



ITS Canada News

ITS Canada Mission to the 15th World Congress on ITS



A hospitality event will be held during the upcoming 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems. The Congress is being held November 16-20, 2008, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City, and is being combined with ITS America's Annual Meeting, increasing the likelihood of a significant turnout and providing exceptional networking opportunities.

An exclusive reception, by invitation only, will be held on Monday evening, November 17, in the penthouse suite at the Sheraton Hotel – a stellar location for entertaining clients in an atmosphere that will promote connections and invite collaboration!

ITS Canada will arrange to invite high-profile, international contacts who are in New York to attend the World Congress. As well, **a number of sponsorship opportunities are available for the event**, providing members with significant benefits and advantages. This will include exclusive use of the meeting facilities, promotional opportunities, and the opportunity for naming special invitees to the hospitality event.

For full details, please contact ITS Canada at itscanada@itscanada.ca.



Use your ITS Canada membership to its fullest extent!

Expand your visibility and profile! Send ITS Canada your press releases so we can publish your news and announcements on our website and in ITS Canada's monthly newsletter.

Do you have an ITS-related RFP? Contact ITS Canada to have your agency's RFP posted on our website and emailed to all members – reaching over 700 transportation professionals!

Contact itscanada@itscanada.ca

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Submissions or comments can
be e-mailed to
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Visit ITS Canada's website at
www.itscanada.ca

FCM's Green Municipal Fund: A funding opportunity for sustainable transportation



*By Raymond Sullivan,
Federation of Canadian Municipalities*

Want to pursue a sustainable transportation project in your community?

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund™ offers financial assistance for municipal studies and projects related to sustainable transportation.

On August 10, 2008, FCM released a new Green Municipal Fund call for applications for capital projects that remove barriers to sustainable transportation and make it more convenient and competitive.

Such projects may include:

- intelligent transportation systems, such as real-time travel information and transit signal priority
- hybrid vehicle acquisition and retrofits

- improvements to infrastructure that support active transportation around transit junctions, such as sidewalks; pedestrian crossings; pedestrian links from park-and-ride facilities; bike paths and bike crossings; and end-of-trip bike facilities such as bike parking and shower facilities
- development or completion of safe and accessible walking and cycling networks planned around real destinations (e.g., work, school, shopping or cultural activities)
- development of "complete streets" or road networks that accommodate all travellers: pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and those travelling in high-occupancy vehicles or private and commercial vehicles.

Applications will be received and evaluated continuously in a non-competitive process. Up to \$2 million in low-interest loans and \$400,000 in grants is available for each eligible project.

For more information, please see the FCM Centre for Sustainable Community Development website:

www.sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/GMF/Transportation-call-for-applications-2008.asp

Congestion Charging

A SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- **Milan, Italy:** The city implemented the “EcoPass” cordon charge this past January to cut pollution and reduce traffic. Higher-polluting vehicles are charged more, with the revenue going towards “buses, cycle paths and green vehicles,” according to the BBC.
- **Valletta, Malta:** The “Controlled Vehicular Access” system, implemented in May 2007, charges non-resident cars depending on how long they stay within the charge zone, limiting long-term parking and reducing traffic in the historic capital. The plan was named a best practice case study by the European Local Transport Information Service.
- **Tel Aviv, Israel:** By 2009, motorists entering Tel Aviv will be charged NIS 25-50 (US \$7-\$15) to enter parts of the city based on time of day, area and the amount of pollution emitted by their car. The charge is meant to tackle the city’s huge traffic problem and encourage greater use of public buses. Revenue generated would help fund a long awaited light-rail system.
- **Shenzhen, China:** Looming in the future with an unspecified date, Shenzhen is to introduce a congestion charge for vehicles entering its downtown. Currently, officials are figuring out where the pricing zone will be and the amount of the charge. The revenue will be used to build infrastructure for public transportation.
- **Seoul, Korea:** The city government has proposed legislation to charge motorists who drive to stores and buildings in Seoul’s vehicle-choked center. Mostly a traffic-reducing measure for the city, officials tout its benefits for energy and the environment. If passed, the charge could begin March 2009.
- **Greater Manchester, England:** This December, residents of the area will decide through a referendum if they want a congestion charge. If accepted, the charge will be implemented in 2013. The revenue generated would expand public transportation across the areas’ 10 boroughs with extra trains, buses and improved stations, with an additional £1.5 billion (roughly US\$2.8 billion) in investment coming from the central government.
- **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:** A recent report issued by the country’s Department of Planning and Economy noted that traffic congestion and limited mass transit were inflicting a “heavy economic toll” on the city. The report lists a “demand management scenario” as one of four options to improve mobility and public transport.
- **Bangkok, Thailand:** City government is conducting a feasibility study of implementing a congestion charge in Bangkok’s business district. The main impetus of the plan is to tackle the notorious traffic problem and encourage carpooling.
- **Jakarta, Indonesia:** Based on the recommendation of an outside consultant, the Governor is considering charging drivers as a way to ease traffic jams in the capital. The city is conducting feasibility studies now, but the plan could be piloted next year.

*Veronica Vanterpool,
Tri-State Transportation Campaign*

IBEC at the World Congress

The International Benefit, Evaluation and Cost Working Group is again sponsoring an IBEC Workshop on Sunday, November 16, in conjunction with the 15th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems in New York City, being held November 16-20, 2008.

The theme of the workshop is “Vehicle Infrastructure Integration/Co-operative Systems: What are the Benefits and Costs?” The charge for attendance is \$75 USD. Registration and payment can be done through the World Congress online registration process. IBEC is also organizing four Special Sessions as part of the World Congress program. The topics are related to managing travel at mega-events, technology to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas, impact of road pricing, and safe freight transport. Full details of these sessions can be found online in the Preliminary Program posted on the World Congress website and in the upcoming September issue of the IBEC newsletter.

For further information, visit the following websites:

- 15th World Congress on ITS
www.itsworldcongress.org
- IBEC
www.ibec-its.org

ITS for small and mid-sized cities: the next frontier?

By Trevor Hanson, University of New Brunswick

When people think of New Brunswick, they often think of our forests or our mighty rivers, such as the St. John, Miramichi and Restigouche. In addition to our great natural setting, New Brunswick is also home to 750,000 people, with two cities with over 100,000 people and one city with a population of over 50,000. We are headquarters to some of Canada's largest companies (including Irving Oil and McCain Foods), home of Canada's largest oil refinery, and the most modern Trans-Canada Highway in the country. We have also been a leader in rural ITS deployments, including Canada's first high-speed mainline Weigh-in-Motion (WIM), an extensive RWIS network, and the Rural ITS Research Program with Transport Canada, New Brunswick DOT, and UNB. Looking to the future in New Brunswick (NB), I believe there is an opportunity to move forward on a research and deployment opportunity that will not only benefit NB, but all provinces with small or mid-sized urban areas.

In discussion with some of my municipal colleagues in NB about ITS, I discovered that there are several ITS deployments at the municipal level, but my colleagues did not frame them as such. They envisioned ITS as something only deployed in the largest cities. If this perception of ITS is widely held, it may explain why there are fewer ITS Canada members who represent smaller metropolitan areas (SMAs) (e.g. 50,000-100,000 persons) and local governments. This leads to important questions for our organization and the ITS industry as a whole:

- How can we improve the awareness/uptake of ITS by SMAs and local governments?
- How can we better engage and retain members from these areas?

I believe that the lack of awareness is because ITS have generally been portrayed as either solutions to large urban area congestion, or as solutions to rural area safety and mobility (WIM, RWIS). In the middle, we find the small metropolitan areas (SMAs), who maintain millions of dollars of transportation and

traffic control infrastructure, and incorporate many elements of ITS in their day-to-day operations, but may be missing out on opportunities to pilot further integration of their ITS technologies. SMAs may not have the resources to have a dedicated "ITS section" or "ITS person". Also, there may not be enough ITS demonstration projects at the SMA level to provide the comfort level needed to move forward. Reaching out to SMAs to conduct demonstration projects could make ITS more accessible and increase awareness.

Engaging and retaining members from these areas requires reaching out to connect SMAs to ITS resources so they can make transportation decisions with the full knowledge of the potential of ITS. Similarly, it is an opportunity for ITS Canada to engage federal and provincial partners in this discussion, especially in the context for the need for further funding programs for ITS research and deployment in these jurisdictions.

With advances in technology bringing down the total cost of technology in many realms, it is conceivable that ITS technologies have become accessible and affordable enough for SMAs to take advantage of them, but a catalyst is needed, such as a targeted program for SMAs. This could introduce ITS as an integral part of their transportation planning process at a point before congestion problems match those of their larger counterparts. The positive impacts of such a catalyst for rural ITS and large urban area ITS are evident, given such national initiatives as RWIS and 511 have helped enhance the uniformity of uptake and deployment. If a pilot project of the SMA program is needed, I think New Brunswick would be a great place to start.

This article is intended to stimulate discussion among Canada's ITS players. The time is right for us as an organization and industry to evaluate how we can better engage our colleagues in smaller metropolitan areas and encourage them to consider ITS in addressing their perennial transportation issues. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments on this. My email is thanson@unb.ca

News *bITS*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ALLOCATES SINGLE RADIO FREQUENCY FOR COOPERATIVE VEHICLE SYSTEMS

As part of its overall fight against road accidents and traffic jams, the European Commission announced in August that they will reserve part of the radio spectrum (30 MHz in the 5.9 GHz band), which will be allocated within the next six months by national authorities across Europe to road safety applications for smart vehicle communications systems (so called co-operative systems). Based on wireless communication technology, the systems allow cars to 'talk' to other cars and to the road infrastructure. They can, for example, warn other drivers of slippery roads or of a crash that just occurred. The decision will encourage investment in smart vehicle communication systems by the automotive industry, while spurring public funding in essential roadside infrastructure.



INTELLIGENT GPS DEVICES

Reuters (08/14/08) Stevenson, Reed

The next generation of personal navigation devices will generate traffic data that is more intelligent and dependable so that drivers can easily find new and quick ways to their destinations. Netherlands-based TomTom's HD Traffic series tracks congestion using the cell phones of drivers who are crawling through traffic. Mobile radio towers anonymously monitor the progression of mobile signals on roads and, every three minutes, TomTom passes that information on to drivers with HD Traffic-enabled devices. The data pops up on a main touch-sensitive screen and provides users with new directions. Currently, the traffic service is only offered in the Netherlands and four large cities, but TomTom is working to add features to its frequently updated models and deploy them to more countries. Garmin, TomTom's chief competitor, hopes to provide traffic information throughout North America soon, thanks to a deal it has struck with Sirius XM Radio's XM Satellite Radio.

ITS/OPERATIONS RESOURCE GUIDE 2008

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced the availability of the ITS/Operations Resource Guide 2008, both in print and online. Now in its eighth edition, it presents a compilation of over 500 documents, videos, websites, training courses, software tools, and points-of-contact related to ITS and transportation operations. The online version is available at <http://www.resourceguide.its.dot.gov>.

New in this version are:

- Resources covering a wide range of safety-related topics, included automated enforcement, collision avoidance of transit buses, emergency preparedness and response, and temporary traffic control devices commonly used in work zones
- Several resources related to the Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO), Integrated Vehicle-Based Safety Systems (IVBSS), Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), U.S. DOT Rural Safety, and Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) initiatives, including the announcement of SafeTrip-21 documentation and testing program
- Websites related to archived data management systems, congestion pricing, and systems engineering
- Documents related to low-cost transportation improvements, planned special events, systems engineering, transit signal priority, transportation system management and operations (TSM&O), and traveller information
- Software tools for road weather management and transportation operations during biohazard events
- A training course showing how ITS technologies can be integrated into a regional context to improve transit operations
- A chapter on parking management systems that brings together resources related to parking both trucks and private vehicles.

Printed copies are available. To order your free copy, send an e-mail to itspubs@dot.gov.

Members in the News



In August, Daktronics announced that it will discontinue offering portable variable message signs in order to focus on their core business of permanently installed signs.



Econolite announced in August that it will team with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to provide the Gulf Coast and US-90 corridor with vehicle detection, streaming video traffic monitoring, and real-time traffic data collection and reporting, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. MDOT has selected Econolite's Autoscope Terra video vehicle detection system and its new traffic Data Collection and Management Service (DCMS.2).

The Autoscope Terra system includes Ethernet connectivity, streaming MPEG-4 video, and a web-based software interface, all designed to satisfy the State's ITS requirements. The Autoscope Terra system is specifically designed to simplify installation, setup and collection of turning-movement counts without the need for additional hardware or software, making it an important contribution to the success of MDOT's reconstruction objectives.

It was very important that the State's ITS architecture design, which calls for applying advanced communication and real-time monitoring of video and data to improve transportation efficiency, was followed. It is also essential to MDOT that critical traffic information, whether for daily congestion management or emergency evacuation plans, be shared with all the communities within the region. MDOT selected DCMS.2, which uses the latest Rich Internet Application (RIA) technology and employs a Web 2.0 "widgetware" system, providing MDOT and its stakeholders remote access to their traffic-monitoring network from any web browser.



International Road Dynamics (IRD) has been awarded a contract by the Virginia Department of Motor Carriers (DMV) to supply, install, and maintain a Mainline Weigh-in-Motion (WIM) and Automated Vehicle Identification (AVI) Weigh Enforcement Pre-Screening System. The project, valued at approximately US\$1.22 million, is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2008, and includes the supply and installation of WIM equipment at the Sandston Weight Enforcement Facility located on I-64 near Richmond, as well as maintenance, service, and support for the system for a period of three years. The system will allow prescreening of commercial trucks in the main lanes of the Interstate at highway speed, as well as tracking and routing vehicles safely through the weigh station. This deployment will include the supply and installation of IRD's patented Single Load Cell WIM Scales, video verification system, vehicle movement compliance system, and operational software. The system will allow trucks that meet size and weight limits to bypass the facility at highway speeds, thereby reducing the number of trucks that are required to stop at the inspection stations and, in turn, decrease fuel consumption and emissions.



In August, Trapeze Group announced that Knoxville Area Transit in Knoxville, Tennessee, has selected a comprehensive transport system from Trapeze to help enhance operational safety of their services. The system includes a web-enabled, browser-based demand response scheduling and dispatch system designed to support fixed-route and paratransit services, helping automate time-consuming tasks and creating efficiencies in the major scheduling stages. It also includes a customer relationship management solution to track customer inquiries and complaints.



Upcoming Events

National Rural ITS Conference

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

TranspoQuip Latin America 2008

September 9 to 11, 2008 – Sao Paulo, Brazil
www.TranspoQuip.com

Transport Smartcards: Latest Developments and Future Potential

September 10, 2008 – London, England
www.thewaterfront.co.uk/conferences/conf_calendar_transport_smartcards.php

OTC Parking Workshop

September 14 to 16, 2008 – Stratford, Ontario
www.otc.org

XV Pan-American Conf. of Traffic & Transportation

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

Quebec Workshop on Specialized Transit (in French)

September 17 to 19, 2008 – Sherbrooke, Québec
www.colloquetransportadapte.com

76th IBTTA Annual Meeting and Exhibition

September 20 to 24, 2008 – Baltimore, Maryland
www.ibtta.org

TAC Annual Conference 2008

September 21 to 24, 2008 – Toronto, Ontario
www.tac-atc.ca

Transpo2008: "ITS: Piecing It All Together"

September 22 to 28, 2008 – Orlando, Florida
www.itstranspo.org

European Transport Conference 2008

October 6 to 8, 2008 – Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands
www.aetransport.org/lc/cms/page_view.asp?id=675

8th Spanish Congress and Exhibition on ITS

October 14 to 16, 2008 – Oviedo, Spain
congresos@itsspain.com

International ITS Conference & Expo 2008

October 15 to 17, 2008 – Shanghai, China
www.itsshanghai.net

Viet Traffic – Road-Rail-Safety-ITS

October 15 to 17, 2008 – Hanoi, Vietnam
www.viettraffic.com

OTC Traffic Engineering Workshop

October 16, 2008 – Alliston, Ontario
www.otc.org

8th International Conference on ITS Telecommunications

October 22 to 24, 2008 – Phuket, Thailand
www.itst2008.nectec.or.th

Sensor Technology Workshop

October 23, 2008 – Pretoria, South Africa
www.itssa.org

8th International Transport Systems Telematics Conference

November 5 to 8, 2008 – Katowice-Ustroń, Poland
www.tst-conference.org

CUTA Fall Conference and Trans-Expo 2008

November 8 to 12, 2008 – Windsor, Ontario
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

Road Pricing Conference 2008

December 9 and 10, 2008 – London, England
www.theiet.org/events/2008/road-pricing.cfm

AITEC-ITS France International Congress

February 4 and 5, 2009 – Versailles, France
www.itsfrance.net

Traffex 2009

April 21 to 23, 2009 – Birmingham, England
www.traffex.com

Intertraffic Istanbul 2009

May 27 to 29, 2009 – Istanbul, Turkey
www.intertraffic.com



ITS CANADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING

May 10 to 13, 2008 ~ Edmonton, Alberta
www.itscanada.ca/edmonton2009