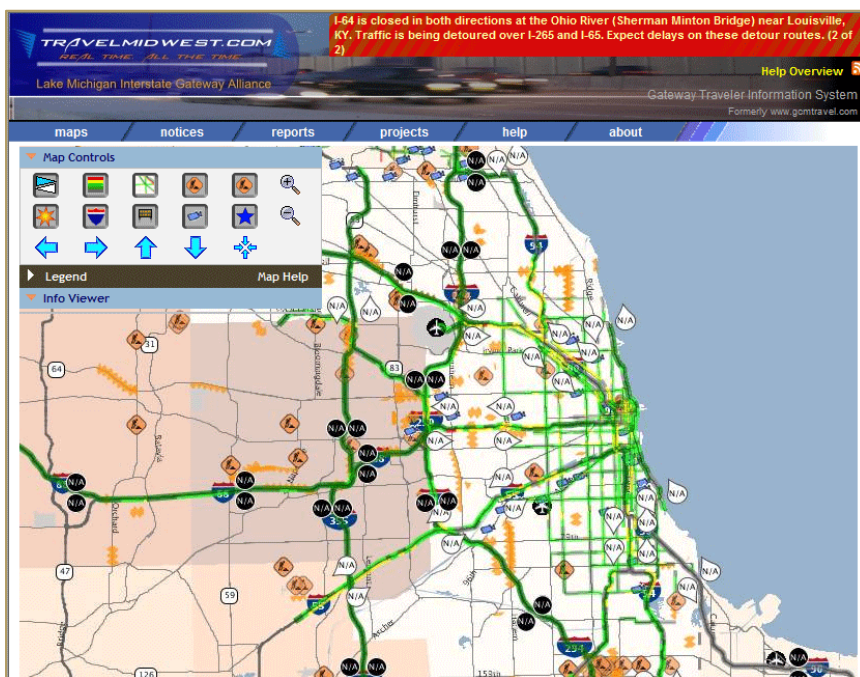


2011 ITS Project of the Year Award

Project Finalist

TravelMidwest.com - Serving the Needs of the Traveler and Commercial Carrier



The Gateway Traveler Information System (GTIS) and its website, www.travelmidwest.com, have many new features to further meet the needs of both traffic center operations personnel and the traveling public. The GTIS provides for the traveler information needs of the Lake Michigan Interstate Gateway Alliance (LMIGA) four member states

(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin). The following major new features have been incorporated into the GTIS:

- The Gateway automated incident response system fills a critical need for traffic operations personnel. The response system uses the location of dynamic message signs together with incident information to determine a message sign response plan tailored to both the specific incident and each individual LMIGA agency. The incident location, lanes impacted, time of day, and anticipated duration are incorporated within a sophisticated algorithmic model which selects appropriate signs. The driving distance and road network configuration between the sign and the incident are used to select signs on not only the roadway affected by the incident but also on relevant intersecting roadways. Appropriate text for each sign is suggested to assist traffic center operation

personnel. A web based registration system is provided to allow agencies and their personnel to easily opt-in or out of this system.

- The Gateway summary report provides one convenient web page which displays travel information between any two entrances or exits on an expressway. Web site users are no longer limited to the travel time reports of the past which were based on fixed locations. Users simply select the expressway, start point, and end point and the summary report page will display a table with rows for each expressway entrance and exit between these two points. Each row displays the entrance/exit cross street name, the mile marker number, the travel time from the start point to that entrance/exit and the local congestion level. Any construction or incidents affecting the row's expressway segment is also displayed.

The following enhancements have been made to the GTIS:

- Integration with the City of Chicago to convert CTA Bus Tracker data into real-time arterial congestion data for display on the travelmidwest.com website and within the Gateway data feeds.
- Integration with traffic detection and camera devices in Lake County, Illinois to provide real-time congestion and incident information for arterial streets monitored by the Passage system. Camera images are also provided for approximately 160 cameras in Lake County.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance improvements. The website reports, maps, and other pages have been enhanced to improve the usability of the website for visually impaired users that use screen readers or Braille devices.
- Improved integration with InDOT's traffic management system. This allows for events to be automatically incorporated into the GTIS.
- Improved integration with the WisDOT 511 system. This allows for construction and incident information to be automatically incorporated into the GTIS and also adds congestion and travel time information in Madison, Wisconsin and on I-39/90 north of the Illinois border.
- Regional report locations added for I-39, I-69, I-80, I-90 and I-94. These report locations allow for a continuous view of the congestion, travel times, construction, message sign text, or detectors on these interstates that span multiple states.
- A milepost table page for LMIGA traffic operations' staff that provides the nearest cross street, municipality, and county for any interstate in the LMIGA region.

- Separate arterial construction and congestion layers. Layer control icons on the map control menu allow the user to selectively disable or enable arterial or expressway congestion and construction data on the maps.
- Congestion information on non-detectorized expressways and arterials. This information is now displayed when anecdotal information is received by GTIS operations staff.
- Automated data feed from the National Weather Service. This provides real-time weather information for the LMIGA coverage area.

These improvements were prompted through user comments, survey results, and agency member requests and were achieved through the cooperation of the various LMIGA representatives.

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