

ITS Michigan President's Column – May 2007

ITS - Leaders and Best

Our ITS Michigan Annual Meeting in Novi May 16-17 set a new standard. It was our largest attendance and our largest exhibit ever. Nearly 300 attendees came from 24 states, the District of Columbia, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. The 50 exhibits were more than double the number in 2006. Michigan's leadership in Vehicle Infrastructure Integration was shown with VII demonstrations by Continental, Econolite, Iteris, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Proxim, TechnoCom, and the University of Michigan Transportation Research Center. Our keynote speakers included Kirk Steudle, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation; Brent Bair, Managing Director of the Road Commission for Oakland County; Mike Schagrin from the U.S. Department of Transportation Joint Program Office; Neil Schuster from ITS America; and David Cole from the Center for Automotive Research.

In some previous years, ITS Michigan has conducted its Annual Meeting separate from the Michigan Department of Transportation Technology Exhibit. For the last two years the ITS Annual Meeting and the Michigan Department of Transportation Technical Exhibit have been combined. This has resulted in a better meeting for both organizations and a better experience for attendees. This year's Annual Meeting was another example of a partnership with MDOT that benefits both ITS Michigan and MDOT.

The ITS Michigan Annual Meeting was a focal point for National Transportation Week, hosted in Metro Detroit. The ITS Michigan Board of Directors has concluded that our annual meeting should be held in conjunction with National Transportation Week again in the future – the third week in May in Metro Detroit each year for the foreseeable future. A committee of Board Members has been assigned to coordinate future annual meetings with the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, the organizing group for future National Transportation Weeks.

ITS Michigan thanks the individuals who contributed significantly to the success of this event. Beata Lamparski from Hubbell, Roth & Clark provided overall management of the meeting. Michele Mueller from the Michigan Department of Transportation coordinated the exhibitors and demonstrations. Colleen Hill from Hubbell, Roth & Clark collected the presentations and assured that the projector lights went on. Dan Carrier from Carrier & Gable encouraged exhibitors to appear, arranged the social event, and coordinated the exhibit deliveries to Rock Financial Showplace.

The Michigan Department of Transportation strives to be a leader in Vehicle Infrastructure Integration and this annual meeting helped them to demonstrate that leadership. ITS Michigan strives to be a leader among ITS America State Chapters, and this very successful annual meeting helped to demonstrate our leadership. As a result of this meeting, 40 new organizations have joined ITS Michigan.