

Hattiesburg Incident Management/ Hurricane Response Project Awarded

The Hattiesburg Incident Management/ Hurricane Response Project was awarded this October to the McInnis Electric Company of Jackson, MS. The 3.6 million dollar project includes the installation of ITS components on US 49, US 98 and I-59, which surround Hattiesburg.



The project will be constructed with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. It is expected that construction of the project will be complete by June 30, 2011.

Hattiesburg is centrally located and serves as the convergence point for US 49, US 98, and I-59, all major hurricane evacuation routes and heavily traveled commercial corridors. The addition of ITS infrastructure and devices along these routes will provide drivers with real-time traffic information, allowing them to make more informed decisions about their daily commute and, more importantly, during hurricane evacuations when traffic congestion is significant and safety is crucial.

In an effort to better monitor traffic, manage incidents and provide real-time travel information, the project will include the installation of Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), Dynamic Message Signs

NEWSLETTER

GRITS Set to Hold First Annual Meeting this November

The Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society (GRITS) will hold its first annual meeting November 17-19, 2009 at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, Mississippi. The three-day forum will include informative sessions on current and planned ITS programs and policies at the local, state and national level, as well as innovative technology and ITS practice presentations and workshops. Engineers, planners, emergency managers and responders, local and state officials, transit providers, vendors, and enforcement personnel from Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, will gather to discuss various transportation issues and ITS solutions.

Tuesday, November 17: The meeting will kick off with an official opening meet and greet reception which will give attendees an opportunity to network with one another, while sampling an array of hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. A four-man scramble golf tournament at the Shell Landing Golf Course in Gautier, Mississippi, is scheduled for earlier in the day on the 17th, where participants will be treated to team pictures and lunch. Prizes for the first, second and third place teams as well as individual prizes will be given. Exhibit booths will be open on the afternoon of Tuesday the 17th and during the day on Wednesday the 18th which will give participants an opportunity to peruse the latest ITS technology and services. A Gulf Region ITS booth will also be set up, providing attendees with information about the society including membership and sponsorship information.

Wednesday, November 18: Following a breakfast buffet, the Opening Session will include distinguished guests and speakers from MDOT and ITS America. Lunch will include a distinguished speaker from the US DOT Joint Programs Office. Presentations regarding the Gulf Region ITS Chapter, ITS at the State level, and the Future of ITS will be given.



Intelligent Transportation Society

Gulf Region ITS

Annual Meeting November 17-19, 2009, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Biloxi, MS

- "Meeting" continued on page 4

- "Hattiesburg" continued on page 3

Current Projects

Current and Recently Completed MDOT ITS Projects

SR 6 @ Jackson Avenue 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 cable

US 78 - I-22 Project

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of cameras, DMS, data collectors and fiber optic cable

I-69 - Tunica, Coahoma County and Bolivar, MS

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, CCTV, RDS and DMS signs

I-269 Project

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

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

I-55/ Church Rd. Interchange

- Discussions Occurring
- Includes installation of HAR Radio, Beacons, and CCTV

I-55 Expansion Project

- Plans complete
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV, DMS and RDS

US 49 Widening Project

- Plans in developed
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation

I-20/MS 15 Interchange

- Plans in development
- Involves connecting CCTVs and data collectors via T1 lines

I-55 Interchange at Gluckstadt

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

Jackson Metro Incident Management Project - Camera Additions

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of traffic cameras and fiber optic cable near existing DMS signs

Jackson Metro Incident Management /Hurricane Response Project

- Plans Complete
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV, and full coverage detection

Jackson MS ITS Cameras and Fiber Project

- Construction Complete
- Involves installation of traffic cameras and fiber optic cable

Counter Station Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable connection to counter stations in Jackson area

HWY 98 Fiber and Signal Upgrades

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

SR 84/ SR 15 Laurel Project

- Plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signal interconnects, CCTV and RDS

Hurricane Evacuation ITS Site Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of CCTVs and detectors

Hattiesburg ITS Improvements Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, traffic signal interconnects and CCTV

Hardy St Project

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

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 and CCTV

Natchez River Bridge ITS

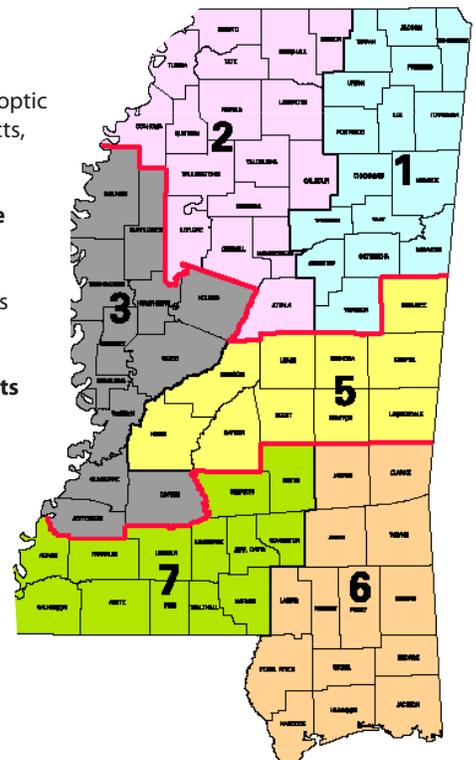
- Under Construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, CCTV and VDS

1-55 Hurricane Evacuation Project: Phase 1 McComb

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

Hattiesburg Hurricane Response/ Incident Management Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV and RDS



MDOT Honored with two ITE Awards

The Mississippi Department of Transportation was honored with two prestigious awards from the Institute of Transportation Engineers for the project, "Reconnecting Mississippi's Coastal Communities through ITS." The project received the "Transportation Achievement Award for Operations" and was recognized for outstanding contributions to the advancement and implementation of ITS technologies with the "Management and Operations/ITS Council Achievement Award." Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS program manager, was presented with the awards at this year's Institute of Transportation Engineers meeting which was held early August in San Antonio, Texas.

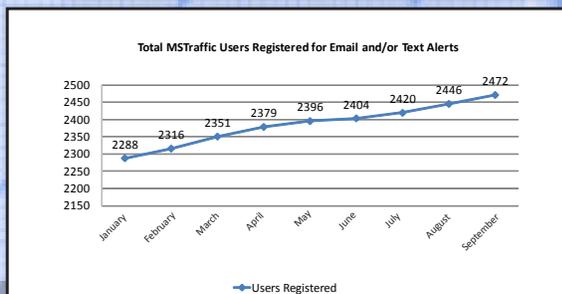
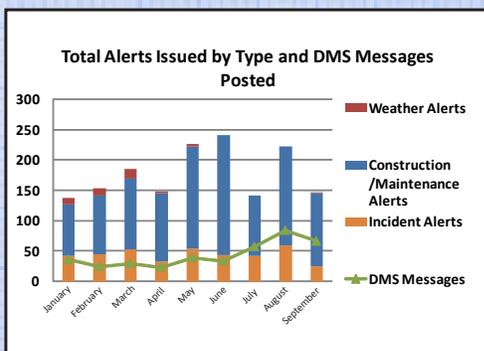
"We are honored to have received these two awards, particularly from our industry peers," commented Stokes. "As a Department, we will continue to focus on implementing cutting-edge technologies, forging new partnerships, and most importantly, working with communities to develop transportation solutions which enhance their quality of life through increased mobility, livability and safety."



This project is an illustration of MDOT's collaborative, innovative and timely response to an unexpected and catastrophic event, Hurricane Katrina. The storm left Hwy 90, a historic passageway through Gulfport, Biloxi, and other coastal communities, in ruins. In response to this catastrophe, the DOT, in collaboration with state and local governments, private ITS vendors and consultants, designed and rebuilt Hwy 90. The design resolved previous operational flaws and implemented the most effective and cost efficient ITS technologies. The result is an advanced traffic management system along a 60 mile corridor which is designed to withstand future storms, aid in efficient traffic movement, and provide faster incident detection and response.

For more information on the MDOT Hwy 90 project visit: <http://www.mdothwy90.com/Home.aspx>

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



- "Hattiesburg" continued

(DMS), Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTVs), Radar Detection Systems (RDS) and Fiber Optic Cable. HAR will be installed along the US 98 corridor which will provide detailed weather and incident information to motorists. Seven dynamic message signs will be installed prior to decision points on all three highways which will deliver incident, congestion, construction, special event and hurricane evacuation information. Both fixed and pan-tilt-zoom CCTVs will be installed at eight locations, providing real-time streaming video to msTraffic.com and enabling operations staff at the Hattiesburg Regional and Statewide TMC to monitor roadways, verify DMS messages, and assist enforcement and emergency personnel in managing incidents. Radar Detection Systems, located in advance of key interchanges surrounding the city, will also be installed for the purpose of collecting speeds, volume, lane occupancy and vehicle classification information. The data collected will further assist planners, traffic engineers and operational personnel in enhancing the efficiency of traffic flow both day-to-day and during major events.

Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: ITS has been called by some as a “green” solution. Can you expand on the benefits of ITS in terms of the environment and sustainability?

Answer: Operating the Mississippi Transportation System efficiently, reduces the amount of fuel consumed and pollutants emitted into the air; thus, making a “Greener” Mississippi. This is achieved through the use of ITS to provide MDOT & local governments the tools to monitor the transportation system alerting motorists, through MSTraffic.com & DMS, of incidents, thus allowing them to avoid congestion and reducing vehicle emissions and delay. Additionally, the implementation of arterial Adaptive Signal Systems result in reducing the number of starts & stops along a roadway, cutting down on the amount of fuel consumed.

- “Meeting” continued

Concurrent Technical and ITS Practice Sessions will occur throughout the day on the 18th. Attendees will be able to choose four of the twelve sessions, which tentatively include the following options: Digital Video and Transmission Techniques, Traffic Incident and Emergency Management, Transit Applications, Design-Build Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVISN), Adaptive Signal Systems, Freeway Management, Traffic Information Systems, ITS Maintenance, Traffic Management Centers, and ITS Planning and Research. Wednesday will conclude with a closing session and an overview presentation on ITS programs and projects in the region. A hospitality suite will be open to meeting attendees Wednesday evening.

Thursday, November 19: Breakfast will be provided for general attendees in the morning from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM. A Meeting of the GRITS Board will take place from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM as well. Two Concurrent ITS workshops will take place from 8:30 AM to 12:30. Workshop topics tentatively include Communications Training and Improving Highway Safety with ITS.

To sign up for the GRITS meeting, or for details regarding the meeting agenda, lodging information, or sponsorship and exhibit booth opportunities visit the registration website: <http://www.regonline.com/GRITS09>.