

ITS Michigan Newsletter

JOIN
TODAY!

Greetings!

There are lots of exciting things happening in the world of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Michigan. The Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan (ITS Michigan) is your link to these activities. This quarterly newsletter will help you keep up to speed on what's happening in ITS in Michigan and learn about opportunities to network with others in the field.

Here are some upcoming ITS Michigan events:

- **September 25-26:** ITS Michigan 2019 Annual Meeting. Will be held at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. [Click here for more info or to register.](#)
- **November/December 2019:** Networking and keynote speaker -- details coming.

Join ITS Michigan and ITE Michigan Aug. 8 for a night with the Detroit Tigers

Come join ITS Michigan and ITE Michigan for a fun-filled night at Comerica Park when the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals.

The event will kick off at 5 p.m. with pizza and drinks at the HRC offices in suite 1650 of the Buhl Building (535 Griswold Street, Detroit, 48226). Game time is 7:10.

Parking is free. Event tickets are \$40. Register [here](#).

For more information, contact Debby Bezzina at dbezzina@umich.edu or 734-763-2498.



Meet the new ITS Michigan officers

In May, ITS Michigan elected its 2019 Officers. Here they are:

President: Steve Verkest

Verkest is Executive Vice President of Integral Blue. Integral Blue (IB) is an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) integrator that provides professional and technical services in all aspects of ITS, from system design to comprehensive maintenance services.



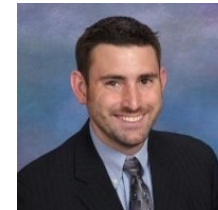
Vice President: Gary Piotrowicz

Piotrowicz is the Deputy Managing Director and County Highway Engineer for the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC). Prior to holding his current position, Piotrowicz was the Director of the RCOC Traffic-Safety Department, which oversees the agency's many ITS initiatives. In that capacity, Piotrowicz gained a national reputation as a leader in the public-sector segment of the ITS field.



Treasurer: Kiel McIntosh

McIntosh is a sales engineer at Carrier and Gable Inc.



Secretary: Jeffrey Feeney

Feeney is ITS and Traffic Section Manager at HNTB focusing on the delivery of ITS, traffic, safety and active traffic-management projects.



ITS Michigan Member Profile



Member name: Danlaw

Primary contact and website

address: Scott Morell scottm@danlawinc.com, www.danlawinc.com

How long a member of ITS Michigan: Since October 2017

Type of organization (company, individual, public sector, academic): Company

Primary product or service: V2X equipment supplier of OBUs and RSUs, Tier 1 supplier for automotive electronic systems, connected-car telematics and automotive embedded-engineering solutions

Reason you're involved in the field of ITS: Danlaw has automotive connectivity in our DNA; nearly everything we do is related to automotive connectivity that will benefit and take advantage of the evolution of ITS.

What are your favorite benefits of ITS Michigan: The close networking with key ITS stakeholders here in Michigan.

What excites you most about ITS and the future of the ITS industry? The ability to improve automotive safety and efficiency by adopting the use of intelligence in our transportation systems. As an engineer who has worked in automotive safety systems nearly my whole career, I am excited about the safety benefits that can be realized through ITS.

Anything else you would like to add about ITS Michigan? I encourage fellow engineers, researchers and transportation stakeholders to join the organization to contribute to the advancement of ITS in Michigan. Michigan is the center of gravity for

A few words from ITS Michigan President Steve Verkest...



I begin my term as president excited by all the opportunities that present themselves this coming year. In preparation for future opportunities, I always like to spend a little time reflecting on our accomplishments this past year under the leadership of outgoing President Debby Bezzina. Indeed, 2018 was a great year for ITS Michigan, and we believe 2019 will be even better.

For example, ITS Michigan recently completed a revision and update to our bylaws, which can be viewed on our website (<https://www.itsmichigan.org/>). This task, originally started by our past Presidents Matt Klawon (AECOM) and Jim Santilli (TIA), was a daunting one, as our last bylaw revision dated back to 2006.

As you can imagine, a lot has changed since 2006, so our main purpose for revising our bylaws was to bring them up to date with the reality of how we function as a chapter today. More specifically, we have transitioned from a membership structure to a directorship structure.

We also made our annual meeting date more flexible, as there are so many events occurring throughout the year that we were running into conflicts with the hard date listed in our old bylaws. Finally, our new bylaws reflect our attempt to become more organized and focused as an organization, so that we can effectively achieve all of our goals.

Another great accomplishment in 2018 was the revamping of each committee charter. This enabled us to better define and reaffirm the purpose of each committee and create more detail as to how it should function.

These changes were included in our bylaw revisions, and we are confident this will help ensure that each committee remains relevant, committed and focused on its individual purposes. In that spirit, it should be known that all of our committees have much more work to do in 2019 and could use your help. If you have the time and are interested, we will help you find the right committee for you. Please contact Belinda Beard at Belinda.F.Beard@ey.com if you are interested in serving on a committee.

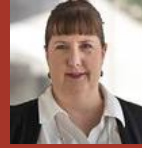
Further, ITS Michigan supported several student initiatives in 2018, and we have plans to continue these activities in 2019. Our organization created its first student chapter at the University of Michigan, and we hope to generate several other student chapters in 2019.

We also sponsored a Center for Connected and Automated Transportation (CCAT) paper competition on smart cities which handed out three scholarships for a total of \$1,500. We held a successful bowling fundraiser in March of 2018 and plan to hold another this year, so stay tuned for more information on that.

Finally, we will be organizing a student poster competition at this year's annual meeting in September, and we are working with SquareOne to host a student-attended technology demonstration at the American Center for Mobility.

In closing, I have had the privilege of serving on this board for over 10 years now, and I have had the pleasure of working with some amazing professionals. Therefore, I'd be remiss to not mention all of those directors, members and volunteers who have made, and continue to make, ITS Michigan the great organization that it is. Their dedication and effort should not go unnoticed as they have all donated their time to work on important enterprises such as student chapter engagement and fundraising events, talent and workforce development, legislative education, technical lunch and learns, as well as planning our annual meeting each year.

I'd also like to take the time to thank those who have supported our events through their generous sponsorships over the years. Your continued support is much appreciated.



My tenure as president of ITS Michigan ended in May. My term as president was both exciting and challenging, and I can say I truly enjoyed the opportunity to lead a great, volunteer-based organization.

I would like to thank the ITS Michigan membership for allowing me this opportunity. It has been an honor.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate new President Steve Verkest, executive vice president of Integral Blue. Many of you know Steve, who has been active on the ITS Michigan Board for a number of years, having served as treasurer and vice president previously.

Steve has also been involved with the ITS Michigan website and many other organization initiatives, so I am confident he will be a highly competent and enthusiastic president.

Don't forget to get your ticket to ITS Michigan/ITE Michigan night out at the Detroit Tigers game on Aug. 8 – it promises to be a good time for all.

Newsletter comments or content? Contact:

Craig Bryson
(248) 645 2000

cbryson@rcoc.org

www.itsmichigan.org

Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan (ITS
Michigan)

Sign up for our
newsletter