



MDOT Releases RFP for TIGER 3 MSRITS Project

The Mississippi Department of Transportation has advertised a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design of the Mississippi River Bridges: Incident Management, Freight Movement, and Security project. The selected consultant will be responsible for the design of an integrated system of ITS applications and technologies, including advanced technologies for highway and river monitoring at four rural highway crossings of the Mississippi River. The following locations will be included:

- *Helena Bridge (U.S. Highway 49) in Coahoma County, Miss., and Phillips, Ark.;*
- *Greenville Bridge (U.S. Highway 82) in Washington County, Miss., and Chicot County, Ark.;*
- *Vicksburg Bridge (Interstate 20) in Warren County, Miss., and Madison Parish, La.;*
- *Natchez-Vidalia Bridge (U.S. Highway 84) in Adams County, Miss., and Concordia, La.*

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, Video Detection Systems (VDS), Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), fiber optic communications, Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) and Real Time River Current (RTRC) data sensors are planned for this project to monitor roadway and river traffic. The devices will be strategically installed at the eastbound and westbound approaches of the bridges and along detour routes to inform motorists, commercial operators, and maritime carriers of critical travel conditions.

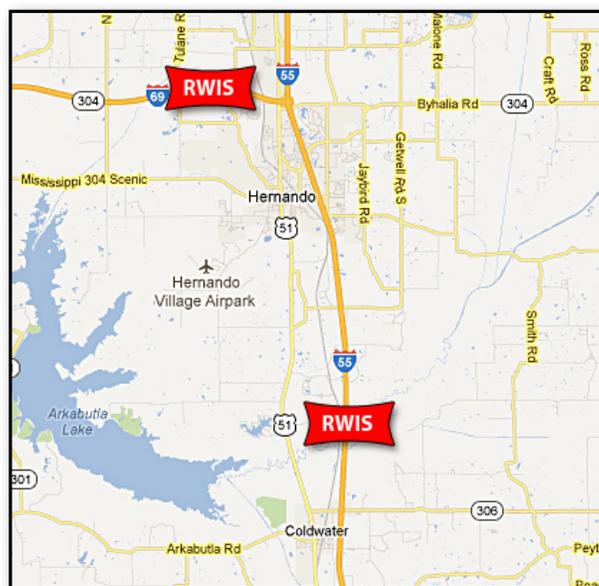
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RWIS Stations To Be Installed In North Mississippi

Motorists in north Mississippi will soon experience a safer winter driving environment with the installation of two Road Weather Information System (RWIS) stations at key locations in the region.

Lewis Electric has been selected to install RWIS stations at two bridge sites: I-69 at Hurricane Creek Bridge and I-55 at the Coldwater River Bridge. The RWIS will monitor, report, and forecast roadway-related weather conditions using a combination of sensors measuring environmental information such as ice, rain, and other elements that adversely affect driving conditions. The data collected will allow traffic management operators to apply proactive maintenance practices during times when inclement weather is probable. Additional ITS devices that will be installed as part of the project include Radar Detection Systems (RDS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), and traffic signal conduit.

"The RWIS project allows us to deliver a higher level of public service to motorists traveling in the northern region of the state," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager.



"The RWIS stations will also help us improve MDOT's maintenance and emergency operations and provide safer roadways. They will warn travelers of hazardous driving conditions so they can make better decisions about where and when to travel."

Construction of the project will begin this fall and is expected to be completed by next summer.

GRITS Hosts 2012 NRITS Conference

The fourth annual GRITS meeting will reach new heights as the chapter will also host this year's National Rural ITS conference. The joint meeting will be held September 16 – 20 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi and will include attendees from not only the gulf region, but all across the country.

The three-day event will be filled with many opportunities for participants to learn, network, and have fun while experiencing ITS "Southern Style." As always, a series of sessions will be offered featuring informative presentations and challenging discussions. A mix of Transit Track, GRITS Track, and general ITS Track sessions will be offered. Industry experts will share best practices, lessons learned and new strategies to ensure further success of ITS. In addition, training and professional tours will be available to provide participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively plan and deploy ITS technologies in their own jurisdictions. Of course, the conference would not be complete without some networking activities. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience southern hospitality at its finest with a variety of activities unique to the gulf coast.

We hope that you will join us for this year's dual conference. To view the program in its entirety and to register, visit the meeting website: <http://www.nritsconference.org>



Current Agenda Overview - Schedule and sessions are subject to change.

Sunday, September 16

A GRITS board meeting will occur in the afternoon. A poolside opening reception will kick off the conference at the Beau Rivage that evening. Hors d'oeuvres and regional dishes will be served, and a cash bar will be available.

Monday, September 17

An opening session will be held Monday morning followed by an ITS information assembly/vendor show. The vendor show, featuring one of the largest collections of ITS technologies under one roof, will occur throughout the day. After lunch, the first round of concurrent sessions will begin. Participants can choose to attend one of the following:

- ◆ *Lessons Learned: Responding to National Disasters* ◆ *GRITS Region State-of-the-State*
- ◆ *Multi-Agency Collaboration: Leveraging Resources & Improving Services for the Traveling Public*
- ◆ *CVO: Improved Operations Equates to an Improved Economy* ◆ *RWIS: Continued Evolution to Meet Needs*

After a brief break, the second round of concurrent sessions will commence. Participants can choose to attend one of the following:

- ◆ *Rural ITS Safety Initiatives: The Next Generation* ◆ *Adaptive Systems or Applications in Traffic Management* ◆ *Strategies & Outlook for ITS Financing* ◆ *Commercial Vehicle Operations: WIM* ◆ *Need to Talk? Solutions to Communication Problems in Remote Areas*

During the evening, attendees are invited to a tour of the famed Walter Anderson Museum and southern-style buffet or dinner and a sunset cruise aboard the Gulf Island.

Tuesday, September 18

The vendor show will again occur throughout the day. A Rural SIG meeting is scheduled for the afternoon. Sessions will begin Tuesday morning and continue until early afternoon. ITS America is pleased to invite emergency responders dressed in uniform to attend a FREE Incident and Emergency Responder Program during the conference with special networking and professional activities as well as educational workshop sessions focusing on Emergency Response/ Incident Management and Emerging Emergency Responder Technologies. The first round of sessions includes:

- ◆ *Emergency Responder Day Opening Session: Discussion of Emerging Topics in the Field of Incident Management and Emergency Response* ◆ *Smarter Workzones* ◆ *511 & Traveler Information Systems* ◆ *Status & Applications of Connected Vehicle Technology*

The second round of sessions will begin after a brief break. They include:

- ◆ *Emergency Responder Days – Real-Time Applications for Emergency & Traffic Incident Management*
- ◆ *Improving Highway Safety with ITS* ◆ *Innovative Approaches to Rural Traffic Management*
- ◆ *Culture Changes Within State DOTs: Shifting to an Operations Paradigm*

Following lunch, the third round of sessions will start including:

- ◆ *Rural and Emergency Response Initiatives from US DOT and the Transportation Safety Advancement Group (TSAG)*
- ◆ *What is Good TIMS* ◆ *Leadership Development: Managing Your Staff for Success* ◆ *Connected Vehicle Safety Initiatives*

Attendees also have the option of touring the Mobile Traffic Management Center for a look at real-time traffic operations or joining in some "coastal" activities for afternoon fun. Choices include kayaking, deep sea fishing, or a Biloxi historical tour.

Wednesday, September 19

Participants can attend a half-day course titled Introduction to ICM Deployment, or one of the following regular sessions:

- ◆ *Reporting to the National Transit Database (training)* ◆ *Rural Transit Applications in Connected Vehicles* ◆ *Vendor Technology Session – Cutting Edge Technology for Your Needs (Parts A & B)* ◆ *Smart Vehicles, Smart Roads - What does the Future Hold?*

After lunch, an ice cream social will bring the main conference to a close. During the afternoon, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a four-man golf scramble. Additional educational opportunities include a technical session: *Transit's Use of Social Media* followed by a tour of the Coast Transit Authority. An ENTERPRISE meeting will also take place on Wednesday afternoon and continue through Thursday. Attendees will share experiences and strategies for advancing the program's initiatives.

Thursday, September 20

After the close of the conference, the United States Department of Transportation ITS Joint Program Office will hold a workshop on Community Transportation Coordination for individuals interested in coordinating community transportation services utilizing ITS, especially in rural communities.



-“MDOT Releases RFP for MSRITS project” continued

“The Mississippi River Bridges project is unique in that it is multi-modal and multi-state with numerous benefits,” said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager.

“With this project, the management and mobility of highway and maritime traffic will be improved. Safety and security will also be increased.”

The project includes the formation of a joint Traffic Incident Management (TIM) coalition to deploy unified, multi-disciplinary policies, procedures and practices to improve incident management throughout the project limits.

“Given that the project includes interstate locations, we must apply consistent approaches for regional TIM management across our state borders,” said Stokes.

After the project is designed and installed, the three states will collaboratively operate and manage the system. Monitored information will be aggregated and transmitted to the TMCs in Jackson, Miss., Little Rock, Ark., and Baton Rouge, La., and shared via existing communications links with TMC managers in Memphis, TN.

Design of this project is planned to be completed by March 2012 and under construction by next summer. The project is being funded by 100% federal funds awarded under the United States Department of Transportation’s TIGER III Grant.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Mstraffic.com is now MDOTTraffic.com.

Features and support are the same, only the name and website address has changed. Also, the email extension for MDOT employees has changed from *mdot.state.ms.us* to *mdot.ms.gov*.

- The kickoff meeting for 511 implementation in Mississippi occurred August 23. The travel information line is expected to be available to the public early 2013.

- The Video Migration project was featured in the April edition of Traffic Technology International, one of the leading publications in the advanced traffic management field. To view the article, visit <http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/e1a5fab8#e1a5fab8/53>

- The Traffic Signal and ITS Equipment Parts contracts are scheduled to go out for bid in the coming months.

MISSISSIPPI

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

July 2012 Performance Measures



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

The accident pictured above closed down the 2 right lanes of Lakeland Drive and caused a delay for those on the road around 3:30 PM. Given the potential impact on this heavily traveled road and urgency given the time of day, Flowood emergency responders and towing worked together to get this incident cleared in less than 30 minutes to beat the afternoon rush hour.

It's a busy summer for MDOT crews. The number of Construction Alerts are still on the rise as are the weather alerts for severe thunderstorms across the State. The TMC supported 70 of the 188 construction/maintenance events going on around the state.

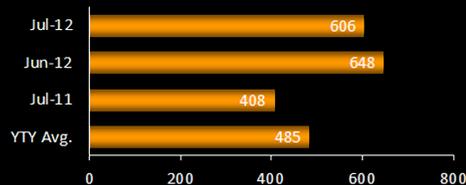
Our DMS signs have been used frequently this summer. During each of the past 2 months we posted more than 150 unique messages. There were 14 incidents in July that blocked an entire roadway with 8 of those incidents on Interstates and 6 on US or state highways. These incidents lasted an average of 91 minutes.



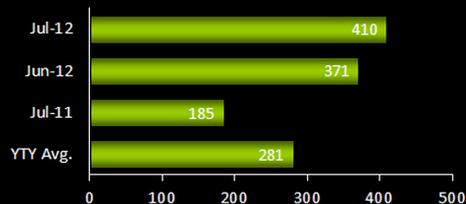
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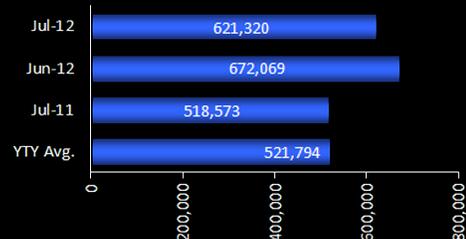
Total Incidents



Total Alerts



Total Web Site Page Views





Employee Spotlight

This quarter's Employee Spotlight is Sonya Williams, Operator at the State-wide Traffic Management Center. She has been employed by URS since 2008 at the MDOT Statewide TMC. Sonya is responsible for monitoring, detecting, and responding to traffic incidents across the state. She coordinates with emergency response agencies to initiate a response and informs the public of real-time traffic conditions.

"As a Mississippian who loves her state, I take great pride in my responsibilities as a TMC Operator monitoring and reporting real-time traffic to keep the public updated on traffic conditions," said Williams. "I take great pride in doing my job helping motorists avoid delays in reaching their destination."

Williams and her husband Alvin have three children. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and riding horses with her family.



Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: What is an Adaptive Signal System & how is MDOT utilizing this technology?

Answer: Traffic conditions can sometimes be simply unpredictable. We are working to implement adaptive signal systems in order to reduce traveler delay at intersections and consequential fuel consumption. Innovative adaptive signal control technologies use data collected from sensors based on actual conditions to determine when and how long traffic lights should be green. The process is repeated continuously which helps to keep traffic flowing smoothly and fuel emissions low. We currently are planning to implement an adaptive signal system on Lakeland Drive and also are implementing a full adaptive signal system in Hattiesburg.



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