

Burn-In for Two ITS Projects in Hattiesburg Underway

Hattiesburg residents and visitors will soon have increased access to accurate, up-to-date travel information as two MDOT ITS projects in Hattiesburg are currently in the construction burn-in phase.

The first project, which included the installation of fiber optic cable along 49 from Hardy St. to Elks Lake Road, Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) and signal interconnects, started burn-in several months ago, and work is ongoing to test camera communications and control. The six month burn-in for the larger of the two projects, the Hattiesburg Incident Management/ Hurricane



DMS located I-59 NB south of US98

Response Project, began this past December. This project includes fiber, CCTV, vehicle detection systems, Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) and Highway Advisory Radio systems (HAR). This project marks the first Highway Advisory Radio system to be deployed by MDOT and the first Dynamic Message Signs for the Hattiesburg area.

Testing of the signs and radios is currently underway, as well as communications and control of the other ITS devices. In addition, operational procedures for the area are also being refined. In preparation for the completion of these projects, State-wide Traffic Management Center Manager John Gilligan, and the new Hattiesburg Regional TMC Manager, Joe Baggett, have been hard at work defining and refining operational procedures and response plans for the area. "We have worked hard to prepare for starting operations in the area. During the burn-in period, motorists can expect to see messages on the DMS signs and occasional announcements on the HAR. Live operations of the center will occur from the Hattiesburg Regional TMC at MDOT District six headquarters, and training will soon be underway for the the operators that will staff the center," explained Mr. Baggett.



Highway Advisory Radio

For more information on this project visit the MDOT Press Release webpage or the MDOT ITS webpage on the GoMDOT website.

MDOT Receives Safety Award

The MDOT Traffic Engineering Division received the 2010 International Road Federation's Global Road Achievement Award for Safety for the msTraffic/MED-COM Project: Saving Lives Through Innovative Partnerships.



The msTraffic/MED-COM project is the integration of travel information resources of the state-wide msTraffic network with the state-wide medical emergency response system, Mississippi MED-COM. The unique partnership provides an invaluable resource in delivering medical emergency services to the public.

The International Road Federation's Global Road Achievement Awards (GRAA) program is a competition to honor and recognize road-industry projects that demonstrate excellence and innovation in road development worldwide. The Safety category award recipients are those who demonstrate significant contributions to improving road safety by devising concepts, products, processes and/or systems in relation to road infrastructure, road/vehicle interaction or driver behavior.

A short video highlighting the project was presented at the IRF Awards Banquet held on January 25 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

For more information on the msTraffic/MED-COM project or to view the video presented at the awards ceremony, visit The MDOT ITS Webpage on the GoMDOT website.

MDOT Planning to Test Smart Work-Zone System on I-55 Expansion Project

For several months MDOT has been engaged in developing pilot specs to implement and test a small smart work zone system on the upcoming I-55 expansion project. The system, which is anticipated to include portable traffic sensors, web-based control software and portable changeable message signs, is being purposed to create a safer environment for highway workers and motorists.



The MDOT smart work zone system will be used to monitor traffic conditions in advance of and through the work zone, automatically update portable changeable message signs advising motorists of changing conditions, alert MDOT of traffic issues in the work zone, and gather performance data.

By providing advanced traffic condition information at key decision points, motorists will have the option to choose an alternate route and avoid any delay. Smart work zones can improve the safety and efficiency of traffic operations and highway work as well as reduce fuel wasted in traffic backups caused by construction activity.

It is anticipated that the I-55 expansion project will be advertised in the coming months with the smart work zone system. The large roadway project, including additional frontage roads and interchanges, will also extend the ITS communications and infrastructure approximately 3.5 miles from I-55 at County Line Road to the SR 463 interchange in Madison County. Dynamic Message Signs, Cameras and Vehicle Detection systems are also to be installed. All will be controlled from the Statewide TMC in Jackson, MS.

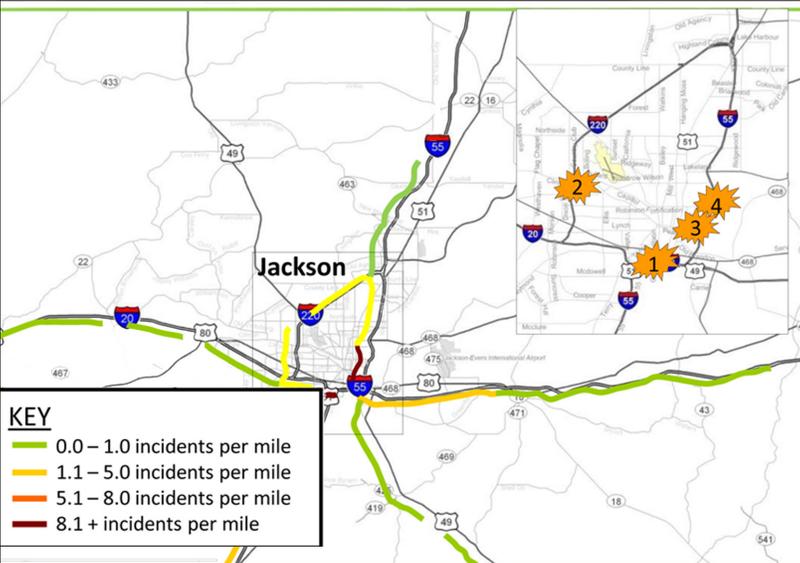
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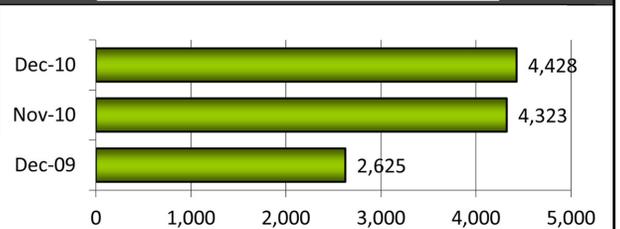
December 2010 Performance Measures



TMC Managed Incidents Per Mile



Total Registered Alert Users



This month 123 new users registered to receive alerts.

This month 18 existing users unregistered.

Incident Hot Spots

Rank	Location (Direction Freeway @ Cross Street)	# of Incidents
1	EB I-20 @ Gallatin/ State St.	11
2	SB I-220 @ Hwy 49 / Medgar Evers	10
3	NB I-55 @ Pearl St	10
4	NB I-55 @ Fortification St	9
5	SB I-55 @ Hwy 25 / Lakeland Dr	8
6	SB I-55 @ Pearl St.	8
7	NB I-220 @ Hwy 49/Medgar Evers Blvd	8
8	NB I-55 @ Savannah St	7
9	EB I-20 @ Hwy 49S	6
10	WB I-20 @ Ellis Ave.	6

Note: Highlighted locations are mapped based on # of Incidents.

GRITS Annual Meeting Recap

The 2010 GRITS Meeting was held November 16th - 18th at the Hilton Capitol Center in Baton Rouge, LA. Over 200 participants from Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and surrounding states were in attendance for the second annual Gulf Region ITS Chapter Meeting. To see more event photos, attendance lists and full survey results, visit the Gulf Region ITS website.

"Perhaps the speakers and moderators can remind the attendees that they should take advantage of the exhibits. It may be the only time they get a chance to see all of the latest ITS gear in one place."

"This has quickly become one of the most relevant meetings enabling great information and mind share with excellent networking events throughout the entire event."

"Technical sessions could have stretched over two days."



Mark your Calendars for the 2011 GRITS Meeting November 2-4, 2011 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, AL.

Operations and Maintenance Staff Respond to Ice Storm

A seasonably rare ice storm hit the southeast in early January causing freezing rain to accumulate on bridges and overpasses making hazardous driving conditions for motorists in northern and central Mississippi. In preparation for the wintry weather conditions, the Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC) implemented emergency operations from 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 9 until 6 a.m. on Monday, January 10.

In addition to expanded TMC operations, a temporary video sharing agreement was granted to the local Fox News affiliate. ITS Specialists and Maintenance staff coordinated with the local television station to provide live video streams from the DOT cameras, which then were broadcast during the channel's weather reporting throughout the weekend.

According to John Gilligan, Statewide TMC Manager, there were 102 traffic alerts sent out between Sunday and Monday in response to the winter storm, and emergency messages were placed on all DMS in Jackson and Southaven warning motorists of the icy conditions. "We coordinated with MDOT maintenance crews in the Jackson metro area to identify areas in need of de-icing and coordinated with emergency responders on numerous accidents," said Gilligan. "Information sharing among districts also allowed us to better serve the area and distribute road conditions to motorists in a timely manner helping to ensure safe travel."

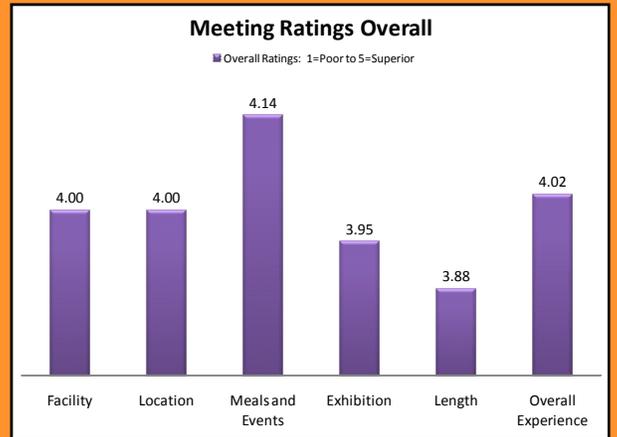
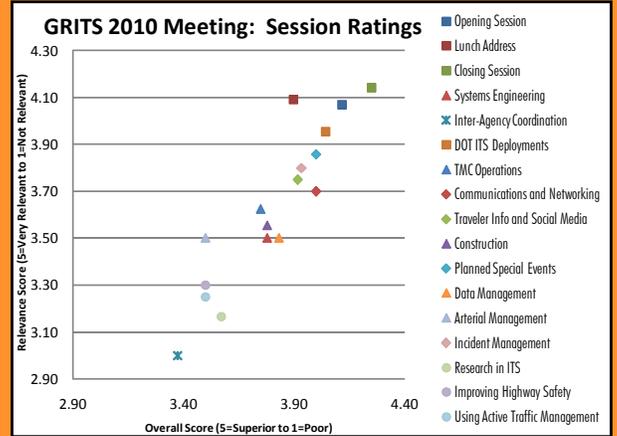
Ask Mike

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

**Do you have a question
for Mike ?**

**Email them to us at
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ms.us***

SURVEY SAYS



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