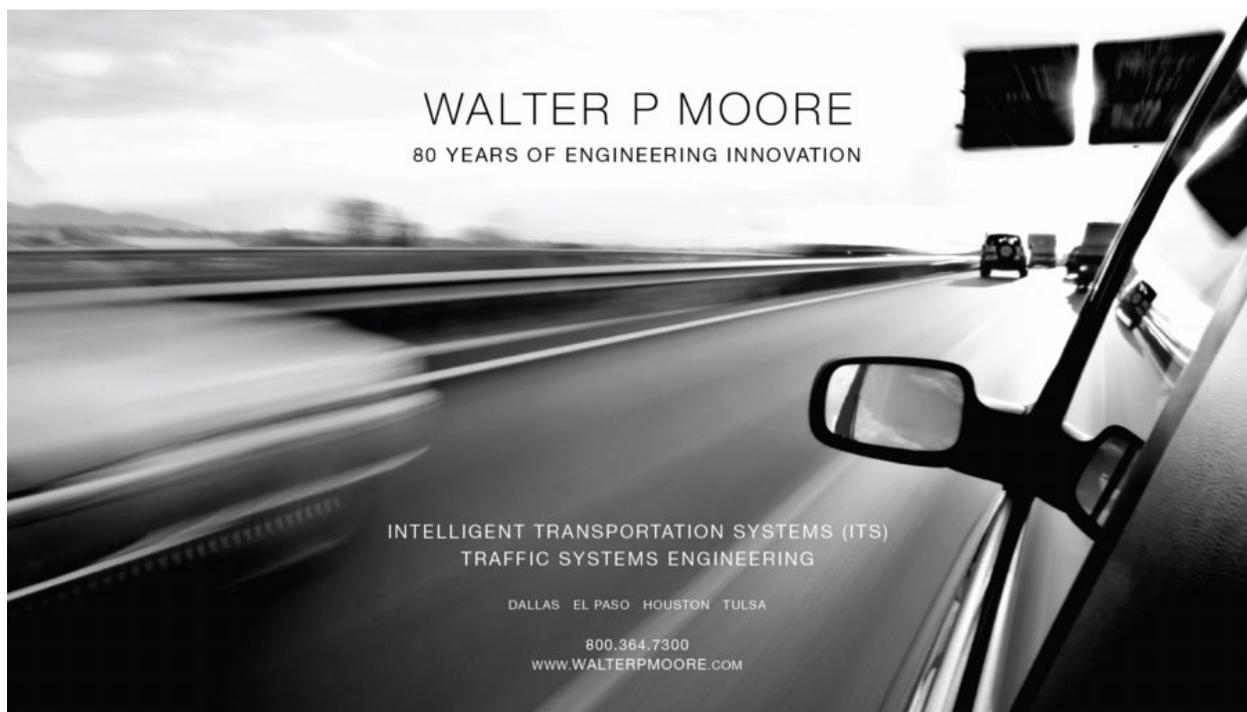
Get the event brochure here

ITS Texas is partnering with TU-Automotive to promote their conference on connected cars and innovation in automotive technology. The conference will take place in Novi, Michigan on June 3-4, 2015. Please read on for more information from TU-Automotive on the conference.

Now in its 15th year, TU-Automotive Detroit will bring you the future of the car as the automotive industry reinvents itself – putting tech first. Sessions cover the connected car, autonomous vehicles, and implications on the future of mobility. The hand-picked speaker line-up includes Ford, GM, Mercedes-Benz, Center for Automotive Research Stanford, Volvo and many more.

For further information, please click this link: [TU-Automotive Conference](#)

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## LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE) was launched on January 11, 2015, at a ribbon cutting at the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting. The NOCoE is designed to offer a comprehensive set of resources to serve the transportation systems management and operations (TSM&O) community. The new Center offers an array of technical services such as peer exchange workshops and webinars, ongoing assessments of best practices in the field, and on-call assistance.

The Center is a partnership of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA) with support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The NOCoE has two primary components. The first is the Operations Technical Services Program, funded through contributions from state transportation agencies and the FHWA. Currently under development are an array of services that will include the following:

- Lead state and best practices peer exchange webinars;
- Regional TSM&O best practice peer exchanges;
- National TSM&O summits;
- On-call assistance to States and other organizations to identify best practice material and other resources to address specific technical and policy issues;
- Training and capacity building programs; and
- TSM&O practice area forums where practitioners can exchange technical information and advice, including a private sector forum to engage private sector users on an ongoing basis.

The second is a web portal, located at [www.transportationops.org](http://www.transportationops.org), which contains case studies, resources, links to an array of information, discussion forums, and a calendar of TSM&O-related events. You can register to participate by clicking on the "Register" button on the upper right side of the homepage.

## 2015 ITS AMERICA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) will host its 25th Annual Meeting and Expo in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 31 – June 3, 2015. More than 2,000 industry business leaders, manufactures, investors, researchers, elected officials and policymakers, engineers, and public sector participants are expected to attend.

Co-hosted with the ITS Pennsylvania State Chapter, the 2015 Annual Meeting will provides attendees the opportunity to experience the latest transportation innovations through interactive demonstrations, exhibit hall displays, technical tours, and networking events.

## ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

Have you visited the ITS Texas Website recently? Located at <http://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 from the website.

[2015 Membership Application](#) – The application form for membership is electronic. The annual cost of membership is \$25 and payment can be made on-line with a credit card or you can send a check. If you become a member, you receive discounted rates at the annual meeting and ITS Texas training.

[The 2015 Membership List](#) is on-line. You can use this list to check your membership status prior to submitting a membership application. The list is dynamic and pulls directly from our membership database. You can also access the list under the membership section.

[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 please 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 name to take you to the full story:

- [U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Integrated Corridor Management Grants](#) including Austin and El Paso (from USDOT-FHWA)
- [Connected Vehicle Technology Featured on CBS This Morning](#) (CBS News)
- [Look, Ma, No hands! Automated Cars Will Soon be a Reality](#) (Contra Cost Times)
- [Talking Cars: The Next Hacking Target](#) (CNN Money)

## YOUR 2015 ITS TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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