

## AND THE WINNER IS . . . . . . THE MISSISSIPPI DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

On Monday, November 17, 2008, MDOT was awarded the Best of ITS Award for Innovative Practices at the ITS America Conference in New York City. Honored for work on rebuilding Hwy 90, MDOT received this reputable award for their innovative project 'Reconnecting Mississippi's Coastal Communities Through ITS.' MDOT was one of eight awarded for their outstanding contributions to the domestic ITS industry among 40 submittals received by the Best of Show committee.



*Pictured with the Best of ITS Award, MDOT and project partner representatives. From left to right: Rodney Chester (Gresham, Smith and Partners), Jeff Smith (Temple, Inc), Acey Roberts (MDOT), Mike Stokes (MDOT), Paul Misticawi (Econolite), Ranzy Whiticker (Gresham, Smith and Partners) and Marshall Elizer (Gresham, Smith and Partners)*

After Hurricane Katrina demolished much of US 90, MDOT set out to not only rebuild the roadway but to build it back better and more efficient than before. ITS elements were utilized in order to maximize service to residents and businesses along the corridor.

The HWY 90 project involved 54 interconnected signalized intersections, CCTV traffic cameras and video detection devices built as five separate construction projects along the 60 mile corridor that runs across six jurisdictions and two coastal counties with the ultimate goal of bringing all into a single, coordinated, advanced traffic management system with a traffic-responsive control system. The project utilized a broadband wireless network with 10 distribution stations atop existing frastructures, ch as water towers or tall buildings, which was more cost effective and practical than fiber-optic lines.

"Deploying ITS on any project would be a challenge, but having to build an integrated system for a corridor where entire sections of the roadway no longer existed presented a huge challenge," said Mike Stokes, MDOT's ITS Program Manager. "This project required creative problem solving and long-lasting partnerships with a group of engaged stakeholders who were committed to success."

The ITS America Conference was held in conjunction with the 15th annual ITS World Congress. Receiving this honor places Mississippi on the international ITS scene. This award shows that MDOT, being able to design and build a wireless system in a short amount of time that spans multiple counties, municipalities and jurisdictions, is innovative in its thinking and problem solving and is emerging as a leader in the industry.

"This award is a testament to our team that has worked so hard on this piece of the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast," said Wes Dean, MDOT State Traffic Engineer. "It is a great feeling to see these efforts recognized on an international level. We believe that this project will further enhance the rebuilding of the Coast by greatly increasing the mobility of motorists traveling U.S. 90 every day."

For more information on the U.S. 90 project and a list of Partner Agencies and Partner Firms please visit [www.mdothwy90.com](http://www.mdothwy90.com).



# MDOT'S 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual ITS Mississippi Forum Receives Outstanding Reviews

The Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) inaugural ITS Mississippi Forum in Choctaw, MS, August 5-7, 2008 was an extraordinary success.

The first ever event of this type in the State provided the nearly 200 attendees with useful and informative details on current and planned ITS projects, as well as state-of-the-practice presentations on ITS technology and applications. MDOT ITS projects as well as ITS projects planned by cities, counties and other municipalities throughout the state were also part of the forum program.

Post-forum "Thank You for Attending" emails with a link to an online survey were sent to all attendees to solicit feedback. Ninety-eight percent of respondents said that they would attend the ITS Mississippi Forum again — proving it to be a benefit to everyone involved.

Regarding the success of the forum and plans for the next, MDOT ITS Program Manager, Mike Stokes said, "The large turn-out and positive feedback is a testament to Mississippi's commitment to finding smarter ways of transportation for our residents and visitors to the State. We are eager for the next Forum and preparations are already underway to ensure it will be even stronger than the first one."

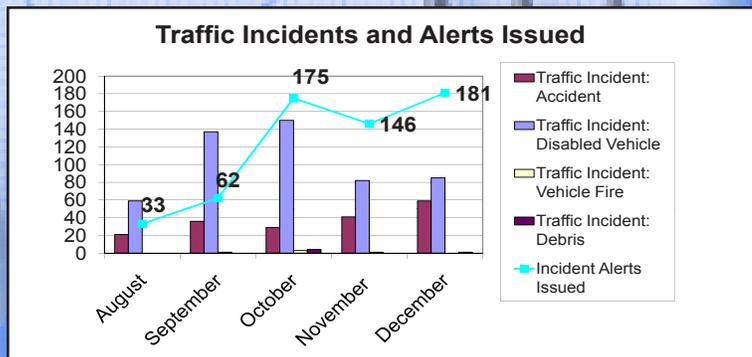
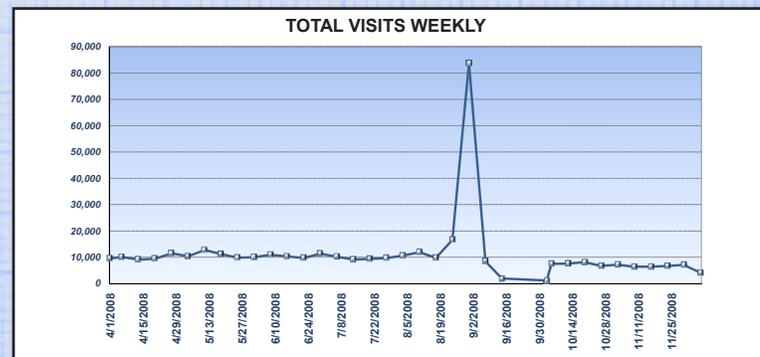
## Ask Mike

### Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

**Question:** With the limited Federal budget and economic downturn, how does spending on ITS provide a better value than other transportation projects?

**Answer:** ITS allows MDOT to operate existing highway infrastructure, that can not be expanded further due to budget and/or environmental constraints, more safely and efficiently.

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



# Current Projects

## Current & 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

### I-69 – Tunica, Coahoma County, and Boliver, MS

- Discussions occurring with the city
- Includes installation of fiber optic network, CCTV, side fire radar sensors and DMS signs

### I-269 Project

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

### I-55/Church Rd. Interchange

- Discussions occurring with DeSoto County Civic Center
- Includes installation of HAR, Radio and Beacons

### 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
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV and signal interconnections

### I-55 Expansion Project

- Plans nearing completion
- 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

- Ongoing discussions with the district
- Involves connecting traffic camera and traffic data collectors using existing T1 lines

### Jackson MS ITS Cameras and Fiber Project

- Under Construction
- Involves installation of traffic cameras and fiber optic cable network

### HWY 51 Signal and Fiber Installation Projects

- Construction Complete
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and signal interconnects

### Ridgeland ITS Project

- Construction Complete
- Involves fiber tie in allowing integration of the Reservoir and City of Ridgeland ITS System into Statewide TMC

### Jackson Metro Incident Management Project-Camera Additions

- Plans Submitted
- Includes installation of traffic cameras and fiber optic cable network near existing DMS signs

### Jackson Metro Incident Management Project

- Construction Complete
- Includes installation of 9 DMS and ITS components on I-20, I-55 and US-49

### HWY 98 Fiber and Signal Upgrades

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

### Hardy St Project

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

### US 49 @ SR 53 Project

- Plans in Development
- Includes installation of VDS for all approaches

### US 49 from O'Neal Rd. to Little Biloxi River

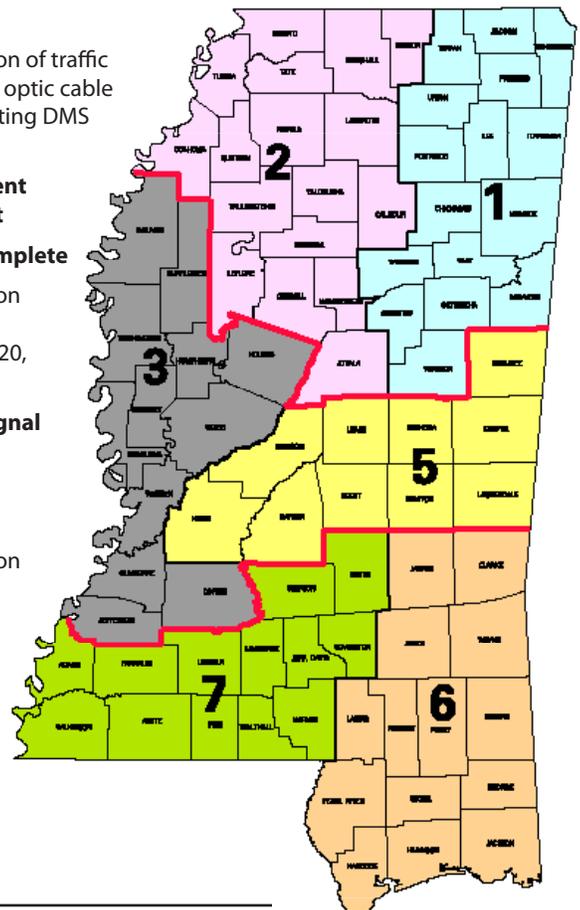
- Plans in Development
- Includes installation of fiber

### Hwy 90 Restoration Projects

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

### SR 601 @ I-10 Interchange Project

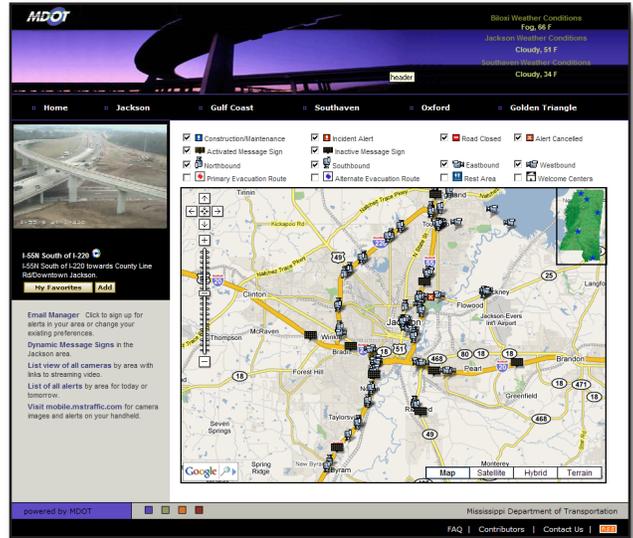
- Plans in development
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and installation of DMS, CCTV and VDS



# NEW TO MSTRAFFIC

MDOT has recently integrated new features to the MsTraffic website, [www.MsTraffic.com](http://www.MsTraffic.com), making it more efficient by providing a greater spectrum of services to visitors of the site. To the already easily navigable Google map interface, visitors are now capable of further customizing the site to suit their individual needs. The user-friendly interface allows patrons of the Website to choose which features or elements are displayed on the map by simply checking the corresponding boxes at the top of the screen. Users are easily able to show or hide the icons for Construction/Maintenance, Incident Alerts, Road Closures, Alerts Canceled, Activated DMS, Inactive DMS, northbound cameras, southbound cameras, eastbound cameras, westbound cameras, Primary Evacuation Routes, Alternate Evacuation Routes, Rest Areas and Welcome Centers.

Also new to the website is a page dedicated to all nine Dynamic Message Signs in the Jackson area. Visitors to the page can



**Jackson Area Dynamic Message Signs**

Dynamic Message Signs are in 9 key locations traveling into the Jackson area. These signs will display real-time travel information regarding traffic incidents, construction work zones, and road and lane closures.

**I-20 Eastbound Approaching Stack**  
I-20 Eastbound between I-220 and Ellis Ave

**ACCIDENT**  
AT HWY 80 EX 56  
ALL LANES BLOCKED

Last Post: 01/20/09 06:59A

**I-20 Eastbound Approaching I-220**  
Eastbound on I-20 between Springridge Rd and MS 18

**ACCIDENT**  
AT HWY 80 EX 56  
ALL LANES BLOCKED

Last Post: 01/20/09 06:59A

**I-55 Meadowbrook**  
Southbound on I-55 between Meadowbrook Rd and Lakeland Dr

**ALL LANES BLOCKED**  
ON I-20 EB  
AT HWY 80 EX 56

Last Post: 01/20/09 07:00A

**I-55S Approaching I-20 Interchange**  
Northbound on I-55 between Daniel Lake and McDowell Rd

**ALL LANES BLOCKED**  
ON I-20 EB  
AT HWY 80 EX 56

Last Post: 01/20/09 07:00A

**US 49 South in Richland**  
Northbound on US 49 between Lowe Circle and McBride St approaching the Stack

**ALL LANES BLOCKED**  
ON I-20 EB  
AT HWY 80 EX 56

view what, if any, messages the signs are displaying and plan their trip accordingly to avoid congestion before entering the roadway network. The nine DMS, located in key areas in the Jackson Metro Area, display real-time travel information regarding traffic incidents, major traffic delays, evacuation information, Amber Alerts, construction work zones and road and lane closures.

In addition to these features, MsTraffic.com provides motorists with real-time alerts and camera views of the Jackson, Gulf Coast, Southaven, Oxford and the Golden Triangle areas allowing drivers to stay up-to-date on traffic conditions. Guests of the site can sign up to receive email alerts or text messages on his or her mobile device by county, region and type of alert.

## - MDOT ITS MISSION STATEMENT -

It is the Mission of the Mississippi Department of Transportation to use ITS technologies to improve the quality of life for State residents and visitors by providing more reliable, informative, safer, and flexible passenger and freight multi-modal transportation services.