

NEWSLETTER

MDOT Revamps ITS Website

The [MDOT ITS webpage](#) which serves as a vital portal for important documents, news and links - has been recently redesigned to provide more up to date resources for visitors, MDOT staff, contractors and consultants.

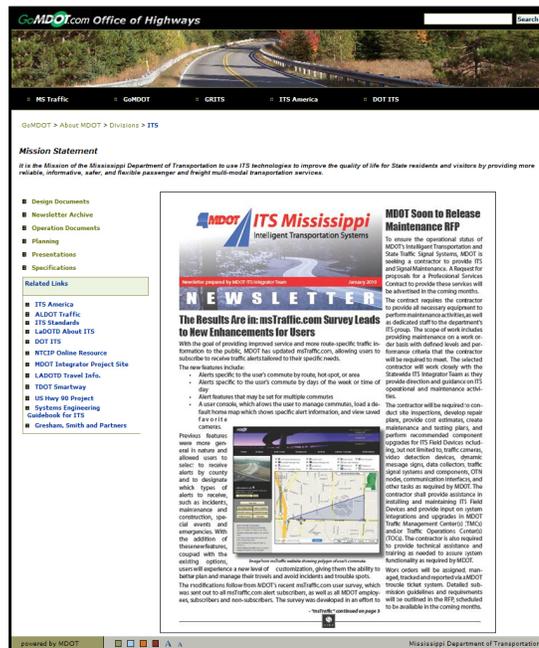
The site serves as a valuable resource for stakeholders, as well as those providing contractual and maintenance services to the DOT. The revised site includes the latest ITS materials, including links to pages containing planning documents, specifications, operation documents, design documents, presentations, and newsletters, as well as links to other relevant sites.

Documents such as the State-wide and Regional Architectures, the Document Control and Management Plan, System Engineering and Management Plan, Project Systems Engineering Analyses, and the Statewide Concept of Operations, in addition to others, are available to site visitors.

Visitors may also view the latest MDOT ITS newsletter and stay updated on current happenings. A clickable graphic of the current newsletter is prominently displayed on the webpage that is linked to the entire newsletter file. An archive of past newsletters is also available for viewing.

"Providing the latest versions of planning, operational and design documents and related manuals is necessary in ensuring proper deployment of ITS systems throughout the state", explains Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "As the ITS Program continues to grow, more materials and references are being produced. A standard method for managing ITS documents and information is necessary to ensure consistent and accurate information is available to stakeholders."

Website updates are ongoing as additional materials are developed, they are made available on the site. In the near future MDOT ITS Specifications, SPs, NTBs and standard ITS design drawings, among others, will be housed on the site.



Screenshot of MDOT ITS webpage

MS 463 Project in Madison Awarded

The MS 463 Relocation project was awarded to Tanner Construction of Ellisville, MS. The roadway project will provide a relocated and wider roadway north of existing 463 that extends from east of Post Oak Road to Old Canton Road, and ties to the new Main Street intersection at its western limit. The project is intended to ease present and future traffic congestion in the area and will include ITS elements for the purpose of monitoring traffic as well as interconnecting the signals. These elements will include fiber optic cable, communication equipment and traffic cameras.

The project will include approximately 1.2 miles of fiber optic trunk cable, which will extend the length of the project and connect the traffic signals at Main Street, Post Oak Road, US Hwy 51 and Old Canton Road. One Pan-tilt-zoom camera is included at the intersection of Post Oak Road.

The fiber optic cable included will tie into the current fiber that runs from north of 463 along US 51 to County Line Road, connecting into the existing msTraffic network. At the western limit the fiber will connect to existing fiber optic cable that runs east along 463 from I-55. With this connection, existing cameras at I-55 and 463 that MDOT is currently communicating to via leased line may be connected via fiber, which will allow for a reduced monthly leased line expense. In addition, future MDOT projects which include fiber along I-55 from Natchez Trace north to 463 will allow an alternate communications path for devices in the Madison and Ridgeland area, allowing for redundancy and an increased level of reliability.

The total project cost is approximately \$28,000,000, with the ITS portion of the project totaling approximately \$125,000. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin this May and is expected to be completed by October 2011.

Current Projects

Current and Recently Completed MDOT ITS Projects

SR 6 @ Jackson Ave. Interchange

- Plans in development
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV and other ITS devices

SR 6 Bypass – Batesville, MS

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of cameras, data collectors and fiber optic network

US 78 – I-22 Project

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of cameras, DMS, data collectors and fiber optic network

I-269 Project

- Plans in development
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and ITS devices along some segments

DeSoto County Incident Management Project

- Under construction
- Includes DMS, CCTV and fiber optic cable connection to Tennessee system

Reunion Parkway Interchange

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of OTN nodes and communications hut

MS 463 Signal Project

- Construction continues on Phase 2
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV and signal interconnections

I-55 Expansion Project

- Plans complete
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV, DMS and RDS

US 49 Widening Project

- Plans developed
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation

I-20/MS 15 Interchange

- Plans in development
- Involves connecting CCTVs and data collectors via T1 lines

I-55 Interchange at Gluckstadt

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic trunk, CCTV and RDS

Pearl St. Camera Project

- Under construction
- Includes installation of CCTV at Pearl St.

Jackson Metro Incident Management / Hurricane Response Project Phase 2, 3

- Plans complete, Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV and full coverage detection

Counter Station Project

- Construction complete
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable connection to counter stations in Jackson area

HWY 98 Fiber and Signal Upgrades

- Construction Continues
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signals, traffic controllers and traffic controller modifications

SR 84 / SR 15 Laurel Project

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signal interconnects, CCTV and RDS

Hurricane Evacuation ITS Site Project

- Construction complete
- Includes installation of CCTV and Detectors

Hattiesburg ITS Improvements Project

- Under construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signal interconnects and CCTV

Hattiesburg Hurricane Response / Incident Management Project

- Under construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV, and RDS

Hardy St Project

- Construction complete
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, traffic signal interconnects, CCTV and RDS

Hwy 90 Restoration Projects

- Construction continues
- Includes wireless radio interconnects, traffic signals, controller upgrades, video detection and traffic monitoring devices

Gulf Region Incident Management Project Phase 1, 2, and 3

- Plans complete
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, HAR, CCTV and full coverage detection

SR 601 @ I-10 Interchange Project

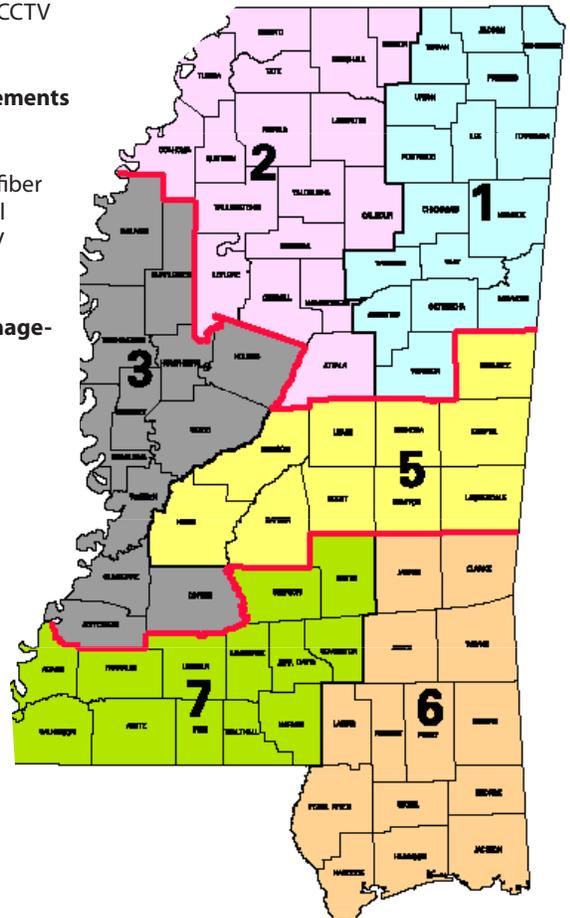
- Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic trunk, DMS, and CCTV

Natchez River Bridge ITS

- Under construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, CCTV and VDS

I-55 Hurricane Evacuation Project: Phase 1 McComb

- Plans in development
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and installation of DMS, CCTV, HAR and RDS



TMC Operations - In Action

OPERATIONS AT MDOT'S STATEWIDE TMC IN JACKSON WERE EXTREMELY ACTIVE THE PAST THREE MONTHS AS STAFF MANAGED NUMEROUS INCIDENTS INCLUDING A SEVERE WINTER STORM AND AN OVERTURNED 18-WHEELER ACCIDENT. BOTH INCIDENTS RESULTED IN DELAYS TO MOTORISTS AND GREATLY IMPACTED TRAVEL IN THE STATE. UTILIZING THE msTRAFFIC NETWORK AND DEPLOYED ITS TECHNOLOGIES, OPERATORS WERE ABLE TO MONITOR THESE INCIDENTS, PROVIDE UPDATES TO TRAVELERS AND WORK WITH RESPONDERS IN MANAGING THEM.

A Winter Blast for Operations Staff

The first of the two major incidents, a rare winter storm, occurred in early February and enveloped the entire state with snowfall of historic proportions. In response to the storm, MDOT implemented 24-hour TMC emergency operations.

The National Weather Service in Jackson issued a winter storm warning on Thursday for increasingly heavy snowfall from 6:00 p.m. the evening of Thursday, February 11, through the afternoon of February 12.

"In anticipation of the storm, which was forecasted to arrive in the early morning hours of Friday, February 12, we began 24-hour operations at approximately 12:20 p.m. on Thursday," said John Gilligan, MDOT's Statewide TMC Manager. "Staggered staffing was implemented to provide for the extended hours of operations, with two operators on hand at all times during two 12-hour shifts."

The entire metro area was covered with three inches of snow by Friday morning. Using MDOT's deployed ITS technologies and through constant coordination with other departments and agencies, TMC operators were able to manage six accidents, 12 disabled vehicles, and a road closure.

Mr. Gilligan attributes the success in managing incidents during the winter storm to the coordination between MDOT TMC Operations staff and other MDOT departments and responder agencies. "The flyover from I-55 to I-220 Southbound was closed due to heavy ice build up," explained Mr. Gilligan. "During that time we alerted travelers via the DMS signs and sent out msTraffic alerts. We maintained constant communication with MDOT maintenance crews, who were able to quickly treat the surface. It was through this coordination that we were able to provide real time updates to travelers as well as let them know when the flyover was reopened."

By midday on February 12, the majority of snow had receded. However, concerns that the freezing temperatures that night would cause problems for motorists the next morning led to continued 24-hour emergency operations through the morning of Saturday, February 13. TMC Operators responded to three accidents Saturday morning related to icy conditions.



DMS alerting motorists of winter storm

Springing in to Action for 18-wheeler Crash

The second of the two major incidents that occurred this quarter took place in the early morning on March 11, when an 18-wheeler overturned on I-55 Southbound between Lakeland Drive and Woodrow Wilson, spilling fuel onto the interstate. The accident, occurring near the Lakeland drive overpass, resulted in a traffic stand-still and lengthy delay for motorists.



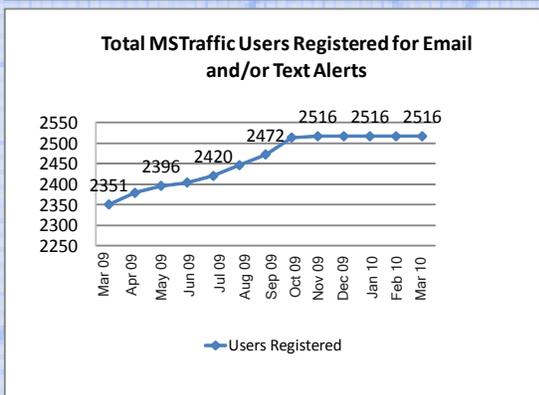
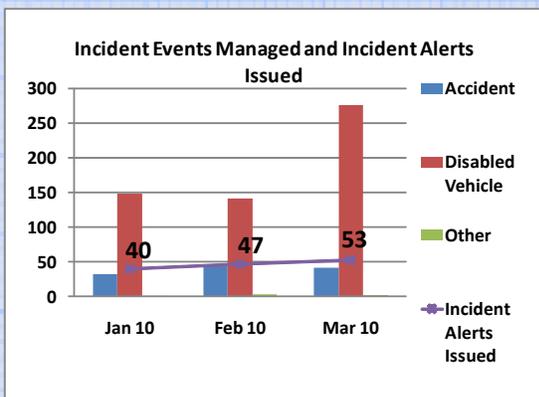
Snapshot of live video feed of crash

At approximately 5:00 a.m., MDOT's TMC Manager, John Gilligan, was notified by MDOT Public Affairs of the tanker truck accident. "Working with Stakeholders in Southaven and Memphis that day, I got the call on my mobile phone early Thursday morning," Mr. Gilligan explains. "I was able to quickly remote into the 360 Chameleon server and post a message on the Jackson DMS sign, alerting motorists of the resulting road closure."

The incident resulted in a traffic stand-still which continued until approximately 11:40 a.m. During that time, in addition to updating the DMS messages, operations staff posted and sent alerts to subscribers of the free msTraffic service via email and text message. Live video feeds of the accident were available on the msTraffic website showing the road closure and traffic congestion.

Due to the prompt response by MDOT staff, the real time information provided on MDOT's msTraffic website, and messages posted on MDOT's Dynamic Message Signs, motorists were able to make informed travel decisions regarding their commute and avoid the accident, thus, reducing congestion levels.

MDOT Statewide Traffic Management Center & MStraffic.com Quick-Stats



Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: MDOT has been engaged in the planning of a project to deploy a Mississippi 511 system. Can you give us an update on where that project stands, the anticipated timeline for implementation, and desired outcomes?

Answer: Yes. We released the 511 RFP this March and Proposals are Due on May 13th. MDOT anticipates the selection of a qualified vendor by June 21st, and notice to proceed by July 15. After that we have an implementation timeframe of six months, so we plan to have a fully operational state-wide 511 system by the end of the year. Once in place, the 511 system will tie directly in with the mstraffic.com website; information available on the site will also be available via 511 and vice versa. Travelers will be able to call 511 anywhere in the state, and through voice or touch tone, request information for their selected roadway. We anticipate this service will prove invaluable to residents and visitors in Mississippi. 511 will be a very visible system and because of this and its accessibility, it will provide an even greater advantage to travelers as a means to obtain up to date traffic information in our state.