



# ITS Mississippi

Intelligent Transportation Systems

Newsletter prepared by MDOT ITS Integrator Team

October 2010

## NEWSLETTER

### GRITS and grillades : The Second Annual GRITS Meeting Nears



#### A message from 2010 GRITS Meeting Chair

*"On behalf of the Louisiana DOTD, we have great expectations for the upcoming GRITS Conference and are eagerly looking forward to having you attend. Our line-up includes technical sessions and roundtable discussions, vendor products and demonstrations, and of course, social events. While the GRITS conference offers people a chance to keep up with the latest ITS technology and activities of other states, what it represents most to me are the partnerships and friendships that are created. And this is due, in large part, to my good friends at ALDOT and MDOT. Come be a part of it. I look forward to seeing you in November!"*

Steve Glascock, 2010  
GRITS Annual Meeting  
Chair and Vice President

The second annual Gulf Region Intelligent Transportation Society meeting is scheduled to take place November 16-18 at the Hilton Capitol Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The three-day conference will include invaluable technical and training sessions on ITS, engaging roundtable discussions and informative speeches from distinguished guests and industry leaders. The theme, "GRITS and grillades", is a traditional Creole dish and reminder of the delicious food, friendly camaraderie and good times that meeting participants will enjoy as they engage with and learn about the latest ITS practices and technologies.

**Tuesday, November 16:** A four-man scramble golf tournament will take place at the Bluffs in the morning to kick off the day's events. For those that do not participate in the Tournament, Open House events have also been arranged at the New Orleans Regional Transportation Center, The LADOTD Statewide Traffic Management Center, and the Baton Rouge Advanced Traffic Management/Emergency Operations Center for registrants to stop in, visit and learn about current operations at these three facilities. In the late afternoon and early evening, attendees will have the opportunity to visit exhibit booths and view cutting-edge ITS technologies while enjoying cocktails and refreshments. The day's events will conclude with a meet and greet reception in the evening featuring an assorted dinner buffet and live entertainment.

**Wednesday, November 17:** Registration and exhibit booths will be open throughout the day. A breakfast buffet will be served in the morning, and speeches will be given by GRITS President Mike Stokes, Baton Rouge Mayor Melvin Holden, and LADOTD Deputy Secretary Eric Kalivoda.

- "GRITS" continued on page 4

### HWY 78 Project Awarded

Major improvements are in store for US HWY 78 in Desoto and Marshall Counties. The project, which will widen a portion of HWY 78 to interstate standards and includes installation of ITS devices and network infrastructure, was released for bid in September and recently awarded to Lehman – Roberts Company.

The estimated \$40 million project includes a section of HWY 78 running from



Holly Springs to the Mississippi / Tennessee state line. ITS technologies that will be installed include eight PTZ cameras, 24 fixed cameras, 16 radar detection systems and two Dynamic Message Signs. In addition, approximately 93,000 feet of fiber optic cable will be installed along the segment between the Coldwater River and the West Holly Springs Exit.

The project is expected to be completed in June of 2013. Once construction of this and other improvement projects along US 78 are complete it will become I-22, a corridor that will run from Memphis, Tennessee, to Birmingham, Alabama connecting I-20 and I-65 outside the Birmingham area near Fultondale to I-55, I-40 and I-69 around Memphis.



# CURRENT PROJECTS

## Current and Recently Completed MDOT ITS Projects

### SR 6 @ Jackson Ave. 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 network

### US 78 – I-22 Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of cameras, DMS, data collectors and fiber optic network

### I-269 Project

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

### DeSoto County Incident Management Project Phase 1 and 2

- Phase 1: construction complete; Phase 2: plans in development
- 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 continues on Phase 2
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV and signal interconnections

### I-55 Expansion Project

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

### US 49 Widening Project

- Plans developed
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation

### Lakeland Drive Improvement Project

- Construction complete
- Includes installation of traffic signal interconnects and CCTV

### I-55 Interchange at Gluckstadt

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

### Pearl St. Camera Project

- Construction complete
- Includes installation of CCTV at Pearl St.

### Jackson Metro Incident Management / Hurricane Response Project Phase 2, 3

- Phase 2: plans complete; Phase 3: plans in development
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV and full coverage detection

### City of Jackson ITS-3 Railroad Grade Crossing Project

- Plans developed
- Includes installation of train warning systems 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

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

### Harrison County Counter Station Project

- Under construction
- Includes installation of RDS sites at spot locations along I-10 and I-110

### Hattiesburg ITS Improvements Project

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

### Hattiesburg Hurricane Response / Incident Management Project

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

### Gulf Region Incident Management Project Phase 1, 2, and 3

- Plans complete for all phases
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, HAR, CCTV and full coverage detection

### SR 601 @ I-10 Interchange Project

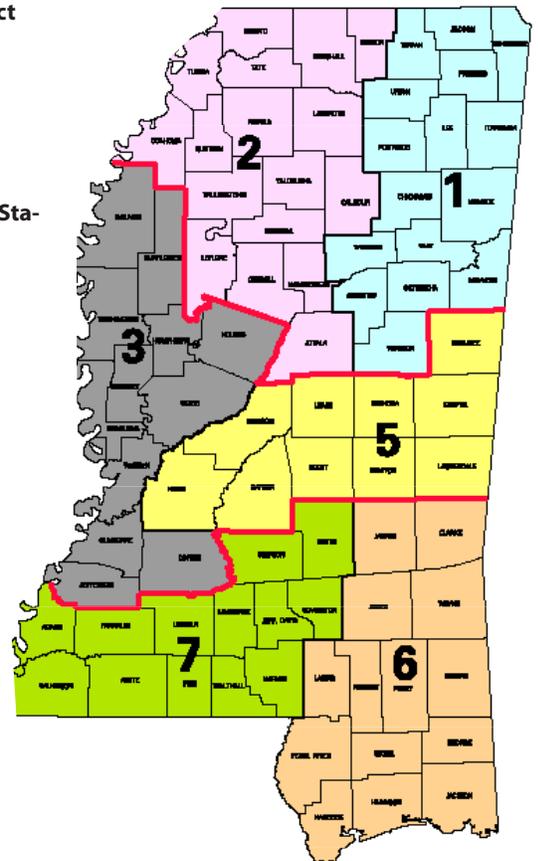
- Phase 1 under construction
- Includes installation of fiber optic trunk, DMS and CCTV

### Natchez River Bridge ITS

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

### I-55 Hurricane Evacuation Project: Phase 1 McComb

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



THE FORMAT OF THE MSTRAFFIC AND TMC PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT ISSUED MONTHLY WAS RECENTLY UPDATED AND INCLUDES MORE STATISTICS IN AN EASY TO UNDERSTAND FORMAT. TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THIS REPORT, EMAIL US AT MSTRAFFIC@MDOT.STATE.MS.US OR TO VIEW PREVIOUS REPORTS VISIT THE MDOT ITS WEBPAGE. VIEW AN EXCERPT FROM THE SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT BELOW.

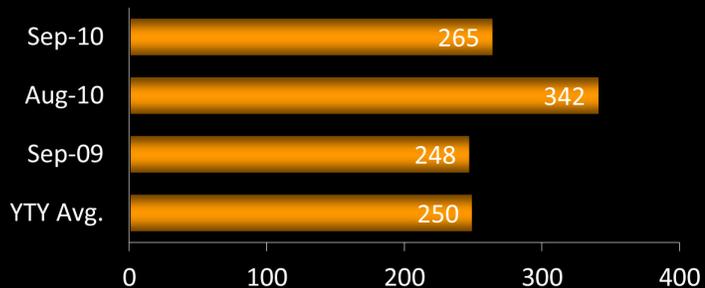
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## TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

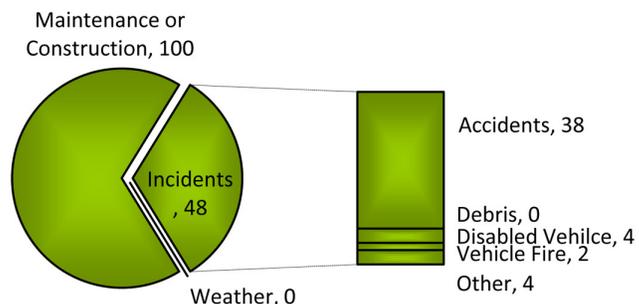
### September 2010 Performance Measures



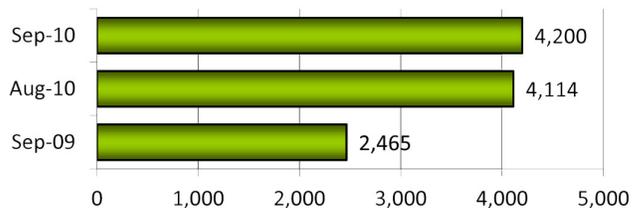
### Total Incidents



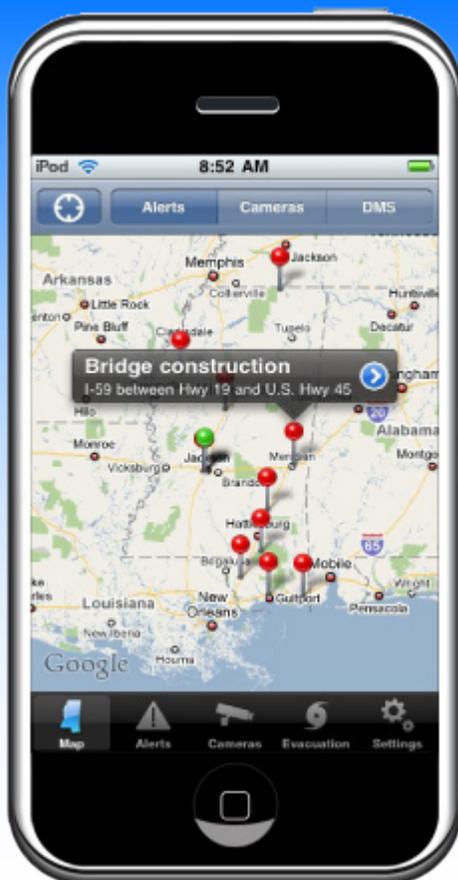
### Alerts by Type



### Total Registered Alert Users



This month 109 new users registered to receive alerts.



## Coming Soon – msTraffic iPhone App

In addition to the msTraffic website, users of the service will soon have access to real time traffic alerts via a newly developed iPhone application set to release in the near future. The preliminary release of the msTraffic application will allow individuals to access real time traffic alerts and view still camera images as well as Dynamic Message Signs on their Apple iPhone or iPad.

Work to incorporate Push Notifications to subscribers by leveraging Apple's Push Notification Server (APNS) is also currently underway. It is intended that this feature would allow alerts to be sent to the device even when the application is off. With APNS, the subscriber will receive a notification on their apple device advising them to launch the application and view the alert. An effort to stream video directly to mobile devices is also underway. It is anticipated that these developments will be featured in a future release after the initial release of the app, and sent to users as an update.

"The development of this mobile application is a further extension of our efforts to communicate important traffic information to the traveling public," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager. "Combined with our msTraffic website, DMS, and upcoming 511 system, this app is yet another avenue for us to reach motorists and improve the quality of travel along Mississippi roadways."

*\*MDOT advises the public to check the msTraffic.com website or use mobile devices prior to getting on the road. MDOT's number one concern is the safety of the traveling public.*

# Ask Mike

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

**Question:** With the recent influx in discussions regarding distracted driving, how do you feel this will affect MDOT's promotion of the msTraffic mobile website and upcoming release of the msTraffic iphone application, both of which are accessible by motorists?

**Answer:** While we want to provide tools that will help drivers travel more efficiently, we certainly advocate safety first and foremost. It is important that msTraffic users only use applications prior to getting behind the wheel or when their vehicle is parked and off the road at a safe location to avoid danger. If used as and when intended the benefits of these technologies are great.

### - "GRITS" continued

Joshua Schank, Ph.D., Director of Transportation Research Bipartisan Policy Center will make the Keynote Address. Participants will have the option to choose four of the 12 concurrent technical sessions and roundtable discussions occurring throughout the day. Technical sessions to be offered include DOT ITS Deployments, Traveler Info and Social Media, Planned Special Events/Emergency Management, Data Management, Arterial Management, Incident Management, and Research in ITS. Roundtable discussions that will be offered include Systems Engineering, Inter-Agency Coordination, TMC Operations, Communications and Networking, and Construction. During lunch, a speech will be given by ITSA Executive Vice President Tom Kern. To conclude the day's breakout sessions a closing session will be held with closing remarks by Steve Glascock, 2010 Annual Meeting Chair, and GRITS board and officer election result announcements will be made. Skip Bertman, former LSU baseball coach will round out the session as guest speaker. A sponsored "Evening Out" will take place following the closing session at the River Terrace at the Shaw Center.

**Thursday, November 18:** Two training sessions will be available from eight a.m. to noon, with breakfast provided prior to the session on site. Participants will have the option to choose between Improving Highway and Work Zone Safety with ITS or Using Active Traffic Management to Manage Travel Demand. The GRITS Board meeting will be held in the morning as well. In addition, open houses will be available again throughout the day.

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



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