



# ITS Canada News

## *ITS Canada prepares to welcome delegates to Montreal!*



Preparations are well underway to welcome delegates to Montreal for ITS Canada's 2008 Annual Conference and General Meeting. The Conference will be held in the heart of downtown Montreal at the Place Bonaventure Conference Centre, and attendees can stay at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel.

The theme of the Conference is **"ITS — The Road to Safe and Secure Transport!"** Included in the event will be an exhibit area to allow displays of ITS-related technologies and services, as well as technical tours and social events. With your help, we can build a robust and exciting technical program. The "Call for Papers" is available online, along with information on exhibit and sponsor opportunities.

Please come and enjoy some Montreal hospitality while getting the latest updates on ITS developments in Canada. Visit the Conference website at [www.itscanada.ca/montreal2008](http://www.itscanada.ca/montreal2008) for timely updates regarding all events.



## *Nova Scotia becomes first province to implement 511*

Nova Scotia has become the first province to implement 511 in Canada.

ITS Canada led the Canada 511 Consortium's effort, which successfully achieved the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) approval for use of the 511 telephone dialing sequence for weather and traveller information services in Canada. Since securing the CRTC's approval, several Canadian jurisdictions have been considering their options for moving forward with the implementation of 511 for the provision of weather and traveller information. Nova Scotia is the first of these jurisdictions to implement a 511 service.

Read all the details about Nova Scotia's implementation on Page 2!

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Newsletter published by  
ITS Canada.

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Visit ITS Canada's website at  
[www.itscanada.ca](http://www.itscanada.ca)

## *Nova Scotia First to the Phones with 511*

Nova Scotia became the first province in Canada to set up the 511 phone number for traveller information when it officially kicked off the program in January.

Paul Richard, Manager of Maintenance and Operations for Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, said that the fact that Nova Scotia already had an automated phone number in place for road condition information allowed the province to get the number up and running promptly.

"I sat down with my boss and we realized that all we had to do was get the phone companies to connect the 511 number through to our existing reporting line," said Paul. "We asked ourselves, 'Is it that simple?'"

Basically, it was. "Sometimes it helps to be small, in that we only had to work with five phone companies," said Paul. "The only challenge was getting to the right person in each company."

The CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission), which mandated that telephone companies had to provide this service free of charge, also allowed the companies six months to get things working.

"We started in June and basically had it operational before Christmas," said Paul.

After a few weeks of testing, the department hit the street with publicity to let the public know the service was available. The department issued a press release, ran ads on radio and in newspapers, and posted 511 signs (see photo) every 50 kilometres along major highways.

The bilingual road reporting system that 511 connects to is Paul's pride and joy. Developed by Telenium Inc. (a Canadian company based in Winnipeg), the system is updated on computer by the department's dispatchers who receive radio reports from the plow drivers. This required training of 150 dispatchers, who previously had to fax or phone

in their road reports to head office. Callers can enter the number of the highway they plan to travel on and receive an up-to-date report on the road's condition.

The department requires that updates be made three times a day at 7:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. but, in Nova Scotia where the weather can change dramatically with just a slight shift in the breeze, it can be updated quickly at any other time as conditions change.

Eventually, it's expected that Environment Canada will come on board and use the 511 system to provide weather information for travellers. The department also plans to use the system to indicate major construction projects.

"The only thing we have to highlight is that we don't want drivers calling the system while they're behind the wheel," said Paul. Nova Scotia will be proclaiming legislation to ban cell phone use by drivers later this year.



**Paul Richard**, Manager of Maintenance and Operations for Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

## *Attracting Transit Riders with Smart Card Technology*

*By Jeffery Young, Project Director, Presto Card,  
Ontario Ministry of Transportation*

The Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton are experiencing rapid growth in population, employment and transportation demand. In the next 25 years, the population of the area is forecast to grow by 2.5 million people. Currently, there are more than seven million car trips in these areas every day. As roads become more congested, commute times increase and quality of life decreases. Traffic congestion also means more greenhouse gas emissions. In 2004, more than one-third of greenhouse gas emissions originated from the transportation sector, with road transportation generating the bulk of emissions.

To improve the quality of life for commuters and travellers, the Ontario government is creating an integrated transit network that will get people out of their cars, reduce congestion and contribute to cleaner air. To make public transit a more convenient alternative to driving, the Government of Ontario and eight municipal transit partners are introducing the Presto Card.

The Presto Fare System will allow users to ride on any participating transit system using just one card. Commuters won't have to pre-purchase tickets or passes and won't have to worry about exact change. It's just tap and go. Customers will be able to load the card with a dollar value — in person, by phone or online. Before riding, users will just tap their card on a machine reader. The reader will calculate and deduct appropriate fares, validate transfers and have the ability to block lost or stolen cards. Transactions will take less than a second.

The Presto Card will communicate via an antenna and computer interface. It will store e-purse values, passes used by a specific transit agency, loyalty program information, trip data and transfer information. Customers will be able to check their balance and recent transactions. Transit enforcement officers will use handheld devices to check for valid fare payment.

A "virtual single fare payment" method will make it easier to connect between transit systems, speed up boarding and provide greater flexibility to riders.

The system is designed to improve efficiency, lower operating costs, attract more riders and reduce fare fraud. Similar systems around the world have emphasized customer convenience as the primary reason for moving to an automated fare collection system.

GO Transit, Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton, York Region, Durham Region and Toronto have committed to participating in the Presto Card project. This level of cooperation is unprecedented in the Province of Ontario.

Since August 1, 2007, a select group of frequent GO train riders in Mississauga have been participating in the initial launch of the Presto Fare System. Within the next three years, 1,200 municipal buses, 250 GO buses and 55 GO train stations will be equipped with fare card devices. The Toronto Transit Commission in Toronto will accept the card at five subway stations: Don Mills, Downsview, Finch, Islington and Union. By 2010, the Presto Card will be available to transit riders in Brampton, Burlington, Durham Region, Hamilton, Mississauga, Oakville and York Region.

The Presto Fare System project is supported by representatives and experts from all transit partners, procurement specialists and IT technicians. It will be managed by the Ministry of Transportation.

The system brings together the fare policies of all the transit agencies in a way that is completely transparent to the customer. Local data from each transit agency is sent electronically to a central system with no intervention. The central system settles accounts and transfers revenues for each transit agency.

The Presto Fare System is being designed to be flexible. Today, it's a fare card; tomorrow, it could be used to pay for parking or municipal services.

Metrolinx, which is responsible for improving the coordination and integration of all modes of transportation in the region, will eventually assume responsibility for the Presto Fare System.



# ITS Canada News

## *Toll Road Summit*

The design, finance, construction, and operation of highway infrastructure are vital to economic growth. Now more than ever, toll roads are an increasingly important part of national efforts to support a sustainable transportation system.

On March 30-April 1, 2008, the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association will hold the **Toll Road Summit of the Americas** in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where experts will examine an array of different institutional models that are now being used successfully to finance and develop both urban and inter-urban highways. This summit will also look at technology and other important tools to promote safety and efficiency, reduce urban congestion, and improve the flow of commerce and people on the world's most sophisticated and productive motorways.

Both the private and the public sector will present and discuss the business rules and new technology models that are shaping the future of toll motorways to achieve seamless transportation. For example:

- How the State of Chile is developing different actions looking for the development of technological interoperability and better client services, especially in infrastructure projects, through common initiatives between the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Transport, leading to more effective strategic alliances between the private and public sectors
- How new, advanced urban traffic schemes, like cordon and zone charging, access control and flexible pricing models, are allowing communities to manage their responsibility for sustainable mobility based on their traffic policy targets.

The program will also include the latest overview on the national deployment of effective, interoperable 5.9GHz DSRC Systems, and the current ETS interoperability system in Spain, VIA-T.

For more information on this international event, visit [www.ibtta.org](http://www.ibtta.org).

## *News bITS*

### **ITS GERMANY LAUNCHED**

In December 2007, seven German ITS organizations from Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Niedersachsen and North Rhine-Westphalia gathered in Munich to launch ITS Network Germany – Gesellschaft für Verkehrstelematik Deutschland. Member organizations are made up of over 200 individual public authorities, small and medium-sized enterprises, scientific institutions and key multi-nationals. Heinz Sodeikat of ITS Munich Germany has been elected to the role of Chairman of the Board; Dr. Norbert Handke of ITS Niedersachsen will act as Managing Director.

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) welcomes the establishment of this association that will provide a common stage to promote German ITS interests, both locally and internationally.

For further information, please contact: [info@its-munich-germany.de](mailto:info@its-munich-germany.de)

### **TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY FACT SHEETS**

The Federal Transit Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation has developed a number of fact sheets that provide a summary of the most basic and useful technologies for different types of transit needs. During the review process, necessary technologies for each service type were identified as the "Core Suite of Technologies". Combinations of technologies that produced synergies were also identified.

The fact sheets provide recommendations to agencies as to which of the many transportation technologies they should invest in.

To review all the fact sheets currently available, and to sign up for notification of publication of additional fact sheets, visit: [www.pcb.its.dot.gov/factsheets/factsheets.asp](http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/factsheets/factsheets.asp)

## *Members in the News*



**Delcan Corporation** has been named as the recipient of the 2008 Honor award from the Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California (CELSOC) for Caltran's Los Angeles Regional Traffic Management Center (LARTMC) project. The LARTMC was created with the goals to reduce congestion by at least 20 percent, improve travel reliability by at least 20 percent, increase safety on highways, improve the ability to respond to natural disasters and increase security preparedness. The LARTMC serves 43 distinct government functions and will act as the center for ITS and emergency response operations for the next 30 years. Delcan, as lead consultant, played an integral role from the project's inception to the final system cutover and maintenance.



### TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

Image Sensing Systems, Inc. ("ISS") announced this week that it has purchased selected assets from **EIS Electronic Integrated Systems Inc. (EIS)**, including EIS's market-leading RTMS™ (Remote Traffic Microwave Sensor) radar product line, for initial consideration of \$10.9 million in cash and 147,202 shares of ISS common stock (valued at about \$2.5 million). In addition, EIS has a three-year earn-out agreement based on the performance of the purchased assets where, if performance is at the target level, EIS would receive an additional \$6 million in cash. Substantially, all EIS employees are expected to join ISS, including its founder and President, Dan Manor. EIS had approximately \$8.0 million in revenue in fiscal 2006.



INTERNATIONAL  
ROAD DYNAMICS INC.

**International Road Dynamics (IRD)** is acquiring a 50 percent interest in Xuzhou-PAT Control Technologies Limited (XCPT) located in Xuzhou, Jiangsu, China. XCPT, IRD's distributor in China since 2003, is a design, manufacturing and service company focused on providing ITS solutions to the growing highway and roadway infrastructure business throughout China. The remaining 50 percent interest is owned by Xuzhou Construction Machinery Group (XCMG). Using IRD's proprietary Weigh-In-Motion technologies, and other products and solutions owned by IRD and XCPT, the company provides toll road and traffic monitoring solutions and support to government and private enterprise engaged in China's growing investment in highway and roadway infrastructure. In addition to the sale of its products, XCPT also offers a comprehensive service and maintenance program.



**NAVTEQ Corporation** has announced that its stockholders have approved the previously announced merger agreement entered into with Nokia. Over 75 percent of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock eligible to vote, representing over 99 percent of the total votes cast, were voted in favor of the adoption of the merger agreement.

Adoption of the merger agreement by NAVTEQ stockholders satisfies one of the conditions to completion of the merger between NAVTEQ and Nokia. Completion of the merger is also subject to receipt of regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of the other closing conditions set forth in the merger agreement.

## *Members in the News*



**BC Ministry of Transportation's** announcement of a \$14 billion transit expansion in the province will mean more high-capacity service for more people in Metro Vancouver much sooner, and represents the biggest commitment to transit in the history of British Columbia. The goal is to reduce public transit's contribution to the province's greenhouse gas emissions by one third by 2020. More specifically, it provides the basis for **TransLink** to develop its 10-year plan. The province's project priorities are generally consistent with TransLink's plans and will provide Metro Vancouver municipalities with the Frequent Transit Network to cluster employment and high-density residential development in their communities. The program will now be accelerated, delivering service improvements much sooner than TransLink would have been able to do on its own, and in some cases with higher capacity transit solutions.

The provincial plan requires a \$2.75 billion capital contribution from TransLink, and staff will work with the province to identify the underlying financial assumptions. There will be relief on overcrowded corridors in the densely populated areas, and under-served areas like the Northeast Sector and the South of Fraser will get more transit, both the rapid transit and the buses they need to serve their growth in population and jobs much sooner. Work with the Ministry of Transportation will begin immediately to move the plan forward.

The largest bus expansion in 31 years will be the centrepiece of TransLink's 2008 transportation plan, which will deliver transit service expansion, road improvements and progress on major road and transit projects.

## *Ontario Traffic Conference*

The Ontario Traffic Conference was formed in 1950 by a small group of municipal officials who saw the need for a coordinated effort to improve traffic management in Ontario, by drawing together the knowledge and expertise of those in the fields of enforcement, engineering and education.

Following are some of the specific aims of the OTC:

1. To provide a source for the dissemination of the latest information and techniques for improvement in traffic safety and management of traffic
2. To assist and coordinate with the various governmental, other agencies and organizations with an interest in traffic and parking fields
3. To develop and improve education programs relating to the fields of traffic safety, traffic/parking enforcement and traffic/parking operations
4. To encourage and promote technical investigations and reports on topics of current interest in the field of traffic and parking
5. To solicit participation of all persons engaged in traffic engineering, parking and traffic safety in Ontario.

The OTC is hosting a number of events and courses that may be of interest to ITS Canada members:

**Ontario Traffic Conference and AGM**  
June 2 and 3, 2008 – Oakville, Ontario

**OTC Parking Workshop**  
September 14 to 16, 2008 – Stratford, Ontario

**OTC Traffic Engineering Workshop**  
October 16, 2008 – Alliston, Ontario

For information, please visit their website at:  
[www.otc.org](http://www.otc.org).



## TRB 87th Annual Meeting

January 13 to 17, 2008 –  
Washington, USA  
[www.trb.org/Meeting](http://www.trb.org/Meeting)



## Upcoming Events

## ITS America's Open House

January 16, 2008 – Washington, USA  
[www.itsa.org](http://www.itsa.org)

## Military/Civilian Seminar on Intelligent Vehicle Technology Transfer

February 13 and 14, 2008 – Gaithersburg, Maryland  
[www.ivtt.org](http://www.ivtt.org)

## IT-Trans 2008

February 13 to 15, 2008 – Karlsruhe, Germany  
[www.it-trans.org](http://www.it-trans.org)

## L'environnement et le développement durable!

February 19, 2008 – Montréal, Québec  
[www.aqtr.qc.ca](http://www.aqtr.qc.ca)

## 2008 Toll Road Summit of the Americas

March 30 to April 1, 2008 – Buenos Aires, Argentina  
[www.ibtta.org/Events](http://www.ibtta.org/Events)

## Intertraffic Amsterdam

April 1 to 4, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
[www.intertraffic.com](http://www.intertraffic.com)

## Intelligent Public Transport Systems (IPTS)

In conjunction with Intertraffic Amsterdam  
April 2 and 3, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
[www.ipseurope.com/ipseurope2008](http://www.ipseurope.com/ipseurope2008)

## TAC Spring Technical Meetings

April 3 to 7, 2008 – Ottawa, Ontario  
[www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca)

## ITS Arab Conference 2008

April 14 and 15, 2008 – Manama, Bahrain  
[www.its-arab.org](http://www.its-arab.org)

## 43e congrès annuel AQTR

April 14 to 16, 2008 – Quebec City, QC, Canada  
[www.aqtr.qc.ca](http://www.aqtr.qc.ca)

## Intertraffic China

April 24 to 26, 2008 – Beijing, China  
[www.intertraffic.com](http://www.intertraffic.com)

## ITS UK Annual Conference

May 20 to 22, 2008 – Manchester, UK  
[www.its-uk.org.uk](http://www.its-uk.org.uk)

## 13th International Conference on Road Transport Information and Control

May 20 to 22, 2008 – Manchester, UK  
[www.theiet.org/rtic](http://www.theiet.org/rtic)



## ITS CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING 2008

June 1 to 4, 2008 – Montreal, Canada  
[www.itscanada.ca/montreal2008](http://www.itscanada.ca/montreal2008)

## 7th ITS European Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services

June 4 to 6, 2008 – Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.itsineurope.com](http://www.itsineurope.com)

## Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conf.

June 8 to 11, 2008 – Whistler, BC, Canada  
[www.cmrsc.ca](http://www.cmrsc.ca)

## Freeway and Tollway Operations Conference

June 15 to 19, 2008 – Fort Lauderdale, USA  
[www.2008ftoc.com](http://www.2008ftoc.com)

## 9th Intelligent Transport Systems Asia-Pacific Forum and Exhibition

July 14 to 16, 2008 – Singapore  
[www.itsasiapacific2008.com](http://www.itsasiapacific2008.com)

## National Rural ITS Conference

September 3 to 5, 2008 – Anchorage, AK  
[www.nritisconference.org](http://www.nritisconference.org)

## TAC Annual Conference 2008

September 21 to 24, 2008 – Toronto, Ontario  
Call For Papers - Deadline January 18, 2008  
[www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca)

## Transpo2008: "ITS: Piecing It All Together"

September 22-28, 2008 – Orlando, Florida  
[www.itstranspo.org](http://www.itstranspo.org)

## 15th World Congress on ITS and ITS America's 2008 Annual Meeting & Exposition

November 16 to 20, 2008 – New York, USA  
[www.itsa.org/worldcongress.html](http://www.itsa.org/worldcongress.html)