

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:

- **May 2:** ITS Michigan Webinar Series -- Arterial Corridor Mobility Performance Ranking; 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Register [here](#).
- **May 15:** ITS Michigan membership meeting and cybersecurity training in the Lansing area. Will include a short presentation on the current status of the association followed by a cyber training session geared towards ITS professionals.
- **Aug. 8:** ITE Michigan and ITS Michigan Tigers game outing. Register [here](#).
- **September 25-26:** ITS Michigan 2019 Annual Meeting. Will be held in Ann Arbor. Details are being finalized, but there will be keynote speakers, panel discussions and more.
- **November/December 2019:** Networking and keynote speaker -- details coming.

Traffic Incident Management Workshop draws more than 100

More than 100 participants attended the 14th Annual ITS Michigan Traffic Incident-Management Partnering Workshop March 7 at the Oakland County Executive Conference Center in Waterford Twp.



Deputy Oakland County Executive Phil Bertolini welcomes participants to the workshop.



MDOT's Tony Kratofil discusses the importance of data for first responders.



Event organizer Dick Beaubien, of Beaubien Engineering, thanks participants for attending.



A group of participants takes part in a group activity during the workshop.

The workshop focuses on how to clear traffic incidents quickly and safely and encourages relationships among first responders. Participants attended from all parts of the region representing a variety of disciplines.

The program started with a welcome from Deputy Oakland County Executive Phil Bertolini and Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Deputy Managing Director Gary Piotrowicz. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Chief Operating Officer Tony Kratofil discussed how traffic incident management fits into the state emphasis on transportation-systems management and operations.

Kratofil noted data is important for all first responders (EMS, police, fire, emergency management, road agencies). The objective, he explained, is to save lives more quickly through smart technology investments.

Performing incident response more collectively through partnerships and relationships is the key to success, he added.

The cooperative relationships hoped for among the first responders were exemplified by the organizers of the event. MDOT, the Oakland County Executive, RCOC, Oakland County Emergency Management, the Transportation Improvement Association, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan each had a role in bringing the event together.

Presentations included a description of the Oakland County Connected-Vehicle Program presented by Bertolini and RCOC Signal Systems Engineer Ahmad Jawad. MDOT representatives Reggie Washington and Barbara Swan described a fire response on I-275 during below-freezing weather conditions.

Ryan Davids from Incident Clear described Freeway Courtesy Patrol innovations including a traffic incident trailer. A case study of a ramp incident at M-5 and I-275, which involved both Farmington Hills fire service and Oakland County Emergency Management, was presented by Lt. James Neufeld and Thom Hardesty.

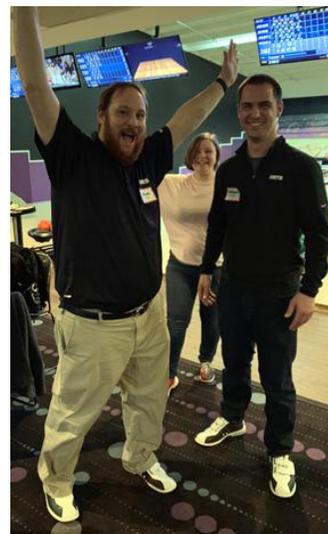
Finally, an Incident-Management Interface Exercise was conducted by Mike Loper of Oakland County Emergency Management with assistance from Ian Lee and Andrew Arnold from the National Weather Service.

First annual ITS Michigan Scholarship fundraising bowling event was a hit

The first-ever ITS Michigan effort to raise funds to endow the organization's college scholarships was a tremendous success, netting nearly \$4,150.

The event, a bowling tournament, took place March 29 at Perfect Game bowling alley in Farmington Hills. Approximately 50 people participated and 10 organizations provided sponsorships.

The title sponsor for the event was the Center for, while Toyota was the prize sponsor. Pin sponsors were: Integral Blue, HNTB, Carrier and Gable, Michael Baker International, WSP, Fleis & Vandenbrink. ITS Michigan plans to make this an annual event to fund the organizations scholarship program.





ITS Michigan Member Profile: City of Troy



Member name:

City of Troy

Primary contact:

Bill Huotari, PE, City Engineer/Traffic Engineer

How long a member of ITS Michigan:

More than 10 years

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

Public Sector, Local Government

Primary product or service:

The core functions of the City of Troy Engineering Department primarily involve public infrastructure, survey, inspection, right of way, storm water and traffic engineering.

Reason you're involved in the field of ITS:

It's the future.

What are your favorite benefits of ITS Michigan:

Contacts gained with various other agencies, vendors and OEM's.

What excites you most about ITS and the future of the ITS industry?

The seemingly unlimited potential of the technology and the safety aspects relative to transportation.

Anything else you would like to add about ITS Michigan?

Being a civil engineer and taking on traffic/transportation duties later in my career opened up an entirely new field to me. ITS Michigan has been a critical part of my growth and my ability to better serve my constituents. I am able to keep my community informed of new opportunities and the benefits of ITS for our transportation system through new contacts gained and learning of new technology by our membership in ITS Michigan.

A few words from ITS Michigan President Debra Bezzina...



As I mentioned in the last edition of the ITS Michigan newsletter, the debate continues about which is the best technology to facilitate communication between vehicles and between vehicles and the infrastructure, with some lining

up firmly behind radio communications known as dedicated short-range communications (DSRC) while others believe the future lies with cellular communications, known as cellular-vehicle to everything (CV2X).

DSRC is dependent on the 5.9 GHz radio spectrum that was allocated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) back in the 1990s for automotive safety. However, others have requested to use some of that spectrum for non-safety purposes.

Those of us who support the use of DSRC are concerned that the FCC still has taken no steps to preserve the 5.9 GHz spectrum for DSRC purposes. It is troubling that the FCC seems to be dragging its feet on this important matter. Meanwhile, more exciting things are happening in the world of connected-vehicle technology in Ann Arbor as the Connected-Vehicle Test Environment (AACVTE) federal contract ends. AACVTE is the world's largest operational, real-world deployment of connected vehicles and connected infrastructure.

Led by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) and our partners, the AACVTE was based on the previously existing Ann Arbor model deployment. UMTRI and its partners have operated, maintained and upgraded this unique connected-vehicle test environment since 2015.

The federal funding concluded March 31, and AACVTE is transitioning from research mode to operational deployment, with the goal of being financially self-sufficient. University of Michigan's Mcity, the world's first purpose-built proving ground for testing the performance and safety of connected and automated vehicles and technologies, is funding the continued operation and maintenance of the program. Stay tuned as this exciting transition occurs.

In other news, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) will award up to \$60 million in federal grants this year for projects that test the safe integration of automated driving systems (ADS) on our nation's roadways. These grants aim to gather significant safety data to inform rulemaking, foster collaboration among state and local government and private partners and test the safe integration of ADS on our nation's roads.

Several teams from Michigan have reportedly applied for these grants. Awardees are expected to be announced by USDOT in the coming months. Let's hope we see some of these important tests taking place right here in our state.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Paul Ajegba for his appointment as the director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). I look forward to Paul's continuing to be a leader in the field of connected vehicles – he is well-known and highly respected in transportation circles.

I'd also like to congratulate Mike Noblett, who is well-known in ITS/connected-vehicle circles, for his appointment as the CEO of the American Center for Mobility. I'm sure Mike is bringing his vast experience and tremendous leadership skills to this vitally important position.

Debra Bezzina is Connected Working Group lead for Mcity and the Managing Director of the Center for Connected and Automated Transportation at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

Newsletter comments or content? Contact:

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