



Newsletter Prepared by MDOT ITS Integrator Team

Fall 2012

NEWSLETTER

The New MDOTTraffic App is Here!



The public can now have access to important traffic information on the go with the release of the MDOTTraffic iPhone application.

The MDOTTraffic app is now available in the Apple App Store as a free download for iPhone and iPad devices. An Android version of the mobile application is currently being developed and will be released soon.

Serving as a companion to the interactive MDOTTraffic website, the feature-rich app lets users view current traffic alerts and monitor live streaming video from cameras throughout the state. The MDOTTraffic app's Push Notification Service integrates with MDOTTraffic.com's "MyCommute" feature to help subscribers avoid major accidents, construction, and road maintenance issues during their daily commute. In addition to email and text alerts, app users can receive Push Notifications directly to their device based on their MyCommute preferences.

New to MDOTTraffic? Visit the MDOTTraffic website to sign up for an account and customize your commute(s). On your device, click the settings icon to enter your account credentials to start receiving Push Notifications regarding roadways important to you!

You can download the app free of charge by searching "MDOTTraffic" in the Apple App Store.

As always, users are encouraged to check MDOTTraffic prior to getting on the road. MDOT does not support the use of this application or its companion website MDOTTraffic.com while operating a motor vehicle. MDOT's number one concern is the safety of the traveling public.



TMC Executes Hurricane Preparedness during Isaac

Intelligent Transportation Systems are beneficial during normal, everyday traffic operations, but it is during emergency conditions we see the vital role these solutions can play.

Only a few days before the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Statewide Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Jackson and the Regional TMC in Hattiesburg began emergency 24/7 operations to prepare for Hurricane Isaac. Following Governor Phil Bryant's State of Emergency declaration, TMC staff prepared for contraflow staging as the powerful storm moved slowly through Mississippi and Louisiana. Isaac lingered for several days, continually battering coastal communities with high winds and heavy rainfall.

As the storm moved through, operators closely monitored roadways for flooding and debris and kept the public apprised of important developments. Helpful and timely information was distributed across highways via Digital Message Signs (DMS) and Highway Advisory Radio (HAR), and over the internet via MDOTTraffic subscriber alerts, Facebook updates, and route specific Twitter feeds. In addition, MDOT coordinated with partner agencies to ensure that critical information reached the widest possible audience. The Mississippi Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) at the Mississippi Emergency Management Center (MEMA) utilized MDOTTraffic.com, and Lamar Advertising continually displayed MDOT's emergency toll-free phone number on their electronic signs throughout high risk areas of the state.

"Between Monday, August 27 and Sunday, September 2, we received more than 1,300 phone calls from the public at the Statewide TMC," said John Gilligan, Statewide TMC Manager.

"Hurricane Preparedness" continued inside

Current and Recently Completed MDOT ITS Projects

SR 6 @ Jackson Ave. Continuous Flow Intersection

- Plans in development
- Includes CCTV and other ITS devices

US 78 – I-22 Project

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

RWIS Installations - Desoto and Tate County

- Under Construction
- Includes RWIS stations at two locations and CCTV cameras

I-269 Project

- Plans in development; split in three phases
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation and ITS devices along some segments

MS 463 From Post Oak Rd. to US 51

- Construction complete
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation, CCTV and signal interconnections

US 49 From Florence to Scale Area

- Plans in Development
- Includes fiber optic trunk installation

I-55 Split Diamond Interchange Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of RDS, CCTV, DMS, fiber optic cable, and Smart Work zone system

I-55 Interchange at Gluckstadt

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

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

- Plans complete; plans in development - not programmed
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV and full coverage detection

City of Jackson ITS-3 Railroad Grade Crossing Project

- Under Construction
- Includes installation of train warning systems in Jackson area

I-55 South From Byram to McDowell Rd. Project

- Plans in Development
- Includes relocating existing devices, fiber optic cable, DMS, CCTV

I-20 from Natchez Trace to SR 18

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

I-20 at 35 in Forest

- Plans in development
- Includes spot CCTV and signal interconnections

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

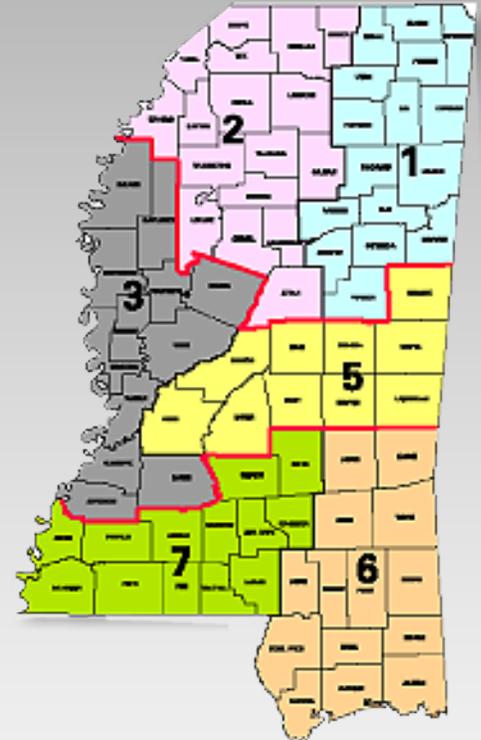
- Plans complete – Not Programmed
- Includes installation of fiber optic cable, DMS, HAR, CCTV and full coverage detection

I-55 Hurricane Evacuation Project: Phase 1 McComb

- Plans developed – Not Programmed
- Includes installation of fiber optic trunk, DMS, CCTV, HAR and RDS

Lick Skillet Rd. Project

- Project Complete
- Includes installation of Camera and Signals at Old SR 67 and SR 67 Bypass



-"Hurricane Preparedness" continued

"The majority of the phone calls were inquiries regarding specific road closures due to flooding. In some cases we received reports of flooded roads from the public and in turn coordinated with the MEOC and local emergency response agencies to confirm those reports and disseminate the information," said Gillgan.



MDOTTraffic.com also saw a substantial increase in traffic as Isaac traversed Mississippi, receiving nearly 3 million hits from 17,000 users. In total, Isaac caused 59 road closures across the state, and MDOT issued 170 alerts during the week of the storm. "The data gathered from the storm proves that the public is becoming increasingly aware of MDOTTraffic as a reliable resource for traveler information during a state of emergency," said Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager.

Although operations returned to normal hours as Isaac moved out of the state, staff continued to manage incidents related to the aftermath of the storm, including a high number of severe flooding incidents. Maintenance crews worked swiftly to repair ITS devices impacted by the storm, and to ensure that MDOT can continue to be a crucial resource for state residents when they face severe weather and as they go about their daily lives.

"We are especially sympathetic to our friends in the northeast impacted by the recent Hurricane Sandy. We at MDOT extend our support to the various departments, agencies, and groups working together to restore infrastructure and get the public moving again," Stokes added.



Employee Spotlight

This quarter's Employee Spotlight is Thomas Hasselle, Operator at the Statewide Traffic Management Center. He has been employed at the MDOT Statewide TMC since 2011. Tom is responsible for monitoring, detecting, and responding to traffic incidents on roadways across the state.

"Tom has a technology background with a degree in computer science which has served him well in his current role," said John Gilligan, Statewide TMC Manager. "Tom quickly learned our policies and procedures and he does an outstanding job." He is very vigilant in detecting traffic incidents and very detail oriented in responding to those incidents. He is a very dependable person and we're glad to have him on the team."



In his spare time, Thomas enjoys restoring antique furniture and weapons. He recently restored a beat up model 1816 musket from percussion to flintlock.

Ask Mike

Q&A with Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Manager

Question: I've seen signs displaying messages such as "6 min to end of work zone" before the lane shift at Old Agency Road in Ridgeland. Can you tell me more about those signs?

Answer: The signs you see are being used as part of the Smart Work Zone on the I-55 Split Diamond Interchange Project to help ease congestion through the construction work zone. The Portable Changeable Message Signs (CMS), positioned in advance of the construction work zone, display travel times through the work zone to approaching drivers. Travel times are determined by Radar Detection Systems (RDS) which collect speed, volume and occupancy data and are automatically updated on the CMS advising motorists of changing conditions. The warning signs provide an overall safer work zone environment.

MISSISSIPPI

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CENTER

October 2012 Performance Measures

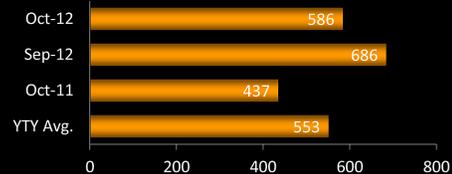


MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

This month the TMC retired two legacy systems and started using the new Delcan Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) package. The old ATMS was retired on October 15 for device control, and our old incident management database was retired on November 1st. The November Performance Measures Report will be produced almost entirely from the new ATMS. The few remaining sub-systems are being developed and absorbed into the ATMS in the near future.

The total registered alert subscribers continues to grow and we anticipate reaching 7500 by year end.

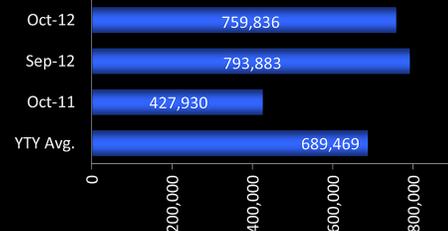
Total Incidents



Total Alerts



Total Web Site Page Views



A Record Setting Event - 2012 NRITS Conference and GRITS Annual Meeting Recap



The 2012 National Rural ITS Conference and Gulf Region ITS Annual Meeting occurred September 16 - 19 at the Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi. The dual conference exceeded expectations boasting over 300 attendees from 40 states and two foreign countries (Canada and Australia) This was the highest recorded attendance for an NRITS annual meeting since 2004.



Mike Stokes
76-01
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

