

To ensure the operational status of MDOT's Intelligent Transportation and State Traffic Signal Systems, MDOT is seeking a contractor to provide ITS and Signal Maintenance. A Request for proposals for a Professional Services Contract to provide these services will be advertised in the coming months.

The contract requires the contractor to provide all necessary equipment to perform maintenance activities, as well as dedicated staff to the department's ITS group. The scope of work includes providing maintenance on a work order basis with defined levels and performance criteria that the contractor will be required to meet. The selected contractor will work closely with the Statewide ITS Integrator Team as they provide direction and guidance on ITS operational and maintenance activities.

The contractor will be required to conduct site inspections, develop repair plans, provide cost estimates, create maintenance and testing plans, and perform recommended component upgrades for ITS Field Devices including, but not limited to, traffic cameras, video detection devices, dynamic message signs, data collectors, traffic signal systems and components, OTN nodes, communication interfaces, and other tasks as required by MDOT. The contractor shall provide assistance in installing and maintaining ITS Field Devices and provide input on system integrations and upgrades in MDOT Traffic Management Center(s) (TMCs) and/or Traffic Operations Center(s) (TOCs). The contractor is also required to provide technical assistance and training as needed to assure system functionality as required by MDOT.

Work orders will be assigned, managed, tracked and reported via a MDOT trouble ticket system. Detailed submission guidelines and requirements will be outlined in the RFP, scheduled to be available in the coming months.

NEWSLETTER

The Results Are in: msTraffic.com Survey Leads to New Enhancements for Users

With the goal of providing improved service and more route-specific traffic information to the public, MDOT has updated msTraffic.com, allowing users to subscribe to receive traffic alerts tailored to their specific needs.

The new features include:

- Alerts specific to the user's commute by route, hot-spot, or area
- Alerts specific to the user's commute by days of the week or time of day
- Alert features that may be set for multiple commutes
- A user console, which allows the user to manage commutes, load a default home map which shows specific alert information, and view saved favorite cameras.

Previous features were more general in nature and allowed users to select to receive alerts by county and to designate which types of alerts to receive, such as incidents, maintenance and construction, special events and emergencies. With the addition of these new features, coupled with the existing options,

users will experience a new level of customization, giving them the ability to better plan and manage their travels and avoid incidents and trouble spots.

The modifications follow from MDOT's recent msTraffic.com user survey, which was sent out to all msTraffic.com alert subscribers, as well as all MDOT employees, subscribers and non-subscribers. The survey was developed in an effort to

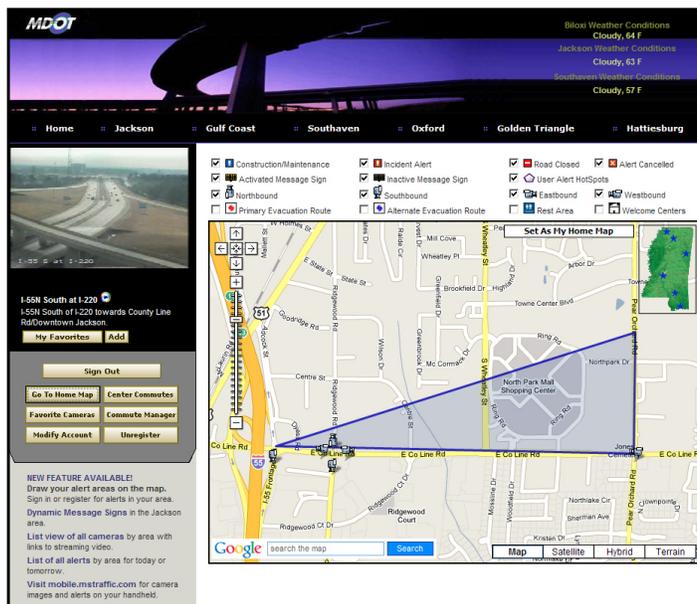


Image from msTraffic website showing polygon of user's commute.

MDOT Operations Contract Awarded to URS



Statewide Traffic Management Center in Jackson, MS Operations room

URS, along with subconsultant Thompson Engineering, was recently selected to provide operations staff and support for the MDOT Statewide Traffic Management Centers (TMC) in Jackson and other regional TMCs as needed. The contract is a three year contract with options for renewals. It requires the consultant to provide project management, staffing, training, performance reporting, operations manual development and emergency operations.

The following TMC functions will be required under the contract: incident management, emergency management operations, special events management, and traveler information dissemination, coordination with local agencies and associated notifications and reporting.

Responsibilities will also include providing and hiring, training and supervising TMC staff and ensuring the operational goals of each TMC are met. URS will work closely with the MDOT ITS Integrator Team to achieve these specific goals as well as those of the overarching program.

The contract will enable MDOT to continue to operate its expanding ITS system which provides travelers with real-time traffic information and supports incident management and improvements to highway safety. TMC operators will be provided to support the current and future operating hours at the statewide and regional TMCs. The contract also requires operational maintenance staff be provided to manage initial troubleshooting and repair of both TMC and field equipment.



Statewide Traffic Management Center in Jackson, MS

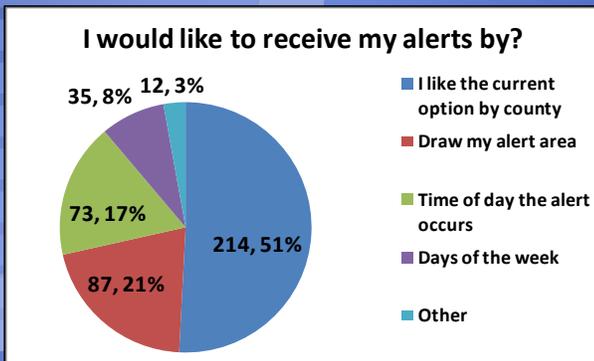
A Look Back at the First Annual GRITS Meeting

Drawing over 200 participants from Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, the first Gulf Region ITS Chapter Meeting which took place November 17-19 in Biloxi, MS, was a great success. To see more event photos and view presentations, go to <http://www.gulfregionits.org>

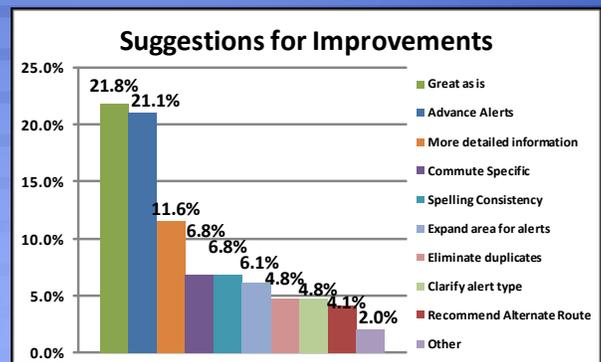


gain knowledge on the public's use of msTraffic.com and where improvements could be made. "We wanted to get a real feel for how folks were using the site and how we could improve it," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "The results revealed some areas where we could improve, and through these efforts and some enhanced internal procedures, that is what we are doing."

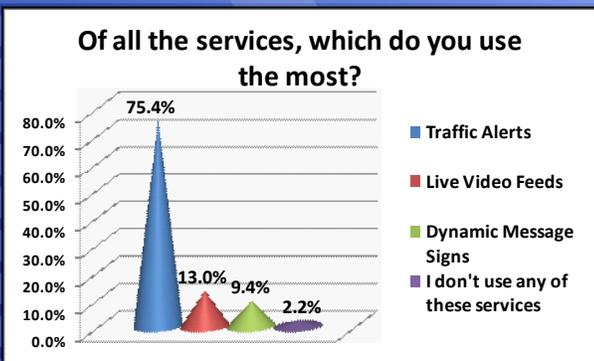
The survey asked users how they received alerts, how alerts and msTraffic could be improved, what services they found most useful, and what types of alerts they wanted to receive more or less of. Below are results from a few of the survey questions as well as some user comments:



"Your information has the potential to advise of any situations which may effect our students, parents, teachers or workers as they travel to and from school. I keep an eye on the alerts as the come in during the day. Most of the situations don't have the potential of creating a direct problem for us, but we prefer to stay informed."

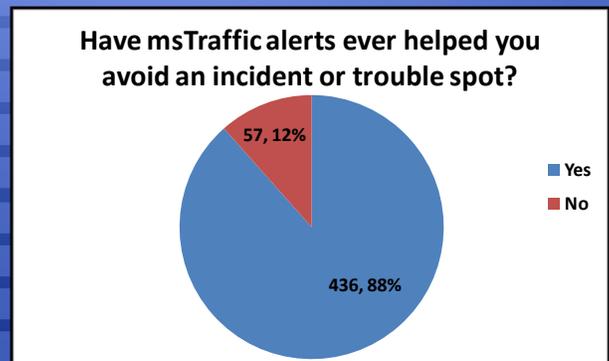


"I am a Log Truck Dispatcher, and we have GPS on all of our trucks. The alerts are very helpful. I can change truckers' routes when needed."

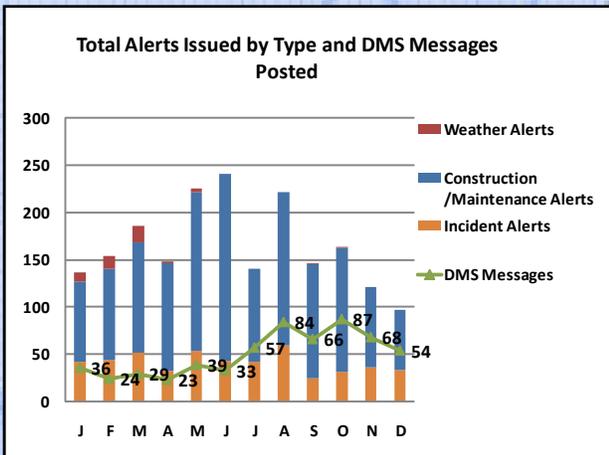
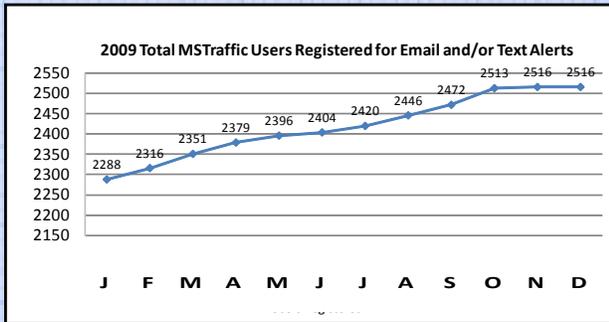


The alerts and the traffic cameras are a wonderful tool. Many times I have had to decide a different route home in the evening rather than being stuck in traffic."

"I would like to see a feature added that would allow me to to select and receive alerts specific to my actual route--for instance, if the site were linked to google maps, I could enter my driving route from home to work and receive updates to my work email address that would include alerts for those specific areas only. That would be a big help."



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



Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: With the Southaven Incident Management Project nearing completion, can you give us an update on where MDOT stands on providing operations to the Southaven area and any plans for the future?

Answer: Yes, the Southaven Project recently entered it's burn in phase and we will begin testing the newly installed DMS sign very soon. Under the recently awarded operations contract we will bring in 1 full time operator that will work Monday through Friday from 6AM to 3PM at the Northwest Regional TMC in Southaven. Operations staff there and at the Statewide TMC, in the off hours, will be responsible for monitoring the CCTV camera feeds, operating the DMS, entering incident alerts and working with our incident management partners in the area. In addition, we have been coordinating closely with the Memphis TMC and will work with them to put up messages regarding delays or incidents in Tennessee for Mississippi commuters. In the future, we also hope to add a sign on I-55 southbound to display additional information for travelers headed south in Mississippi.