



ITS Canada News

Project Evaluation Methodology Framework for Canadian ITS

Although it is well recognized that ITS projects offer a cost-effective solution for many transportation problems, the benefits of ITS are not as well understood as benefits from more traditional transportation projects. Decision makers and the general public may find it difficult to understand why, how or when ITS investments can provide significant benefits. In fact, individual projects are often not evaluated. While transportation agencies generally have standard practices to evaluate major investments, they do not usually address the specific nuances of how best to evaluate ITS investments.

Canada

Transport Canada has now completed a project to develop a methodology to evaluate the benefits of Canadian intelligent transportation systems projects. The Transportation Development Centre (TDC) acted as the scientific authority for this project, on behalf of Transport Canada's ITS Office. The evaluation methodology presented in the published report provides a framework to ensure consistency and validity of results across regions and across types of ITS investments. It also offers the advantage of addressing the benefits of combined ITS projects, which can sometimes be greater than the benefits of projects that proceed individually.

For full details, please visit:

www.tc.gc.ca/tdc/projects/its/d/its21.htm .

A training session will be presented at ITS Canada's Annual Conference, being held in Montreal on June 1 to 4, 2008.

ITS Canada's Photo Library

www.itscanada.ca/english/photolibrary.htm

One of the many benefits available to ITS Canada members is ITS Canada's online **photo library**, accessible through the "ITS Resources" section of the website. Thanks to the generous support of members, the library now includes a large number of images, organized by subject. If you haven't visited in a while, you might be interested in viewing the library. Your password will be required to access images, which are presented in "thumbnail view" using low resolution. Members must contact the owner of the image to request permission for use; when granted, a better quality image will be provided by the owner.

If you have images that could be added to the library, ITS Canada would be grateful for your contribution.

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Submissions or comments can
be e-mailed to
itscanada@itscanada.ca.



Visit ITS Canada's website at
www.itscanada.ca

ITS for Traffic Management

With the advancement of intelligent transportation systems in managing surface transportation, a framework has now been developed for the application of ITS to traffic management, with a report to be made available this spring through the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC).



ITS Canada was one of many sponsors who supported this project. The framework defines a process to assist transportation agencies by offering practical information on ITS applications. It addresses all stages of an ITS project, including planning, design, procurement, installation, operations and maintenance.

The publication identifies best practices, potential pitfalls, institutional issues and other traffic management considerations, with the intent of improving decision-making and communication with politicians, senior management, consultants and suppliers.

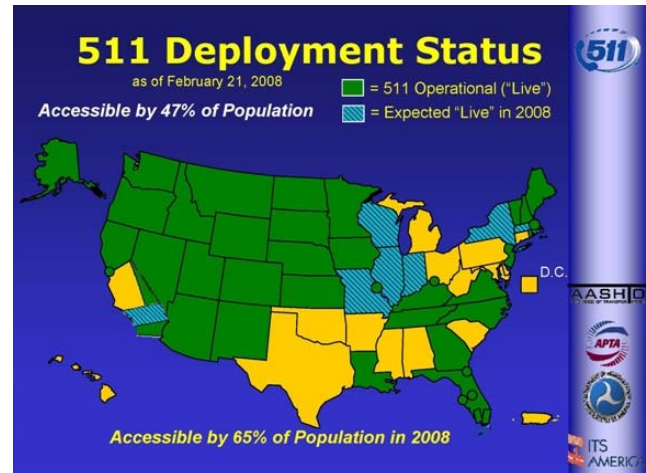
An announcement is expected when the publication becomes available for purchase through TAC's website.



*ITS Canada Welcomes
New Members*

CORPORATE
Signalisation Ver-Mac
ENTRA Consultants Inc.

511 in the United States



In December 2007, the U.S. 511 Coalition reported 4,655,523 total calls and the first month with over four million calls. Other statistics include:

- Almost 96 million calls nationwide since inception
- 40 consecutive months with over one million calls
- 511 service was available to over 128 million Americans (47 percent)
- New national 511 records:
 - 28.5 million calls in 2007 – a 31 percent increase over 2006
 - 9.9 million calls in the fourth quarter of 2007
- Forty-one 511 services available to the travelling public, operating in 33 states
- Colorado, Kansas, New México, St. Louis, Washington State and Wyoming services set monthly call volume records
- The Tennessee service passed the million call milestone.

For further information, visit the website at:

www.deploy511.org/deploystatus.htm



TRB's ITS: State-of-the-Industry Review

By William Johnson, TRENDS Consulting

The highlight of the ITS sessions each year at the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington in January is the session that reviews the state of the industry. This session invites top officials from ITS America, the federal government (USDOT), the states (AASHTO) and the private sector (this year GM Corporation) to present their perspectives on recent and future ITS developments.

This year, the speakers included Scott Belcher, the new President of ITS America, Shelley Row, Director of the ITS Joint Program Office, John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO, and Nady Boules, Director of Electrical and Control Integration at General Motors.

Scott Belcher discussed the issues faced by the ITS community, the future direction of ITS evolution and the 15th ITS World Congress in New York City in November 2008. He stressed the fact that road-related deaths in the U.S. had levelled off at 42,000 every year. This is the primary challenge for the ITS community and one that technology can help to alleviate. He listed a number of technologies that can assist: night vision, lane departure warnings and VII (vehicle-infrastructure integration), among others.

Other important issues are climate change (28 percent of emissions come from the transport sector) and funding (the Highway Trust Fund is up for re-authorization). He stated that climate change is now emerging as a political issue and suggested that ITS can position itself to provide the means to measure CO₂ emissions and their impact. The funding issue is a perennial one.

Shelley Row discussed ITS now and for the future. She provided an overview of the recent ITS accomplishments, including Clarus (road weather), the e-freight field test, integrated corridor management, mobility for all Americans, next generation 911, VII test beds in California and Michigan, ITS standards program, the need for a new ITS strategic plan, and professional capacity building. She anticipates that a new, common, clear vision for ITS will emerge from the new ITS Advisory Committee, a new ITS program plan, the ending of present ITS initiatives at USDOT and reauthorization.

The vision will focus on congestion, safety and system performance. The main opportunities will come from the information explosion, and wireless connectivity of vehicles and the roadside in real time.

Shelley observed that ITS use is growing but ITS investment is slow and resources are constrained. Therefore, USDOT will focus on hi-return projects. She suggested the ITS vision should aim for end-to-end data for travel, optimal system performance, collecting performance measures, and end-to-end freight management. The goals will be three-fold: mobility enhancement; environmental/energy focus (new for USDOT); and 21st century role for USDOT.

John Horsley presented the perspective of the state agencies. He highlighted the promise of VII and the growing interest of the states to partner with USDOT on this new. The emphasis would be on business models, funding, deployment and the World Congress demonstration. VII test beds are now located in California and Michigan, and five other states have expressed interest. He mentioned 511 and the progress to date – 45 percent of the U.S. population is now covered with 37 systems; there will be 65 percent coverage by the end of 2009. He also mentioned the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition, completion of standards for the advanced traffic signal controller, and the need for congestion reduction performance standards in the next reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund.

Nady Boules discussed the role of connected vehicles in a connected world. The 'big picture' he proposed was a universal aspiration for personal freedom, autonomy and accessibility to opportunity. He illustrated the expected growth in demand for mobility with these figures: in 2007, worldwide sales of motor vehicles was 70 million; in 2016, this is projected at 95 million. The challenges for the motor vehicle manufacturing industry are to produce vehicles that can sustain this growth in production for sale (to meet market demand) while conforming to energy and environmental constraints.

TRB 87th Annual Meeting 2008: www.TRB.org



ITS Canada News

News *bITS*

ITS ARCHITECTURE UPDATE

Transport Canada has initiated the process of updating the ITS Architecture for Canada and will host a full-day workshop in Ottawa on April 7, 2008, to collect stakeholder input. Workshop topics will include:

- Current state of the ITS architecture and standards, in Canada and worldwide
- The use of regional ITS architectures in Canada
- Guiding principles for the update to the ITS Architecture for Canada
- Additional user services for the ITS Architecture for Canada.

Webinar access for those unable to attend will be provided. Contact Sharon DaCosta at IBI Group at sdacosta@ibigroup.com for details.

Canada

URBAN GOODS WORKSHOP

Transport Canada, in collaboration with University of British Columbia's Bureau of Intelligent Transportation Systems and Freight Security (Sauder School of Business), has organized a workshop on urban goods movement that will be held in Vancouver on March 18-19, 2008. This workshop will feature experts from across Canada, the U.S. and abroad. Registration is free. For details, contact Garland Chow, Associate Professor, Sauder School of Business, at garland.chow@sauder.ubc.ca.

CONGESTION PRICING

In the U.S., focus groups were recently held among the general public, business owners and managers, and owners and managers of shipping and transportation logistics firms to obtain feedback on congestion pricing scenarios and to better understand the public's concerns regarding congestion pricing. A secondary purpose was to learn more about how to communicate with the public on the topic of congestion pricing. To download the full report, visit:

www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/tolling_pricing/resources/report/cpcfocussgrp/index.htm.

ITS TRAINING

The ITS Joint Program Office of the U.S. Department of Transportation sponsors development of training courses to assist ITS professionals, as part of the ITS Professional Capacity Building Program. The following is a partial list of courses available from a number of sources:



National Transit Institute

www.ntionline.com/Courses.asp

Multimodal Traveller Information Systems

Consortium for ITS Training and Education (CITE)

www.citeconsortium.org/curriculum.html

ITS Awareness

Improving Highway Safety with ITS

Rural ITS

Introduction to ITS/CVO and CVISN (CVISN 101) and Advanced (CVISN 102)

National Highway Institute

www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/training

ITS Awareness Seminar

Managing Traffic Incident and Roadway Emergencies

Integrated Transportation Management for Small- and Medium-Sized Communities

Advancing Transportation Systems Management and Operations

Improving Highway Safety with ITS

Freeway Management and Operations

Rural ITS Toolbox

Managing Travel for Planned Special Events

Principles and Tools for Road Weather Management

CORSIM Traffic Simulation Model Training

ITS Telecommunications Overview

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Procurement

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)

www.ite.org/standards/CourseSchedule.asp

ITS Standards Overview IEEE 1512

ITS Standards (Center-to-Center)

ITS Standards Dynamic Message Signs

Members in the News

NAVTEQ

NAVTEQ has announced an agreement with wireless operator Telefonica for new mobile traffic products dedicated to European markets. This relationship is the first step of NAVTEQ Traffic presence in Europe, and initial products are targeted for Barcelona and Madrid later this year. NAVTEQ Traffic currently serves the United States and Canada with real-time and historical traffic data services and technology. Telefonica will provide broad distribution of innovative, high-quality consumer solutions to their customers for popular mobile platforms. These products will provide users with real-time roadway conditions reports, including average speeds and congestion levels.

TELVENT Farradyne

Telvent has been awarded a contract by the Kansas Department of Transportation, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County for the Wichita Traffic Management Center design project. This project aims to develop a freeway management system for the metropolitan area of Wichita, the largest city in the State of Kansas and capital of the Sedgwick County. Telvent will design installations of surveillance cameras and information boards on freeways to provide timely information to state and local authorities, as well as travellers. These devices will be controlled from the Traffic Management Center, which will combine Traffic Management Center operators with 911 emergency dispatchers. This will provide faster and more coordinated responses to major incidents, increasing the security on the roads. Telvent will develop the traffic management systems software, the design for components of the Traffic Management Center, and the communications systems and equipment (such as variable message signs, closed circuit television cameras, vehicle detectors and ramp metering).



In February 2008, the Canadian federal government announced that it is making the current gas tax revenue sharing program permanent, allowing **TransLink** to develop long-term plans for transit improvements in the region to support growth and development. The latest federal budget also included funding for the Evergreen Rapid Transit Line, an important piece of Metro Vancouver's rapid transit network, which recommends advanced light rapid transit (ALRT or SkyTrain-like technology) as the suggested technology in the business case. ALRT is automated and grade-separated, on tracks above, below or segregated from the street.

TransLink has also begun testing a new communications system that utilizes automated voice and an information display announcing the next stops, using TMAC – the new Transit Management and Communications system – on 23 buses throughout the fleet. Customers riding some of the equipped buses will hear the automated message for the next stop, while LED panels in the ceiling display the same information. The announcements help fill a need long called for by advocates in the disability community: improved access for visually impaired people, making conventional public transportation more accessible to more people.

TMAC also enables GPS location of individual buses, so that dispatchers can respond to traffic and demand patterns, and change route assignments accordingly. Buses can also be located more accurately in the event of an emergency in which the operator is not able to communicate the position. The pilot test will include a customer survey to help "fine tune" the system before it is installed on other buses in the fleet.

Vehicle-Infrastructure Integration (VII) Workshop

March 4, 2008 – Ottawa, Ontario
<http://members.allstream.net/~max-com/ottawa.vts.html>

Urban Goods Workshop

March 18 and 19, 2008 – Vancouver, BC
garland.chow@sauder.ubc.ca

2008 Toll Road Summit of the Americas

March 30 to April 1, 2008 – Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.ibtta.org/Events

Intertraffic Amsterdam

April 1 to 4, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.intertraffic.com

Intelligent Public Transport Systems (IPTS)

April 2 and 3, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.iptseurope.com/iptseurope2008

TAC Spring Technical Meetings

April 3 to 7, 2008 – Ottawa, Ontario
www.tac-atc.ca

ITS Architecture Update Workshop/Webinar

April 7, 2008 – Ottawa, Ontario
sdacosta@ibigroup.com

ITS Arab Conference 2008

April 14 and 15, 2008 – Manama, Bahrain
www.its-arab.org

43e congrès annuel AQTR

April 14 to 16, 2008 – Quebec City, QC
www.aqtr.qc.ca

Intertraffic China

April 24 to 26, 2008 – Beijing, China
www.intertraffic.com

Smart Roadside Workshop 2008

April 29 to May 2, 2008 – Jacksonville, Florida.
julie.lane@dot.gov

ITS UK Annual Conference

May 20 to 22, 2008 – Manchester, UK
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

ITS Polish Congress 2008

May 26 to 28, 2008 – Warsaw, Poland
www.pkits.pl/index_eng.php



Upcoming Events

Ontario Traffic Conference and AGM

June 2 and 3, 2008 – Oakville, Ontario
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

IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium

June 4 to 6, 2008 – Eindhoven, the Netherlands
www.iv2008.nl

Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conf.

June 8 to 11, 2008 – Whistler, BC, Canada
www.cmrrsc.ca

ITS New York 15th Annual Meeting

June 12 and 13, 2008 – Saratoga Springs, NY
DottyD@aol.com

Freeway and Tollway Operations Conference

June 15 to 19, 2008 – Fort Lauderdale, USA
www.2008ftoc.com

2008 Canadian Telecom Summit

June 16 to June 18, 2008 – Toronto, ON
www.telecomsummit.com

9th Intelligent Transport Systems Asia-Pacific Forum and Exhibition

July 14 to 16, 2008 – Singapore
www.itsasiapacific2008.com

National Rural ITS Conference

September 3 to 5, 2008 – Anchorage, AK
www.nritsconference.org

XV Pan-American Conf. of Traffic & Transportation

September 14 to 17, 2008 – Colombia
www.uninorte.edu.co/panam2008

TAC Annual Conference 2008

September 21 to 24, 2008 – Toronto, Ontario
Call For Papers - Deadline January 18, 2008
www.tac-atc.ca

Transpo2008: "ITS: Piecing It All Together"

September 22 to 28, 2008 – Orlando, Florida
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



ITS CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING 2008

June 1 to 4, 2008 – Montreal, Canada ~ www.itscanada.ca/montreal2008