

# ITS TEXAS NEWSLETTER

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT**

By ANDY OBERLANDER, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I have certainly appreciated the opportunity over the past 8 years to sit on the Board and to serve the membership of our organization. I feel fortunate to have met and come to know so many of you over the years. We have a great organization that continues to build and grow, not only in size but also with the knowledge, expertise and the associations of our diverse membership.

I certainly look forward to returning to the general membership, attending ITS training seminars, reading the newsletters and as always attending the exceptional Annual Meetings. Thanks again for your support and know that the current Board is always available to address any questions you may have.

And with that, I need to get on my horse and start riding off into the sunset . . . well maybe I'll wait till November.

Andy Oberlander  
ITS Texas Past President

## MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT PRESIDENT

By JEFF WEATHERFORD, CITY OF HOUSTON

Hello,

I hope that this year is starting well for everyone. I would like to thank those that attended the 2013 Annual Meeting held at the Riverway Omni Hotel in Houston last November, with special thanks to our presenters, vendors/exhibitors and our sponsors. This conference would not have been successful, or even possible, without them.

As one meeting ends, the Board starts planning for the next. The 2014 ITS Texas Annual Meeting will be held November 12-14, 2014 at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel in Irving, TX. As the year goes on, the Board will have more details on this upcoming event and would like to invite everyone to attend.

I want to introduce this year's ITS Texas Board of Directors to you. Our Vice President this year will be Robert Bacon of MICA Corporation. Robert's key responsibility this year will be planning the annual meeting (and trying to keep me out of trouble). Robert will also be in charge of the ITS Texas Newsletter this year. Jeff Kaufman of the Houston-Galveston Area Council will serve as Treasurer and Dave Carter of the City of Richardson will serve as Secretary. Returning At-Large Directors are Mike Coppin of Daktronics, Tony Voigt of TTI, and Marian Thompson of the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Marian will be coordinating training this year and Tony will continue as the Student Chapter Liaison. Mike Coppin was the coordinator for our successful first Golf Tournament held in conjunction with the 2013 Annual Meeting. We are hoping to make it an Annual Golf Tournament and Mike will be the lead again this year. We will be joined by a new At-Large Director, Mike Pietrzyk of TxDOT. The good news in being the new guy on the block is that we didn't assign a specific task to Mike P. The bad news is that he gets to help everybody with their tasks. Finally, last, but certainly not least, Andy Oberlander of TxDOT will serve in the highly coveted position of Past President. This is Andy's last year on the board and while I am certain that I'll have an opportunity to thank him again in a later newsletter, I do want to thank him for his years of service to ITS Texas and for his guidance in preparing me for this position. Andy, I'll try not to mess this up too badly to keep us both from looking bad. Also, as many of you know, Andy has also served as the Board's webmaster for the last few years. We will be transitioning these duties to Jeff Durso of Brown & Gay Engineers.

We are lucky to have strong and active student chapters at the University of Texas at Austin and at Texas Southern University. The 49 students in the UT chapter volunteered to help with the Austin Formula 1 Grand Prix and held an "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" along with other activities. The 38 members at TSU also had an active year including members travelling to participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> IEEE Intelligent Transportation Society Conference, the 2013 TRB Annual Meeting, the 2013 Emerging Researchers National Conference, and the 26<sup>th</sup> International Chinese Transportation Professionals Association. Both chapters also held several seminars with guest speakers although the TSU Chapter scraped the bottom of the barrel and had me speak not once, but twice. Both chapters annual reports can be found on the ITS Texas website and I would encourage you to take a look at what they are doing.

Finally, I would like to thank Gary Jost of TEAL Engineering for his service to ITS Texas. As many of you are aware, Gary served as last year's Past President; having previously served as an At-Large Director

and through the various officer positions through President. His leadership is greatly appreciated and those of us on the Board will miss his presence.

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 Irving this November.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Weatherford  
ITS Texas President

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## ITS TEXAS 2013 CONFERENCE REVIEW

PROJECTS:  
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2013 ITS Texas Annual Meeting  
November 18-20, 2013 ★ Houston, Texas

The ITS Texas Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who attended the 2013 Annual Meeting and for making the conference an outstanding event. We had over 250 participants attend the conference at the Omni Hotel in Houston, surpassing even last year's attendance! We were also very pleased to have 41 vendors/exhibits displaying their wares and services in the vendor showroom.

The annual meeting kicked off with the ITS Procurement Workshop presented by USDOT through an agreement with ITS America on Monday, November 18th. The one day training course helped answer such questions as:

- Is there such a thing as commercial off-the-shelf software for traffic management?
- Is software a product or a service?
- How do we know when we are done?
- What is the difference between warranty work, bug fixes, routine updates and upgrades, and what is the best contracting mechanism for each?

- Who provides software, and how do they measure success?
- Are ITS devices hardware or software? How do we know?

The course was presented in an interactive workshop format and provided the information needed to make appropriate purchasing decisions depending on the type of project that is being developed.

Also on Monday was our inaugural ITS Texas Golf Tournament and it was a great success. We had 44 golfers participate in the event last year helping support the ITS Texas Chapter and Student Scholarship Fund. With the great weather and lots of networking between our members, it was a perfect day for golf. We hope to have as many or more participants at this year's meeting in Irving. Keep an eye on your inbox for upcoming information on this year's outing.



Tuesday's activities kicked off with the Opening Session featuring Mr. John Barton, P.E., Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer of TxDOT, ITS America Board Member who provided a very engaging talk about the Texas transportation system with a big emphasis on safety, both at work and away from work. He also touched on the history of TxDOT and ITS as well as the agency's current ITS initiatives. Mr. Barton also provided an update on ITS America and focused on the ITS Leadership Circle.

The conference featured a variety of sessions over the next two days on the following topics:

- Local ITS Projects
- Incident Management
- Professional Practice Update/Ethics
- ITS Technology Toolbox I
- Project Tours: Metro LRT Expansion and US290 Reconstruction Project
- ITS Data and Research
- ITS Technology Toolbox II
- Design-Build, Tolling and Concessionaire Projects
- Mass Transit
- Emerging Technologies
- Advanced Traffic Management Systems

Links to the PowerPoint presentations given for each of these sessions can be found on the [ITS Texas 2013 Meeting Presentations](#) Page.

Tuesday's Kickoff Luncheon speaker was Mr. Daniel Krueger, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works and Engineering, City of Houston. Tuesday evening was the always popular and well attended exhibitors' reception providing not just fine eats and drinks but also an opportunity for conference attendees to check out showcased technologies and to socialize with fellow implementers.

The Annual Meeting closed on Wednesday, November 20th, with its business luncheon featuring as the keynote speaker, Mr. Paul Jodoin, FHWA. The business luncheon also recognized 2013's [ITS Texas award winners and scholarship recipients](#) and recognized the efforts of Past-President Gary Jost for his

many contributions to ITS Texas. We heard presentations from our two [student chapters](#) and we welcomed our new at-large Board Member, Mike Pietrzyk.

Thanks again for all those who attended and we look forward to another great conference later this year in Irving.

ITS TEXAS ADVERTISER

The advertisement for SES America features a collage of images and text. At the top left, a 'WRONG WAY' sign is shown with the caption 'LCS & Blank Out Signs'. In the center is the SES America logo, which consists of a red triangle with 'SES' in white and 'AMERICA' in black below it. To the right, a white box contains 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'. Below the logo, there are two more images: 'Solar Powered DMS' showing a solar panel on a signpost, and 'DMS Retrofit' showing a highway sign with the text 'DELAYS 4:95 EAST TO EXIT 32 AND EXITS 36 TO 38'.

## 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 2012 annual meeting a success:

### SPONSORS

- RECEPTION SPONSOR: TEAL Engineering Services, Inc.  
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Teleste, LLC

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## 2013 ITS TEXAS AWARD WINNERS

The following awards were given at the 2013 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:

### **The Cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and DART**

#### **Multi-Agency Procurement of Local Controller Hardware and Software**

The cities of Dallas, Fort Worth, Richardson and DART in the North Central Region of Texas were recognized for their ambitious program to procure advanced local controller hardware and software to improve operations at the 2,250 signalized intersections operated by the agencies. The procurement began with the preparation of a concept of operations document for signal operations, and proceeded through the development of needs, requirements, testing procedures, and procurement documents.

The deployment of a common platform for signal operations provides the cities with the platform for implementing existing technologies such as traffic and adaptive traffic control and transit priority to name a few and emerging technologies such as vehicle to infrastructure communication on a regional scale rather than on an individual city or agency basis. Other benefits include the opportunity to share operation and maintenance resources as well as an initiation of a local users group for sharing experiences.

### **Koorosh Olyai and ICM Partner Agencies**

#### **Integrated Corridor Management and 511DFW Project**

Mr. Koorosh Olyai and the ICM Partner Agencies were recognized for their collaboration while completing the US-75 Integrated Corridor Management Project in the Dallas area by utilizing the planning, technology and infrastructure resources of various cities and government jurisdictions in improving mobility along the corridor. By applying Integrated Corridor Management, the operating agencies are managing the corridor as an integrated asset in order to improve travel time reliability and predictability by empowering travelers with better information and more transportation choices.

The project is an effort between the agencies of DART, Texas Department of Transportation, cities of Dallas, Richardson, Plano, Highland Park and University Park, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and the North Texas Tollway Authority with support from Texas Transportation Institute, University of Texas at Arlington, Southern Methodist University and Schneider Electric. Dallas and San Diego were the two cities selected by the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a demonstration of the Integrated Corridor Management concepts and provide a first test of this concept on a large scale in the United States.

When traffic conditions change due to heavy traffic demand, incidents, or inclement weather, transportation agencies can use this information to make immediate changes to traffic signal timing on arterials and frontage roads as well as direct travelers to alternate roadways or transit facilities. The corridor is monitored in real time and staff can review potential changes. A decision support system allows transportation professionals to evaluate the best operational strategies and determine when to implement them.

In addition, the project has led the development and deployment of a Dallas Fort Worth area 511 real-time traveler information system that provides regional, multi-agency, multi-modal traveler information to public via internet, phone system and a personalized My511 portal.

Koorosh Olyai, now a Senior Principal with Stantec Consulting, was the ICM Project Manager for DART and has been instrumental in leading this project since 2006. His vision and leadership in putting together a team of public agencies and consultants deserves this recognition.

### **Natalie Bettger**

#### **The Wallace Ewell Award**

Natalie Bettger is recognized for her substantial efforts and accomplishments in the development of Intelligent Transportation Systems in the North Central Region of Texas. With nearly 15 years of service to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), Natalie is the Senior Program Manager responsible for Congestion Management and System Operation at NCTCOG. She oversees NCTCOG's ITS involvement and is the agency's expert in ITS. Natalie serves as the manager of the Congestion Management, Safety, Security, and Information Systems program areas for NCTCOG.

She has worked diligently with cities and other local, state and federal agencies to support ITS deployment, data sharing and regional cooperation and coordination between all regional partners in the NCTCOG area. She is responsible for the Regional ITS Architecture and related efforts.

Natalie has worked with various ITS projects and programs in North Central Texas. She is involved with multiple ITS initiatives including Managed Lanes, the Integrated Corridor Management (ICM), 511 traveler information system, and Center to Center communications. She manages the Mobility Assistance Patrol Program and other incident response related initiatives. She also manages air quality

improvement initiatives, such as traffic signal retiming to reduce delay, stops and improve the operation of arterial transportation facilities.

Natalie's guidance and leadership have resulted in delivering numerous ITS and Air Quality improvement projects with limited resources. Natalie first served as an at-large board member in 2004; the following year she was elected to the position of Secretary and then served a number of other positions, including President of ITS Texas in 2008.

### **Gary Jost**

#### ITS Texas Past-President

Gary Jost is recognized for his steady leadership, steadfast services and excellence in all undertakings as a member, board member and President in the organization.

Mr. Jost was elected to the Board during the 2006 annual meeting in College Station. For the past seven years he has served in numerous positions including at-large Board Director, Treasurer, Vice President, President, and most recently Past-President.



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## 2013 ITS TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

At the 2013 ITS Texas Annual Meeting, Liteng Zha from **Texas A&M University**, Mubassira Khan from the **University of Texas at Austin**, Jie Liu, Qun Zhao, Qing Li and Enyu Li each from **Texas Southern University**. Each received a **\$1000 scholarship** at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The ITS Texas Board of Directors wishes our scholarship winners continued success in their educational and professional efforts.

## WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBER – MIKE PIETRZYK, P.E.

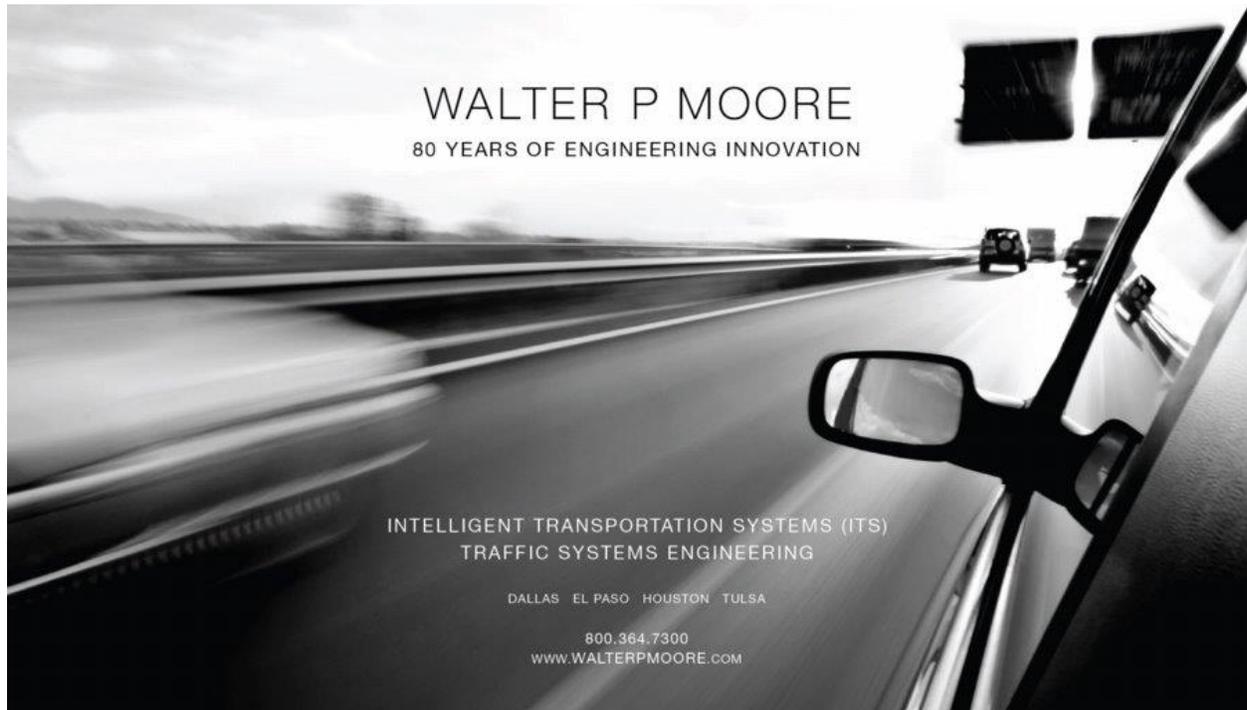
The ITS Texas Board of Directors would like to introduce its newest director, Mike Pietrzyk. Mike Pietrzyk (“pea-trick”), born in Philadelphia, PA, is a registered professional engineer with 35 years of transportation engineering experience in both public and private sectors across 4 states. Since 1992, his primary focus has been on planning, research, design, testing, and project management in ITS. Currently, he is Assistant Manager of Transportation Management Systems for TxDOT-Houston District. He has earned a Bachelor’s in civil engineering from Virginia Tech, and Master of Engineering (transportation) from Penn State. He was also a founding member and a past President of ITS Florida. He has authored over 100 ITS-related technical papers and presentations, and has been awarded “Transportation Engineer of the Year” (Florida Section ITE) and “ITS Professional of the Year” (ITS Florida).

In October 2012, Mike moved (back) to Houston after residing 25 years in Tampa, FL. Recently he celebrated 30 years of marriage, that all began in Houston. His daughter (28), a radiologist technician, was married on March 8 in Houston, and his son (25) still lives in Tampa as development coordinator for University of South Florida Athletics Department.

We sincerely appreciate Mike's interest in promoting and supporting the efforts of ITS professionals throughout Texas, and we look forward to working with him for the years to come.

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## 2013 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. Each Chapter had a very busy year with numerous activities, both professional and social. Highlights include the following

Texas Southern University Chapter

- Participated in the 2012 ITS Texas Annual Meeting
- Participated in the 15th IEEE Intelligent Transportation Society Conference
- Participated in the 2013 TRB Annual Meeting
- Participated in the 2013 Emerging Researchers National (ERN) conference
- Participated in the TSU Research Week
- Held ten seminars on ITS and other transportation engineering topics
- Participated in numerous research projects for ITS and transportation related topics

- Members participated in various papers that were submitted and accepted by TRB, the ITS World Conference, the World Conference on Transport Research, ITS Alaska, and other conferences

#### University of Texas Chapter

- Held eight seminars on ITS and other transportation engineering topics
- Formula One City of Austin TMC Volunteering
- Attended 2013 TRB Annual Meeting, presenting 34 papers and posters
- Participated in UT’s Center for Transportation Research’s Annual Symposium
- Attended Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Annual Conference
- Members participated in the Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation
- Members involved in services activities such as “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day,” Explore UT, and adopted a 2 mile stretch of highway in conjunction with the UT ITE Student Chapter as part of the “Adopt a Highway” Program.

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.

## NEW PE REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

By MARIAN THOMPSON, NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NCTCOG)

Mr. George Hartmann of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers presented Texas Board of Professional Engineers Professional Practice Update / Ethics, a one-hour engineering ethics training course at the ITS Texas Annual Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Houston on November 19, 2013.



In addition to meeting the one hour ethics continuing education requirement, attendees learned about an important update which is applicable to registration renewals in 2014. Since some renewals will be due as early as March 31, 2014, this is particularly timely information. Mr. Hartmann told the group that the board has indicated that it will not impose penalties for late registration due to this new requirement.

Senate Bill 204 passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature modified the Texas Engineering Practice Act to require this procedural change. The Board is implementing the requirement for a one-time Criminal History Record Check. **CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK** - Starting January 1, 2014, by law, all license applications and all renewals of active licenses will require a one-time criminal history record check.

The requirement will apply to any new applicants and to any current licensees the first time they renew after January 1, 2014. The record check will be required prior to renewal in order to complete the renewal process. To complete the record check, applicants for new licenses and renewals will need to complete a form and make an appointment with a local law enforcement agency or U.S. Embassy to be fingerprinted. The fingerprinting process costs about \$41.50.

Information on this requirement is available at <http://engineers.texas.gov/recordcheck.html>. The website provides a link to enter PE registration number and last name to generate a Fast Pass. Please note that there are separate processes for in Texas and out of state. A fingerprint appointment can be scheduled by visiting <http://www.identogo.com> or by calling 1-888-467-2080.

For additional information, please see the TBPE website at <http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us/>.

New applicants for registration will also need to complete the process outlined above.

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## IN MEMORIAM – MICHAEL FISKE (1938-2014)



Michael Norman Fiske, 76, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Memorial service: 11 a.m. Tuesday at Christ Chapel Bible Church in Fort Worth. Memorials: In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made to a charity of choice on behalf of Michael N. Fiske. Michael was born in Miami, Fla., on Jan. 28, 1938. He began his career as an aerospace engineer and was a test conductor for General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, and Grumman. He later became a successful entrepreneur and ran several businesses in the Fort Worth area. He met the love of his life, Drinda Dearing, while she was attending TCU and married her just six weeks later. The two created a beautiful life and family that was filled with laughter and

joy. They would have celebrated 48 years of marriage on April 10. As a pastor recently said in a service, "God loves some people so much He calls them to His side." And though it was too soon for Michael, we are comforted knowing he is with his Lord. He was preceded in death by his father, Norman, and mother, Della. Survivors: Wife, Drinda Fiske; sons, Damon Michael Fiske and wife, Tanna, and Shannon George Fiske and wife, Darlene; grandchildren, Ethan Michael Fiske, Helen Parker Fiske and James Edward Dearing; and brother, Donald Fiske.

## COMING SOON! – ITS TEXAS PRESENTS 2014 SUMMER/FALL TRAINING – HOUSTON AREA

A six-hour training session will be provided in the Houston area, composed of the following:

Three-hour training session on Transportation Operations Performance Measures, covering national and international best practices, documenting examples being developed and implemented by some State DOTs, with results and lessons learned.

Three-hour training session on Designing for Operations, an FHWA initiative, which was recently published by FHWA.

Date and exact location are being arranged. PDHs will be self-reported. Additional information will be provided.

Watch for details coming soon!

## 2014 ITS TEXAS ANNUAL MEETING – IRVING, TX



The 2014 ITS Texas annual meeting will be held in Irving at the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel on November 12-14, 2014. We will have a day-long training class on Wednesday, November 12th as well as our Second Annual Golf Tournament with the opening session starting Thursday morning, November 13th. The ITS Texas Board is currently working on session topics, which will be released sometime in the summer.

The Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel which has 25,000 square feet of meeting space and a variety of amenities including high-speed wireless Internet access, complimentary airport shuttle to/from DFW Airport, Link@Sheraton, and a full-service fitness center. As the meeting planning continues, more information will be provided. We look forward to seeing you in Irving in November!





## 2014 ITS WORLD CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

Reinventing Transportation in Our Connected World  
September 7-11, 2014 | Detroit, Michigan | [itsworldcongress.org](http://itsworldcongress.org)



## Opportunities to Participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress on ITS

**Register** | [www.itsworldcongress.org/register](http://www.itsworldcongress.org/register)

- Early Registration opened April 1, 2014. Prices rise June 16, 2014.
- Rates vary; please see our site for full details.

Contact: Sandra Collier | Director of Convention Services, ITS America | 202-721-4214 | [scollier@itsa.org](mailto:scollier@itsa.org)

**Exhibit** | [www.itsworldcongress.org/exhibit](http://www.itsworldcongress.org/exhibit)

- Access to nearly 10,000 professionals across the transportation and ITS markets
- Pre and post-show registration list to proactively market to attendees.
- Four exhibit staff badges per 10' x 10' space, per exhibitor.
- 40 complimentary exhibit hall passes to distribute at will.
- Featured in the online Preliminary Program prior to the show.
- Download the [2014 World Congress Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for full details.

Contact: Carly DeVito | Exhibit, Manager, Corcoran Expositions, Inc. | 312-541-0567 | [carly@corcexpo.com](mailto:carly@corcexpo.com)

**Sponsorship** | [www.itsworldcongress.org/sponsor](http://www.itsworldcongress.org/sponsor)

- Sponsoring companies can choose any combination of sponsorship options as listed in the Available Sponsorships, creating their own sponsorship packages.
- Sponsorship levels include: Premier \$100K+, Gold \$75K- \$99K, Silver \$50K-74K, Bronze \$15K - \$49K, and Partners < \$14K.

- Available areas of sponsorship include: Expo and Conference Area, Cobo Center Public Areas, Media Sponsorships, People Mover Station, and Hotel Advertising Sponsorships.
- Download the [2014 World Congress Sponsorship Prospectus](#) for full details.

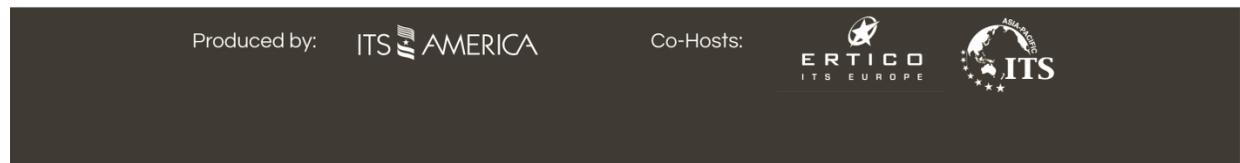
Contact: Valerie Forbai | Event Sales Coordinator, ITS America | 202-721-4205 | [vforbai@itsa.org](mailto:vforbai@itsa.org)

### Marketing | [www.itsworldcongress.org/news](http://www.itsworldcongress.org/news)

- Share the story of why you're involved in the future of transportation by providing a guest article on our blog.
- Stay up-to-date on all the latest happenings by signing up for our newsletter.
- Promote your contribution to the World Congress by displaying our Participant Button on your company's website.
- Amplify the message of the ITS World Congress and join the conversation by following us on Twitter at @ITS\_America and using the official hashtag #ITSWC14.

Contact: Meghan Fletcher | Event Marketing Manager, ITS America | 202-721-4204 | [mfletcher@itsa.org](mailto:mfletcher@itsa.org)

Learn more at [www.itsworldcongress.org](http://www.itsworldcongress.org).



## ITS TEXAS ON THE WEB

Have you visited the ITS Texas Web 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 of the website.

[2014 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 2014 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. You can also access the list under the membership section.

[2014 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://itstexas.org/rss.xml>

## 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:

- [CONNECTED VEHICLES: U.S. DOT launches community resource website for connected-vehicle pilot programs](#) (Road & Bridges)
- [House passes \\$11b fix for Highway Trust Fund](#) (UPI)
- [ITS America Joins President Obama to Showcase Vehicle-to-Vehicle, Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Communication](#) (from ITS America)
- [Turkcell launches connected car platform](#) (from Total Telecom Magazine (U.K.))

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