



ITS • STI  
CANADA

# ITS Canada News

## *Montreal ... a great success!*



ITS Canada's Annual Conference, held in Montreal on June 1 to 4, 2008, was a resounding success, with over 300 participants in attendance. Delegates have provided extremely positive feedback about the value of the technical sessions, and there has been significant demand for access to the presentations (now available to delegates online through ITS Canada's website).

Highlights of the technical sessions included workshops on vehicle-infrastructure integration, intelligent bridges, and border information flow architecture. A stakeholder forum regarding the update of the ITS architecture, which forms part of an ongoing consultation, was also well attended. Sessions covered significant ITS developments and deployments in Canada and the United States, including ITS benefits and evaluation, safety and security, research and innovation, traveller information, traffic management systems and public transit. U.S. DOT representatives participated as speakers, and ITS America hosted a booth, strengthening ties and providing opportunities for dialog and collaboration.

Featured on the exhibition floor was a live ITS demonstration zone, the first ever at an ITS Canada event. Exhibitors installed a number of systems into the display, and an electric car triggered the ITS components as it passed through various zones on the track. Delegates also enjoyed the opportunity to drive the electric car themselves. The exhibitions broadened understanding of ITS systems by focusing on wider opportunities, including opportunities to collaborate with other industries. Thirty-six exhibitors participated with a wide range of ITS technologies, including a tractor-trailer from Transport Canada that demonstrated technology used for tracking of containers. A number of tours were organized during the Conference, all of which were well received.

Attendees at the banquet were treated to a performance by illusionist Alain Choquette. Comical and entertaining, Alain presented a suite of magic tricks that included audience participation.

ITS Canada's Annual General Meeting was held in Montreal on June 1, summarizing activities undertaken by the Society over the past year. It was announced that proposed bylaw changes will be ratified by the membership through an electronic vote that will be conducted in June.

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



# ITS Canada News

## *ITS/VII Regional Event in Ottawa*

*By William Johnson, TRENDS, and  
Barry Pekilis, Transport Canada*

A regional event on the topic of vehicle-infrastructure integration (VII) was organized in March on short notice, to take advantage of the presence in Ottawa of two distinguished members of the California PATH (Partners for Advanced Transit and Highways) Program at the University of California Berkeley.

The invited speakers, Steve Shladover and Jim Misener, had participated in a VII seminar earlier in the day at Transport Canada and they willingly agreed to meet with a broader audience in an informal setting at the RA Centre in Ottawa. Steve and Jim are well known for their work on advanced ITS projects in collaboration with CALTRANS (California Transportation) and the US DOT (U.S. Department of Transportation). In addition, Steve is chair of the Transportation Research Board ITS Committee and Jim is Chair of ITS California. Both are active and well known in ISO and SAE standards development circles.

The speakers provided an overview of VII and its possibilities (Steve's presentation) and an overview of the VII projects and real-world test bed along a major transportation corridor in the San Francisco Bay area (Jim's presentation). California is a leader in the field of VII research and development, and a great deal has been learned about suitable technologies, operational considerations and user acceptance.

VII can be viewed as a return to basics, as exemplified by the original name for ITS, "vehicle-highway" systems. The focus of this emerging priority for research and development is the emergence of effective, real-time communication services for data and information exchange between vehicles and the roadside infrastructure, and between the vehicles themselves. The US DOT version of VII uses the specific DSRC (5.9 GHz) communication technology because its high quality is ideal for hard safety applications (e.g., intersection collision avoidance). However, other communication technologies are also being researched, including WiFi, WiMax and other wireless technologies to transmit messages under the umbrella name 'vehicle-infrastructure cooperation' (VIC).

VII and VIC can be used for user services such as soft safety messages (e.g., incidents or conflicts ahead), efficiency (e.g., routing advice to avoid congestion, or data on vehicle-traffic flows to road operators), and convenience (e.g., location of fuel and service facilities).

By providing drivers and in-vehicle passengers with a rich source of information on the roadway and the road environment (e.g., weather and mobility services), they can achieve their trip purposes with greater safety and convenience. VII and VIC can also assist road operators who need to communicate advice and guidance to drivers in real time and in site-specific circumstances, to avoid the buildup of congestion and the possibility of collisions. As well, the flow of information from vehicles to the roadside can provide operators with a more complete and detailed picture of the traffic flows on all road segments under their jurisdiction.

The VII event attracted 53 pre-registrants. It was organized by Hugh Reekie, Chair of the Ottawa Chapter IEEE Vehicle Technology Society in collaboration with the IEEE Joint Chapter for Robotics and Automation and Control Systems, IET-UK (formerly IEE) Ottawa Network, ITS Canada (Eastern Ontario Region members) and Transport Canada. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about VII and to network over light refreshments. ITS Canada was recognized for its role in identifying the speakers and spreading the word to the ITS community.

The success of the event and large turnout demonstrated the value in organizing events of this nature in cooperation with local chapters of other professional organizations. Information about the VII event is posted online at:

<http://members.allstream.net/~max-com/ottawa.vts.html>

Additional links of interest are:

<http://www.path.berkeley.edu/>

<http://viicalifornia.org/>

<http://www.its.dot.gov/vii/>



# ITS Canada News

## *Waterloo leading the way with traveller information*

June marked the official launch of the EasyGO traveller information system for the Region of Waterloo, Ontario. Funded by Transport Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Region of Waterloo, EasyGO is a key component of the region's iXpress service, which was initiated under Transport Canada's Urban Transportation Showcase Program. The iXpress service provides quick travel along a 35-kilometre central transit corridor in the Waterloo region and now carries over 6,000 riders daily. This service showcases the latest in transit technology — an automatic vehicle location and automatic passenger counting system, transit signal priority and now the suite of EasyGO traveller information systems. The project is a step towards a rapid transit system in the Waterloo region.

Monitors at iXpress stations display real-time information. Next-station announcements are automatically displayed and announced on iXpress buses. Monitors at the two main transit terminals and at malls show real-time information for iXpress buses and scheduled times for all other bus routes. An interactive voice response telephone system and text messaging service provide the scheduled arrival times for the next three buses at any bus stop selected by riders. A web-based trip planner allows riders to select their best travel option on Grand River Transit.

Grand River Transit ridership has increased by over 50 percent since acquiring transit operations in January 2000.

### *Traveller Information in New York*

Travellers across the state of New York can now access up-to-the-minute transportation information through short, electronic messages regarding significant travel disruptions, such as highway accidents or lane closures. The service, called TransAlert, is distributed through the State Emergency Management Office's (SEMO) NY-Alert system and is available through free subscriptions. For information: [www.its-ny.org](http://www.its-ny.org).

## *ITS Training*

### **ROAD WEATHER INFORMATION SYSTEMS TRAINING**

Continuing to be available on demand is a Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) Equipment and Operations Training Course. The course includes: an overview of RWIS, with an explanation of why these devices are important, and their contributions to roadway safety and operations; design and deployment issues; siting considerations related to the larger RWIS network; financial considerations, including benefit versus cost discussions, procurement issues, and data value and ownership; operational and maintenance issues. The course finishes with a half-day workshop where local issues are overlaid on sample case studies.

Full details:

[www.itsrm.org/downloads/RWISUpfrontSecmod.pdf](http://www.itsrm.org/downloads/RWISUpfrontSecmod.pdf)

### **WEBINARS: MANAGING TRAVEL DEMAND TO MITIGATE CONGESTION**

The Federal Highway Administration is hosting webinars that provide a new perspective on demand management, aiming to impart a new way of thinking about urban travel that focuses on both the need for travel itself and means to accommodate travel via new and innovative choices. The webinars are designed for transportation managers that plan and operate the transportation system, including highway officials, metropolitan planning organization staff, TDM professionals, and others who assist regions in seeking ways to reduce demand in order to address issues such as congestion and air quality. Free registration is available through the NTOC Talking Operations Web Conference Series.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.ntoctalks.com/web\\_casts.php](http://www.ntoctalks.com/web_casts.php)

## *News from Academia*

### **TRANSPORTATION AT McMASTER**

Noting that today's transportation and logistics industry has become knowledge-intensive and extremely competitive, an announcement in May indicates that industry leaders have come together with McMaster University to establish a world-class institute: the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics (MITL), to provide a resource to industry and government by conducting applied research and education in transportation and logistics.

The institute will focus on three broad areas:

- Performing affordable, objective research for public and private partners, emphasizing the efficient and sustainable operation of transport and logistics systems
- Providing industry and government with trained personnel and educational programs on transportation and logistics
- Promoting interaction between industry, government and academic experts to create benefits for industry and society alike.

For more information:

<http://mitl.mcmaster.ca>



*ITS Canada Welcomes  
New Member*

**SUSTAINING CORPORATE**  
Agence Métropolitaine de Transport

## *Members in the News*

**Galdos Systems Inc.** has announced the launch of the KML Validator, an automated KML validation engine designed as a public service to assist KML developers and users to help produce higher quality KML files. KML is rapidly emerging as the primary global mechanism for the drawing and navigation of maps and images. This service will make it easier to develop and test KML tools and components, and will contribute to the increasingly widespread adoption of KML. For more information: [www.galdosinc.com](http://www.galdosinc.com).



**INIT Innovations in Transportation, Inc.** has received the Canadian Urban Transportation Association's "Corporate Recognition Award", acknowledging INIT's achievement with their advanced intelligent transportation system installed on York's VIVA Bus Rapid Transit system in Ontario, Canada. After installation of INIT's complete CAD/AVL suite of products, including onboard computers and real-time passenger information, as well as the automatic passenger counting and traffic signal priority, VIVA subsequently won the "IT Project of the Year" award. VIVA's technology award was given by the Tri-Committee of Ontario, an organization striving to create opportunities and partnerships to further the use of information technology in the public works sector.

## *World's largest ITS Conference in November*

*By Sabrina Quirarte,  
Intelligent Transportation Society of America*

In 2008, the 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems will be combined with the Annual Meeting & Exposition of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), making it the largest event in the world for ITS leaders, policy makers and other industry professionals. An expected 10,000 transportation, technology and business leaders and ITS professionals from around the globe will come together at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City from November 16 to 20, 2008.

Delegates to the World Congress and Annual Meeting will have access to more than 200 extraordinary policy and technology sessions, exciting tours, more than 250,000 square feet of exhibits, and virtually limitless opportunities to connect with an international audience in one of the great cities of the world.

A broad range of technical tours will be available to delegates. These tours will feature both state-of-the-art facilities, including the New York State Department of Transportation's INFORM Center on Long Island, as well as transport facilities of extraordinary significance, such as the George Washington Bridge, "the busiest vehicular crossing in the world."

This combined event will feature the largest fully-integrated demonstration of deployed and marketable ITS technologies ever. Vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside communication technologies and applications will be highlighted. This demonstration will include innovative mobility solutions operating on the streets and highways of New York, and will build upon the success of the Innovative Mobility Showcase that proved to be of enormous interest at the 2005 World Congress on ITS in San Francisco. Live demonstrations will showcase advanced ITS technologies that provide effective management of public facilities, protect public investment in transport infrastructure, and enhance and expand mobility options.



The second announcement is now available online:

[www.itsa.org/itsa/files/pdf/WC082ndAnnouncement.pdf](http://www.itsa.org/itsa/files/pdf/WC082ndAnnouncement.pdf)

This 24-page brochure contains information on technical tours, technology demonstrations, exhibitors, networking events, registration and accommodations, as well as a preliminary schedule.

Discounted registration rates are available for delegates and speakers through September 1. Visit [www.itsworldcongress.org](http://www.itsworldcongress.org) for registration information and the latest details on the World Congress.

The 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems is sponsored by ITS America, ERTICO (ITS Europe) and ITS Japan.



Jacob K. Javits Convention Center



# ITS Canada News

## *News bITS*

### **CANADIAN TRANSIT STATISTICS**

The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) has announced highlights of 2007 ridership statistics. Records indicate an increase of 3.1 percent nationally for a record 1.76 billion trips, the fifth consecutive year Canadian transit systems have set ridership records. Examples of communities that experienced double-digit increases in 2007 include:

- Charlottetown, PEI (25.5 percent)
- Kelowna, BC (18.1 percent)
- Saskatoon SK (17 percent)
- Laurentides, QC (14.9 percent)
- Whitehorse, YT (11.2 percent)
- Brandon, MB (10.3 percent).

For more information: [www.cutaactu.ca](http://www.cutaactu.ca).

### **ITS AMERICA E-NEWSLETTER**

*Transportation Technology News*, brought to you by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, provides timely reports on news, events and activities of ITS America and the intelligent transportation systems (ITS) industry. Editorial staff monitors 8,000 newspapers, business publications, websites, national and international wire services, and other periodicals to summarize significant articles into an easy-to-read summary. All of this information is presented in a new HTML newsletter that now reaches ITS America's members and other transportation professionals, legislators, and the media. For more information, visit:

[www.itsamerica.org](http://www.itsamerica.org)

### **ITS ALASKA LAUNCHES WEBSITE**

ITS Alaska has announced the launch of its website, [www.itsalaska.org](http://www.itsalaska.org). ITS Alaska was established in January 2008 as a chartered state chapter of ITS America. ITS Alaska's mission is to elevate safety and mobility through leadership and promote a strong, innovative ITS community in Alaska. ITS Alaska membership is open to public agencies, private companies, academic organizations, professional associations or individuals with an interest in advancing the purpose of ITS Alaska.

### **IN-VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

In the United Kingdom, industry participants have been considering some of the problems experienced with the routing of vehicles using satellite navigation devices, as well as concerns about Human-Machine Interaction (HMI). The Department for Transport led a consultation process, and a summary of results has now been made available through the Department's website at:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2007/ivisc/onsultationdocument/invehicleresponse>

### **SENSOR TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

ITS South Africa, in partnership with the ITS Centre of Excellence, is hosting a workshop on October 23, 2008, on Sensor Technology. The goal is to solve real-world problems using appropriate technology. The focus will be on vehicle detection, data collection and processing, and applications.

The workshop will be of significant interest to:

- Local/Transport/Roads Authority managers
- Consultants
- Research groups
- Suppliers.

Technologies that will be addressed include inductive loop, magnetometer, microwave/radar, cellular, optical, infrared, acoustic and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

Application areas include:

- Urban traffic control
- Freeway management
- Tolling
- Public transport
- Road infrastructure engineering
- Enforcement.

For more information, please visit:

[www.itssa.org](http://www.itssa.org)



## Upcoming Events

### **Ontario Traffic Conference and AGM**

June 2 and 3, 2008 – Oakville, Ontario

[www.otc.org](http://www.otc.org)

### **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)

### **IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium**

June 4 to 6, 2008 – Eindhoven, the Netherlands

[www.iv2008.nl](http://www.iv2008.nl)

### **Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conf.**

June 8 to 11, 2008 – Whistler, BC, Canada

[www.cmrsc.ca](http://www.cmrsc.ca)

### **ITS New York 15th Annual Meeting**

June 12 and 13, 2008 – Saratoga Springs, NY

[DottyD@aol.com](mailto:DottyD@aol.com)

### **Freeway and Tollway Operations Conference**

June 15 to 19, 2008 – Fort Lauderdale, USA

[www.2008ftoc.com](http://www.2008ftoc.com)

### **2008 Canadian Telecom Summit**

June 16 to June 18, 2008 – Toronto, ON

[www.telecomsummit.com](http://www.telecomsummit.com)

### **Intelligent Weather Information Systems and Services in Traffic and Transportation**

July 9 to 11, 2008 – Carinthia, Austria

[www.lakeside-conference.at](http://www.lakeside-conference.at)

### **Delivering Integrated Transport Solutions Conference**

July 10, 2008 – London, England

[www.ncetransport.co.uk](http://www.ncetransport.co.uk)

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

July 14 to 16, 2008 – Singapore

[www.itsasiapacific2008.com](http://www.itsasiapacific2008.com)

### **ITE 2008 Annual Meeting and Exhibition**

August 17 to 20, 2008 – Anaheim, California

[www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)

### **National Rural ITS Conference**

September 3 to 5, 2008 – Anchorage, AK

[www.nritsconference.org](http://www.nritsconference.org)

### **TranspoQuip Latin America 2008**

September 9 to 11, 2008 – Sao Paulo, Brazil

[www.TranspoQuip.com](http://www.TranspoQuip.com)

### **OTC Parking Workshop**

September 14 to 16, 2008 – Stratford, Ontario

[www.otc.org](http://www.otc.org)

### **XV Pan-American Conf. of Traffic & Transportation**

September 14 to 17, 2008 – Colombia

[www.uninorte.edu.co/panam2008](http://www.uninorte.edu.co/panam2008)

### **76th IBTTA Annual Meeting and Exhibition**

September 20 to 24, 2008 – Baltimore, Maryland

[www.ibtta.org](http://www.ibtta.org)

### **TAC Annual Conference 2008**

September 21 to 24, 2008 – Toronto, Ontario

[www.tac-atc.ca](http://www.tac-atc.ca)

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

September 22 to 28, 2008 – Orlando, Florida

[www.itstranspo.org](http://www.itstranspo.org)

### **8th Spanish Congress and Exhibition on ITS**

October 14 to 16, 2008 – Oviedo, Spain

[congresos@itsspain.com](mailto:congresos@itsspain.com)

### **International ITS Conference & Expo 2008**

October 15 to 17, 2008 – Shanghai, China

[www.itsshanghai.net](http://www.itsshanghai.net)

### **Viet Traffic – Road-Rail-Safety-ITS**

October 15 to 17, 2008 – Hanoi, Vietnam

[www.viettraffic.com](http://www.viettraffic.com)

### **OTC Traffic Engineering Workshop**

October 16, 2008 – Alliston, Ontario

[www.otc.org](http://www.otc.org)

### **8th International Conference on ITS Telecommunications**

October 22 to 24, 2008 – Phuket, Thailand

[www.itst2008.nectec.or.th](http://www.itst2008.nectec.or.th)

### **8th International Transport Systems Telematics Conference**

November 5 to 8, 2008 – Katowice-Ustroń, Poland

[www.tst-conference.org](http://www.tst-conference.org)

### **CUTA Fall Conference and Trans-Expo 2008**

November 8 to 12, 2008 – Windsor, Ontario

[www.cutaactu.ca](http://www.cutaactu.ca)

### **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)

### **Road Pricing Conference 2008**

December 9 and 10, 2008 – London, England

[www.theiet.org/events/2008/road-pricing.cfm](http://www.theiet.org/events/2008/road-pricing.cfm)

### **ATEC-ITS France International Congress**

February 4 and 5, 2009 – Versailles, France

[www.itsfrance.net](http://www.itsfrance.net)