

14th World Congress on ITS



By William Johnson, TRENDS Consulting

The ITS Canada mission to the 14th ITS World Congress in Beijing, China, was an outstanding success. The delegation of 17 members of ITS Canada plus accompanying persons and China-based employees of Corporate members made an impact out of proportion to their numbers. With support from the Canadian Embassy in Beijing and Transport Canada, the delegation was able to gain visibility and attract attention to Canada's ITS accomplishments and capabilities. With a reported attendance of 5,000 delegates and exhibitors at the Congress, this help was needed and greatly appreciated.

China is an immense country and the statistics prove it: 1.3 billion people, 3.45 million kilometers of roads, 5.7 billion tons of freight moved through ports (including 3.6 million containers). China is committed to using science and technology, and especially ITS, to ensure these transport requirements are delivered efficiently and are properly managed, safely and securely. In fact, China has a long history of excellent engineering, and this was evident in the scope and scale of its participation in the exhibition hall. Compared to China's participation in previous World Congresses, this Congress was an eye opener.

The heart of the 14th World Congress was the exhibition. Here, one could communicate directly with technical experts from around the world and especially from Asia. Located in six exhibit halls plus outdoor displays, it was a daunting task to find one's way around to all 159 exhibit booths. The ITS Canada booth, although modest, attracted a steady stream of visitors and the complete supply of brochures was quickly snapped up.

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www.itscanada.ca

14th World Congress on ITS ~ Beijing, China

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The Special and Technical Sessions were housed in specially constructed rooms, hurriedly assembled in time for the Congress, and curiously positioned along the sides of corridor-shaped halls. As the rooms were small, the audiences had to be small. Still, with 60 Special Sessions, 106 Technical Sessions and 6 Interactive Poster Sessions, there were lots of presentations to learn from.

The Gala Congress Dinner was a treat! As the event took place at the Sheng Fang Yi Yuan Ecosystem Restaurant on the outskirts of Beijing, the two convoys of coaches with delegates on board received a police escort to whisk them through the impenetrable Beijing traffic from the Exhibition Centre to the restaurant. Talk about solving traffic problems!



China's long history has produced a fascinating culture and delegates were able to experience a bit of it, both in the Opening Ceremony and in the sights and sounds of Beijing outside the confines of the Beijing Exhibition Centre. Below is a photo taken at the Opening Ceremony. ITS Canada's website contains additional photos taken throughout the mission to China and the World Congress. Visit: www.itscanada.ca/english/WCBeijing.htm.



ITS Canada once again hosted a highly successful hospitality event, which included a cocktail reception followed by dinner. The event, attended by 175 invitees, began with a reception that included a photo opportunity with Chinese in traditional costume. There was entertainment throughout the meal. The actors were brilliant and the arrangement of the raised stage and tables surrounding it gave everyone a good view. **Canadian Ambassador Robert Wright, Susan Spencer**, Transport Canada, and **Joseph Lam**, Chairman of ITS Canada, welcomed guests. The food was excellent, and compliments afterward poured in from attendees as everyone had an excellent time.



In summary, perhaps the success of the mission to the Beijing World Congress is best captured in the words of Susan Spencer, Head of Delegation and Director, ITS Office, Transport Canada: "This was a marvelous opportunity to learn about the latest ITS developments from around the world and to exhibit Canadian capabilities to an international audience".



At the Closing Ceremony, the Globe was passed to the United States to host the next Congress in New York City in 2008. Hope you can make it!

Mission to China

Following the World Congress, ITS Canada led a mission to Shenyang, Chongqing, Nanjing and Shanghai. Although not all mission participants went to all cities, delegation members included representatives from **Delcan**, **EIS**, **IBI Group** and **Strategic Mapping**, along with ITS Canada General Manager **Colin Rayman**. The mission was also supported and accompanied by the Canadian trade commissioners.



Delegation with Student Volunteers in Chongqing

The purpose of the mission was to promote Canadian capabilities in ITS and to explore partnering and trade opportunities. Several opportunities were identified, with follow-up being undertaken after the delegation's return to Canada.



Colin Rayman (with interpreter) addressing the ITS Seminar in Nanjing

More News From China

ISO/TC 204

The 30th Plenary meeting of ISO Technical Committee 204 (Intelligent Transportation Systems) was held in Qingdao, China, on October 19, 2007. Qingdao is a city of three million with nearby suburbs of seven million, located an hour and a half by air east of Beijing. The Standardization Administration of China (SAC) hosted the meeting, and ITS China organized the meetings and a social event. Delegates were welcomed by Dr. Bao Feng of ITS China.

The Canadian delegates who attend ISO/TC 204 meetings represent the Standards Council of Canada. The Canadian delegation to the 30th TC 204 meetings in Qingdao included three members of the Canadian Advisory Committee for ISO/TC 204:

1. William Johnson (TRENDS Consulting), Head of Delegation (HOD) attended the Plenary and CHOD meetings, the Working Group 7 meeting as rapporteur for WG7, and the Working Group 9 meeting as Canadian delegate to WG9.
2. Dr. Lewis Sabounghi (Sabounghi & Associates), International Convener for WG7 (General Fleet Management and Commercial Freight) attended the Working Group 7 meeting and the CHOD and Plenary meetings.
3. Dr. Peter Burns (Transport Canada, Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation), attended the Working Group 14 meeting as the Canadian expert to WG14.

A detailed trip report is included on ITS Canada's website at:

www.itscanada.ca/standardscommittee/newsandevents.htm

Further information is also available from:

William (Bill) Johnson, Chair, SCC/Canadian Advisory Committee for ISO/TC204
Telephone : (613) 797-1489
Email: johnswf@attglobal.net

Transportation Development Centre

Annual Review – Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2007

Excerpts from TDC's Annual Review

The Transportation Development Centre is Transport Canada's centre of expertise for technology research and development. TDC's professional staff work closely with stakeholders to identify priority needs and map out directions for research.

Intelligent Transportation Systems Highlights **Traffic monitoring using cell phones**

Researchers determined that cell phone technology can offer a low cost and flexible alternative to installing, maintaining and operating a network of expensive sensors for urban traffic monitoring and control. By anonymously tracking cell phones in moving vehicles, it is possible to derive useful information, such as route, speed and travel time.

With the cooperation of a wireless phone company, anonymous data was collected over several weeks on a stretch of highway in Toronto and compared against the same information derived from existing traffic systems over the same road network.

Autonomous monitoring station

To demonstrate that next-generation personal communication services (PCS) data networks (1xRTT) can be used for fast deployment of ITS in rural areas, three remote, wireless monitoring stations were installed along a rural highway in Ontario subject to severe winter white-out conditions. To solve the problem of power in rural areas, the stations were solar powered. Visibility sensors provided a qualitative measure of visibility, and vehicle detectors monitored the speed and volume of traffic. The project demonstrated the technical capability of deploying wireless data communications and solar power with a low-cost interface to different combinations of field devices and sensors.

Small transit ITS

A study was launched this year into potential benefits of and barriers to introducing ITS technology into smaller public transit systems. None of the approximately 60 small transit agencies in Canada (operating between 10 and 100 buses) has been able

to take advantage of the benefits of ITS technologies. The study will examine how ITS is being used by smaller transit agencies in other countries, and make recommendations for R&D to address the obstacles identified.

Advanced traveller information system

Development has been completed of a functioning prototype of a regional advanced traveller information system (ATIS) for the Greater Vancouver Area. The project aimed to create a one-stop public web portal that provides multi-modal, multi-jurisdiction, static and real-time traveller information, enabling users to make better and more informed travel decisions. The cornerstone of the portal is a feature-rich interactive map that allows the user to view current incident and congestion information in graphical form, with toggle switches to include or exclude road, rail, marine and air travel networks. The system is currently being deployed and has been branded as 'iMove'.

ITS R&D Plan for Canada

TDC is responsible for technical management of research projects on behalf of Transport Canada's ITS Office under the ITS R&D Plan for Canada, which is aimed at stimulating the development and deployment of intelligent transportation systems in Canada. The program is composed of R&D contracts, contribution agreements and federal / provincial / territorial bilateral agreements.

One project completed this year examined the use of **smart cards** to pay for trips on public transit. Smart cards offer a variety of benefits to operators, including greater ease of use and accessibility for passengers, and the ability to collect precise data on ridership and travel patterns. Researchers explored the technical specifications and standards that would be required to meet transit operator needs while maximizing the interoperability of smart cards among a wide variety of service providers, particularly financial institutions, which are already exploring the introduction of smart cards.

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TDC

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Another project developed a system to provide secure, wireless remote access to a central traffic control system through a personal digital assistant to allow traffic engineers and technicians to update, troubleshoot and maintain **traffic signal timing** operations in the field. The remote access system developed in this project enables field crews to monitor the system in the field, providing better and faster diagnostic operations without the need for support from control centre staff. It also allows field crews to modify signal timing data at an intersection.



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15th World Congress Call For Papers

Online submission opens November 1, 2007

Theme:
"ITS Connections: Saving Time, Saving Lives"

Full Details:
www.itsworldcongress.org

Striving for Excellence in ITS in South Africa

By Paul Vorster, CEO – ITS South Africa

Re-entry into the global marketplace has seen South Africa's economy expanding consistently over the past decade. A growing middle class has resulted in record numbers of new private cars on the roads, and the resulting increase in congestion has emphasized the business case for the deployment of ITS technologies.

Hosting the FIFA Soccer World Cup in 2010 has helped to move the contribution of ITS to the top of the transport agenda.

To play a vanguard role in this rapidly growing market has seen the SA Society for ITS (SASITS) re-branding itself. Now known as ITS South Africa, it plays an active role in the domestic and international ITS industry.

ITS Canada and ITS South Africa have previously signed an MOU and several Canadian companies are participating in the South Africa market.

In striving for excellence in ITS, ITS South Africa recently announced the launch of the ITS Centre of Excellence. The ITS CoE will be a virtual entity to encourage multi-stakeholder cooperation and will have five focus areas:

- Knowledge management
- Training and skills transfer
- Education
- Research support
- Innovation and development.

Companies interested in participating in the South African market are invited to contact ITS South Africa to facilitate local agreements or joint ventures. Visit www.itssa.org or contact paul@itssa.org.



News bITS

TAC Publishes Road Features Inventory

The *Guidelines and Best Practices for Road Features Inventories* publication is now available from the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC).

The document covers the entire road features inventory process. The national guidelines are meant to assist practitioners in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of road inventory systems.

In the document, a road features inventory (RFI) is considered to be the process of collecting information on road features and attributes in terms of physical characteristics (such as length, condition, location, etc.) by using a variety of data collection methods, and storing the collected data in ways to ensure data availability for inventory purposes, statistical reporting and decision-making processes.

The 140-page publication emphasizes that the development of an RFI should be carefully thought out, involve input from all stakeholders, and include well-documented methodologies and procedures. Its ten chapters introduce the reader to basic and more complex aspects of RFI, including the RFI inception, development, structuring and use. The key chapters conclude with a summary of guidelines and best practices. A primer, in both English and French, is also included to provide users with a comprehensive methodology for the development of the road features inventories.

For full details, please visit:
<https://mediant.magma.ca/tacatc/bookstore/products.cfm?catid=9&subcatid=18&prodid=204>



Government of Canada Launches \$33-Billion Infrastructure Plan

On November 6, 2007, the Government of Canada announced the details of a \$33-billion infrastructure plan. Called "*Building Canada*", the plan focuses on building a stronger, safer and better Canada by providing stable funding for municipalities over a longer period of time (2007 to 2014) than any previous federal infrastructure initiative. The announcement indicated that results will include cleaner air and water, safer roads, shorter commutes, and prosperous, livable communities. For full details, please visit:

www.buildingcanada-chantierscanada.gc.ca/index-eng.html

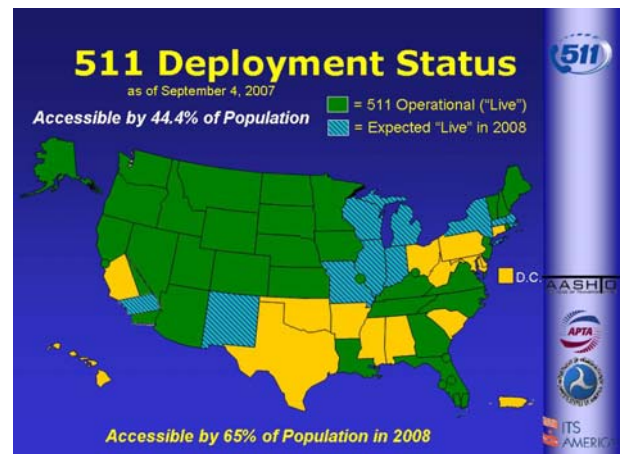
Canada

511 in the United States

The usage statistics for 511 telephone services nationwide, as reported to the 511 Deployment Coalition, are as follows:

- Almost 85 million calls nationwide since inception
- 36 consecutive months with over 1 million calls
- 511 was available to over 119 million Americans (41 percent).

The following services launched since the last update: Jacksonville, Louisiana, San Diego, Southwest Florida, St. Louis, Georgia and Massachusetts.



Members in the News



As an official sponsor of the 15th World Congress on ITS, to be held November 16 to 20, 2008, in New York City, **Daktronics** will provide a video wall that will consist of a nearly 200-inch screen that will use high-resolution, high-visibility LED technology, capable of video in high definition. The state-of-the-art video wall will feature a 20-minute continuous loop video, showcasing the ITS industry's latest technologies developed by some of the world's leading suppliers of services and solutions. Visit the Daktronics website at: www.daktronics.com.



On October 31, 2007, **Delcan Corporation** hosted a grand opening of the Los Angeles Regional Traffic Management Centre, a California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) District 7 project that relocated the existing Traffic Management Center to the new Los Angeles Regional Transportation Management Center (LARTMC). The LARTMC facility was created to gather regional transportation data from diverse transportation agency systems and integrate it into one system, aimed at better coordinating mobility and response services between all routes and modes of transportation.

The project goals are 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 Intelligent Transportation Systems and Emergency Response operations for the next 30 years.

Visit Delcan's website at: www.delcan.com.



Novax Industries Corporation has been selected as the technology supplier to design, supply and install Transit Signal Priority, an integral part of TransLink's Main Street Showcase Project. Utilizing municipal mesh broadband, this innovative technology will improve the quality of life for residents of the Lower Mainland and will be installed in time for the 2010 Olympics. TSP provides transit vehicles with a green light at a traffic signal, reducing bus travel times, vehicle congestion, operating costs and contributing towards a green and sustainable transportation environment. For information: www.novax.com.



In November 2007, VIVA Bus Rapid Transit, the first of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area, accepted the *IT Project of the Year Award* from the Tri-Committee of Ontario for the advanced technology installed on their BRT vehicles. **INIT, Innovations in Transportation**, supplied VIVA much of the technology that contributed to the award. INIT technology enabled VIVA to provide real-time passenger information to their customers through automated stop announcements, variable message signs displaying next-stop information in the vehicles and next-bus information at all VIVA stations. All vehicles were equipped with INIT's Windows XP embedded on-board computer. Other INIT products included mobile data terminals, automatic passenger counters and traffic signal priority installed at 141 intersections. INIT facilitates the use of 802.11 wireless LAN for secure mass data transfers. In the York Region Transit control centre, INIT's MOBILE-ITCS system provides CAD/AVL functionality with a map display (GIS) and incident management, as well as communication control and service information. INIT also interfaced with and facilitated third-party applications to provide trip planning and other information services to passengers. In addition to the 85 BRT vehicles, York Region Transit contracted INIT to equip an additional 270 conventional fixed-route buses.



Upcoming Events

CUTA Fall Conference and Trans-Expo 2007

November 10 to 14, 2007 – Quebec City, QC, Canada

www.cutactu.ca

Gulf Traffic Exhibition and Conference

December 10 to 12, 2007 – Dubai, UAE

www.gulftraffic.com

Intertraffic China

April 24 to 26, 2008 – Beijing, China

www.intertraffic.com

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

2008

TRB 87th Annual Meeting

January 13 to 17, 2008 – Washington, USA

www.trb.org/Meeting

EU Road User Charging 2008 Conference

January 29 and 30, 2008 – London, UK

www.roadusercharging.com

IT-Trans 2008

February 13 to 15, 2008 – Karlsruhe, Germany

www.it-trans.org

Intertraffic Amsterdam

April 1 to 4, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.intertraffic.com

Intelligent Public Transport Systems (IPTS)

In conjunction with Intertraffic Amsterdam

April 2 and 3, 2008 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

www.ipitseurope.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, Canada

www.aqtr.qc.ca

ITS CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING 2008

June 1 to 4, 2008 – Montreal, Canada

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

Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conf.

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

www.cmrsc.ca

Freeway and Tollway Operations Conference

June 15 to 19, 2008 – Fort Lauderdale, USA

www.2008ftoc.com

9th Intelligent Transport Systems Asia-Pacific Forum and Exhibition

July 14 to 16, 2008 – Singapore

www.itsasiapacific2008.com

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

November 17 to 20, 2008 – New York, USA

www.itsa.org/worldcongress.html