



I-55 Split Diamond Interchange Project Awarded

The I-55 Split Diamond Interchange project was recently awarded to Hill Brothers Construction Company for \$83 million. Construction on the long-anticipated interchange and widening project will begin this spring and involves reconstructing I-55 from Old Agency Road in Ridgeland to north of SR 463 in Madison. The project includes adding an interchange, two additional interstate lanes, and frontage roads connecting Old Agency Road to SR 463.

A combination of permanent and temporary ITS elements will be installed as part of the project allowing MDOT personnel to effectively monitor the roadway. ITS permanent field devices include Radar Detection Systems (RDS), On Street Video Equipment (CCTV), Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), Fiber Optic Cable and Networking Equipment. Temporary devices that will be included are those which will be installed as part of a Smart Work Zone (SWZ). The SWZ will be deployed to monitor traffic conditions in advance of and through the workzone on the northbound and southbound lanes of I-55. The Smart Work Zone will automatically update portable changeable message signs advising motorists of traffic conditions, alert MDOT personnel of traffic conditions in the work zone, and provide performance data for later evaluation.

"The ITS components installed on the project will allow MDOT to communicate with motorists regarding incidents, accidents, and special events that may impact travel," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "Also, the Smart Work Zone will help traffic flow during construction."

Project completion is contractor-determined but should take approximately 18 months to two years to finish. Once complete, the project will create additional capacity to reduce traffic congestion as well as improve safety for travelers through the area.

MDOT Optimizes Productivity and Reduces Costs With Sharepoint 2010

Expanding upon its commitment to better manage documents, deliver consistent guidelines and criteria for projects, and increase operational efficiency, the MDOT ITS group is currently utilizing Sharepoint 2010 as a document library and TMC staff operational collaboration site. The user-friendly server boasts features, such as document libraries, full version control, and check in and out capabilities in addition to group collaboration calendars and wiki pages. All divisions within the agency are now able to use features such as these and collectively collaborate more effectively achieving greater control and productivity internally. This in turn ensures consistent, accurate, and up to date documents are disseminated to stakeholders, contractors, and others without question, ultimately improving program performance.

Prior to the conversion to Sharepoint 2010, MDOT determined as a whole the need to find and share internal information more easily. The department has 100 field offices with more than 3,000 employees. With a continually growing vast collection of data, information, and documents, MDOT needed a standard method for finding, managing, and sharing internal information while preventing overlapping and reducing decision cycles. In 2010, Microsoft offered MDOT an opportunity to pilot Sharepoint 2010. MDOT was selected as one of 40 global customers, among corporate giants, such as Bank of America, Sony, and the Associated Press, to deploy the newly developed server. The new solution has proved to be more economical for MDOT as well as saving time and effort. The conversion has provided democratized access to information across the agency, making it easier for employees to share information and resources.

Along with the conversion, the look and feel of the goMDOT website has been revamped to align with the user-friendly and contemporary functionality of the Sharepoint server. The ITS division is taking advantage of the new tool to house their documents externally on goMDOT.com as well as internally. On the MDOT ITS webpage final documents are published while draft documents are available internally to allow personnel to easily track changes and edit before making a document final.

Sharepoint has provided a new solution for all divisions within MDOT to work together more efficiently towards a common goal. By improving processes and increasing operational efficiency, MDOT is able to more effectively manage the transportation infrastructure and enhance transportation safety in the state of Mississippi.

Current and Recently Completed MDOT ITS Projects

US 78 – I-22 Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of cameras, DMS, data collectors and fiber optic network

I-269 Project

- Plans in development; split in three phases
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and ITS devices along some segments

DeSoto County Incident Management Project Phase 2

- Plans in development
- Includes DMS, CCTV and fiber optic cable connection to Tennessee system

I-55 Widening from Church Road to 302

- Plans in development - Conceptual
- May include communications infrastructure and ITS elements at spot locations

I-55 Goodman to Church Road Project

- Plans in development - Conceptual
- May include communications infrastructure and ITS elements at spot locations

MS 463 Signal Project

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

US 49 Widening Project

- Plans developed; In Phase B design
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation

I-55 Interchange at Gluckstadt

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

I-55 Split Diamond Interchange Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of RDS, CCTV, DMS, fiber optic cable, and Smart Work Zone system

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

City of Jackson ITS-3 Railroad Grade Crossing Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of train warning systems in Jackson area

SR 84/ SR 15 Laurel Project

- Project Complete
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signal interconnects, CCTV, and RDS

I-20 at 35 in Forest Project

- Plans in development
- Includes spot CCTV and signal interconnections

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

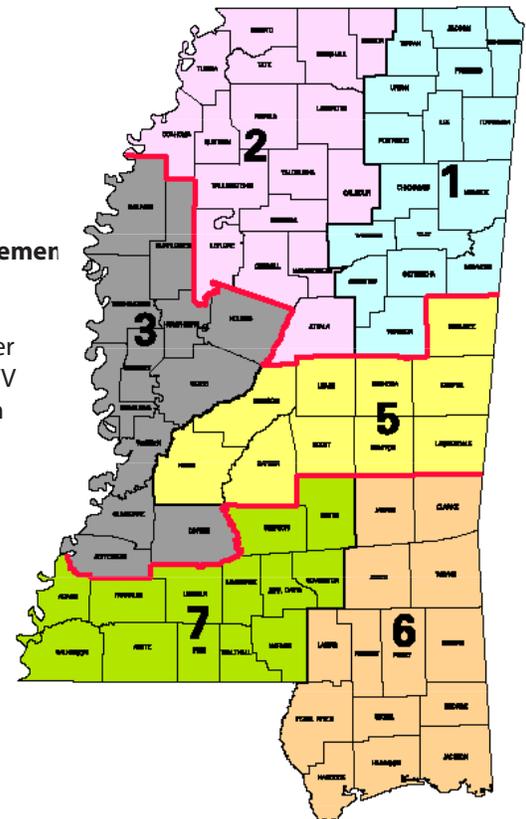
- Plans complete
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, HAR, CCTV and full coverage detection

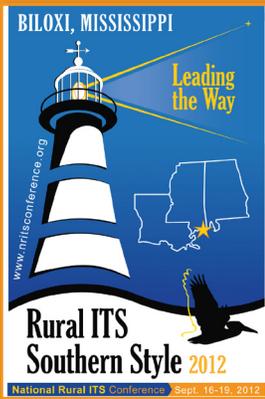
I-55 Hurricane Evacuation Project: Phase 1 McComb

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

Lick Skillet Rd. Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of Camera and Signals at Old SR 67 and SR 67 Bypass





Save the Date for the Upcoming Joint NRITS / GRITS Annual Meeting

As you may have heard, the Gulf Region ITS (GRITS) Chapter is hosting the 2012 National Rural ITS (NRITS) Conference September 16 - 19 in Biloxi, MS creating a hybrid event that will include the GRITS Annual Meeting. Registration will open soon. For more information, visit the GRITS website.

Do you know a member or organization with "True GRIT"? The True GRIT Annual Awards recognizes individuals and organizations for significant contributions made to the advancement of ITS in the gulf region. The deadline for submission is **July 13, 2012**. Award recipients will be recognized during the 2012 NRITS/GRITS Annual Meeting.

MDOT Completes Roadway Improvements Project in Laurel

The Mississippi Department of Transportation recently completed a highway improvements project in Laurel. The project aimed to improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Highway 15 and Highway 84, a segment of roadway known for a high rate of accidents.



The \$3.1 million project was awarded to Tanner Construction in September 2010. Traffic signals were upgraded at the intersection of Highway 15 and Highway 84, and an exclusive right turn lane was added between Congress Street South and the I-59 southbound off-ramp. Dual left turns were also added to both Highway 15 and Highway 84. ITS devices installed in the project include On Street Video Equipment (CCTV), Radar Detection System (RDS), Video Detection System (VDS) and fiber optic cable.

"The project is an effort to make the segment of roadway safer and easier to maneuver," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "Additionally, the improvements will prove beneficial for motorists during their daily commute and especially during hurricane evacuations, as I-59 serves as an evacuation route for Laurel."

MISSISSIPPI

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

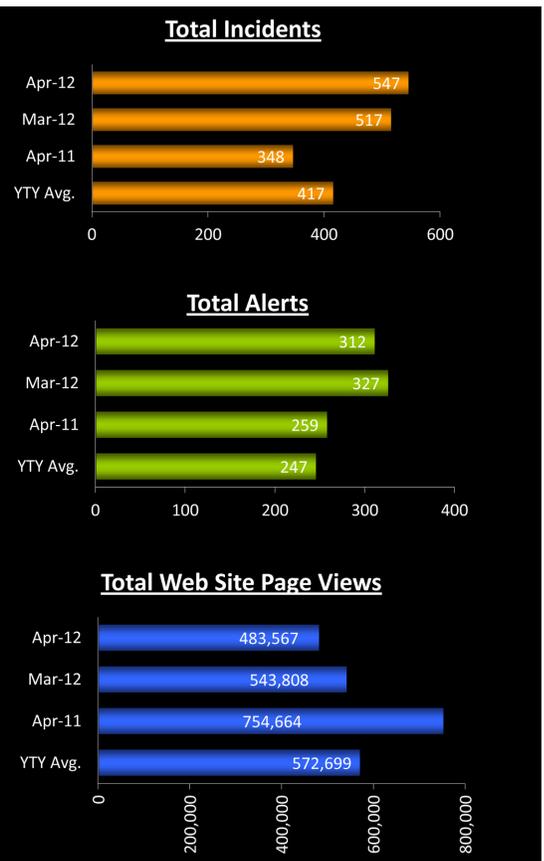
April 2012 Performance Measures



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

During the month of April we had a couple of very large containers transported across Mississippi roadways with the potential to significantly impact traveler safety and mobility. On April 5th and 6th a very large container was transported from Louisiana to an industrial plant in Yazoo City. As seen in the photos above, this transport spanned the entire two lanes of traffic on US 49 and caused moderate congestion along its route. The transport and its police escorts pulled over periodically to minimize congestion.

We managed a total of 547 incidents for the month including 16 incidents that resulted in a complete blockage of a major roadway. We experienced some moderately severe weather primarily during the first week of the month and issued 37 weather alerts in response.





Employee Spotlight

This quarter's Employee Spotlight is Joe Baggett, Manager of the Hattiesburg Regional Traffic Management Center. Baggett has been employed at the Regional TMC since February 28th, 2011. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the TMC as well as coordinating with the Statewide TMC to ensure operations appear seamless to the public. He also communicates, informs, and works with local emergency responders on how MDOT can assist during an incident to restore traffic capacity as safely and quickly as possible.

Prior to working for MDOT, Baggett had 25 years experience in customer service with an extensive career that started in the banking industry.

"We have been fortunate in the Hattiesburg Community with the support of MDOT staff in District 6 and the various Emergency Responder Agencies. It's a great opportunity to be involved in a growing industry such as ITS and be a part of daily operations in Hattiesburg," said Baggett.



Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: In what ways is the MDOT ITS program working to ensure ITS initiatives will be carried on into the next generation of transportation professionals?

Answer: MDOT ITS is taking advantage of the various forms or social media available to better reach younger generations. Interaction and open discussion is encouraged among students and those established in the field of ITS through facebook and twitter pages as well as the Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society (GRITS) website. Also, MDOT ITS contributes to GRITS initiative to actively promote membership to students. As part of the organization's educational outreach activities, scholarships and free training are offered to further education of ITS. Additionally, MDOT ITS and the Traffic Engineering Division partner with major universities on several research projects, which give graduate students the opportunity to work in ITS. I am finding more and more students are actively taking an interest in ITS. I am confident the mission and goals of ITS will continue to be carried out in the future.



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