

MDOT Set to Publish ITS Design Manual

To ensure more uniformity in the design and implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects throughout the state, The Mississippi Department of Transportation will soon publish an ITS Design Manual.

The ITS Design Manual is intended to guide engineers through the development of a suitable design concept, plans and specifications for Mississippi ITS projects, including projects executed by MDOT or other jurisdictions in the State. Following the development of the concept and project Systems Engineering Analysis, this manual provides details for the next step in the design process - project plan development and detailed design.

To aid engineers, the manual provides uniform guidelines and design criteria for ITS elements implemented on Mississippi's urban and rural freeways, urban arterials, and rural roadways. The manual is structured to provide guidance on the following elements, typically included in ITS design: Electrical Power Location, Fiber Optic Communications Infrastructure, Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) System, Radar Detection System (RDS), Video Detection System (VDS), Road Weather Information System (RWIS), Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), Communications HUT Building and Equipment, Transportation Management Center (TMC) and equipment.

"Our intention for the design manual is to provide those less familiar with ITS and the standards we use here in Mississippi with consistent design guidance. By doing so, the deployments and systems are interoperable



and we are implementing projects that are cost-effective and efficient," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager.

The design manual also includes several appendices containing ITS standard drawings, typical ITS plan sheets, the latest special provisions for ITS elements and example notice to bidder documents. There is also an appendix for typical plan sheet label formats as

well as guidance on implementing Smart Work Zones.

The MDOT ITS Design Manual and its appendices will be available in the near future on the MDOT ITS webpage on www.gomdot.com.

RWIS Featured at GRITS Regional Workshop Meeting

The Gulf Region ITS (GRITS) chapter hosted a Workshop Regional Meeting on April 28 in Batesville, MS at the MDOT District 2 Headquarters Auditorium. Participants from the region, and neighboring states of Arkansas and Tennessee, were provided the opportunity to expand their knowledge in Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) and Winter Storm Response through professional development presentations and vendor demonstrations.

RWIS is a network of meteorological and pavement monitoring sensors located along the highway system. RWIS stations are placed in strategic locations to provide accurate real-time road weather information. North Mississippi and areas of Tennessee and Arkansas are notable for experiencing severe winter storms that impact travel and cause spikes in crashes and secondary incidents. RWIS allows agencies to receive weather information that is relevant to the road network and communicate it to the traveling public, thereby minimizing exposure to hazardous weather-related roadway conditions.

The meeting commenced with a welcome message that included an update on the GRITS chapter and highlighted recent news and upcoming events. Several informative presentations were then given throughout the morning. Joe Holt, transportation manager for the Tennessee Department of Transportation, presented "DOT 2011 Winter Storm Response." Frank Gutierrez, sales manager for High Sierra Electronics, presented "Specialized/Site Specific RWIS vs. full RWIS Implementation." Daniel C. Boop, program manager for VAISALA, presented "Winter Weather Response Strategies."

- "RWIS" continued on page 4

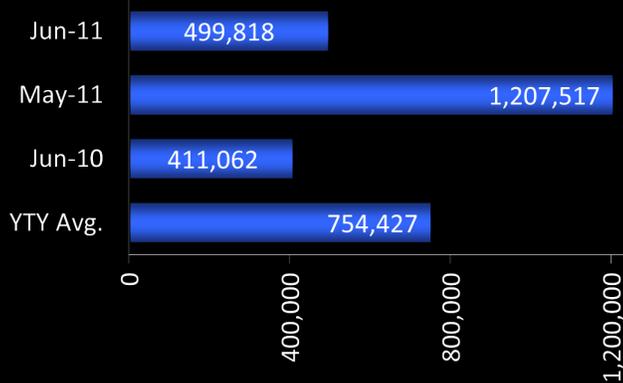
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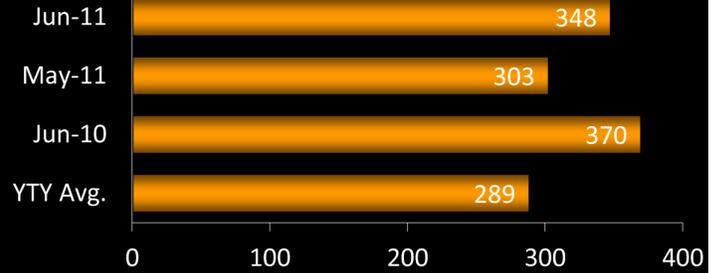
June 2011 Performance Measures



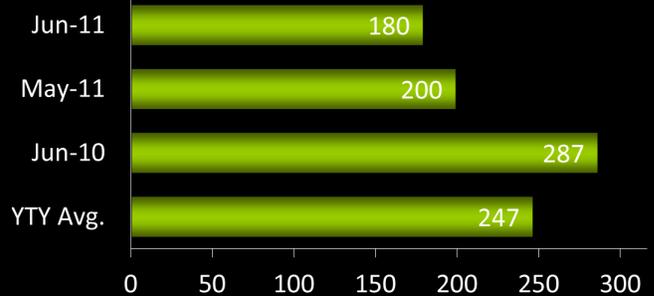
Total Web Site Page Views



Total Incidents



Total Alerts



Employee Spotlight

This quarter's Employee Spotlight is Abigail Redmond. She is a Senior Operator at the Statewide Traffic Management Center. Abigail has been employed at the Statewide Traffic Management Center since April 2008. She graduated from Grambling State University in 1986 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

"During her time as Senior Operator, Abigail has distinguished herself through her dependability and attention to detail," said John Gilligan, TMC Operations Manager. "Her knowledge of the TMC's systems and procedures is unsurpassed. As a result, Abigail is depended upon to train new personnel on details surrounding the systems and procedures. Additionally, she assumes a quality assurance role, which involves ensuring procedures are being followed correctly by auditing work products, identifying shortcomings and addressing them through training programs.

"Being one of the first operators hired at the TMC and approaching the new project was challenging and exciting all at the same time," said Abigail. "Working together with others to develop the appropriate operating procedures that would best serve motorists has been a rewarding process. At the same time, by cooperating with other TIM agencies, such as law enforcement, we are able to keep roadways clear and motorists moving forward."

In her spare time, Abigail enjoys relaxing, golfing and barbecuing.



Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Director

Question: Was MDOT using ITS during the recent Mississippi River flooding?

Answer: Yes, In April and May, Mississippi experienced record level flood waters, and as a result, several roadways and highways were impacted. We informed motorists of road closures via msTraffic.com alerts and DMS messages. We used our cameras at the Mississippi river bridge in Natchez to monitor flood waters and were able to share these streams with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as well as MEMA. This proved especially helpful during the flooding as the public, including our neighbors in Louisiana, were able to monitor the rising water levels.

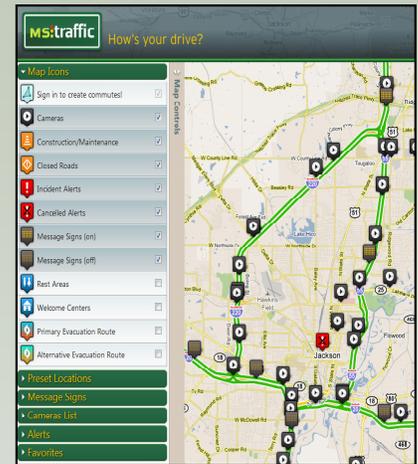


How's your drive?

How's Your Drive? - msTraffic.com Gets a Face Lift

In order to provide Mississippi residents with a more user-friendly web experience, many changes have been made to **msTraffic.com** over the recent months. The new-and-improved website boasts enhanced site functionality and streamlined appearance.

msTraffic.com now features an updated interface and added tools that allow users to fully customize their site experience. Live-streaming video and Google maps with traffic overlays showing travel speeds across the state are now prominently displayed on the home page. When clicking on the map's icons, users see live camera views and other helpful information in a pop-up window. The camera popup window now allows users to play the live stream and switch between the directional views available at that location. Navigation is now effortless with the use of an accordion-style menu bar with map legend icons that may be turned on or off, easy navigation to preset locations and hot spots, message signs, camera lists, alerts by area, and favorites.



Screenshot of new navigation menu

Registered **msTraffic.com** users may set zoom levels for the home map they wish to see, select favorite cameras and personalize their alerts through the "My Commute" feature. The "My Commute" feature allows users to draw personalized areas directly on the map from which to receive alerts. They may include details such as days of the week and times they want to receive alerts as well as the type of alerts they want to receive. The feature allows users to create any number of personalized commutes, giving them full customization capabilities and control.

In the event of an emergency event or Amber Alert, information will be clearly displayed on the main page in a scrolling banner. This banner may be clicked to show additional details. Also, in an effort to increase accessibility to travel information, the **msTraffic.com** website interfaces with several social networking mediums, including the MDOT Facebook Page, MDOT Twitter feeds, and the MDOT RSS feed.

Another significant enhancement to **msTraffic.com** is the first-responders' section. In order to better serve emergency first-responders throughout the state, an exclusive area of the website has been dedicated to assisting them in managing traffic incidents, specifically those involving accidents. The new site provides operating partners with the ability to log in and view high-resolution real-time streaming video of all the state's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) traffic cameras. They may view the latest alerts and any additional details that are logged by Traffic Management Center (TMC) staff. They have the ability to set a mock video wall, similar to the video wall viewed by operators in

the Statewide and regional Traffic Management Centers (TMC). Using a laptop, internet-accessible tablet PC or handheld PDA, first-responders are able to view streaming video live in their vehicles and at the scene. Additionally, responders will be able to relay important emerging information back to the TMC with a special site feature. The accessibility of the site to emergency first-responders allows them to better prepare for arrival to the scene of an accident, thereby increasing transportation safety and mobility during crucial times.

"Our efforts to facilitate improved efficiency for departments and agencies during times of need are critical



Screenshot of First Responder's site

to increasing the probability of saving lives during a traffic incident," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "Coupled with the new and enhanced user-friendly features of the main site, **msTraffic.com** now provides improved services for all groups."

- "RWIS" continued

Lunch was sponsored by Delcan, and a demonstration was also given by the company during lunch. Workshop participants received two Professional Development Hours (PDH). Following the workshop, a GRITS board meeting was held.

The Batesville workshop was the first of a series of a regional workshops to be hosted by GRITS. Each year two regional workshops will be in the non-host states of the upcoming annual GRITS meeting. The next regional meeting will be held August 18 in New Orleans, LA, at the LA DOTD New Orleans TMC and will focus on ITS in Work Zones. All members of the GRITS community as well as any individual interested in GRITS or ITS in Work Zones is invited to attend. Also, now is the time to make plans to attend this year's annual meeting, which will be held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa in Montgomery, AL, November 2-4. To learn more, visit the GRITS website.

Mark your Calenders! Upcoming Events

August

- The GRITS Summer Regional Workshop: ITS in Work Zones will be held Thursday, August 18 from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM at the LA DOTD New Orleans Regional TMC in New Orleans, LA. Attendees can receive 2 PDH credits.
- The National Rural ITS Conference and ITS Rocky Mountain Annual Meeting will be held August 28 - 31 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

October

- The ITS World Congress and ITSA Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held at the Orange County Convention center in Orlando, Florida.

November

- The Annual GRITS meeting will be held November 2 - 4 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama



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