Welcome to 2020

As an organization, ITS Midwest looks forward to building on our record-setting 2019 Annual Meeting in Illinois. As an organization dedicated to learning, expanding, and promoting Intelligent Transportation System for our four states, the year ahead will be an active one.

Our organization is excited to work with everyone on the following endeavors:

- As a board, we have launched our 2020 efforts through board participation in CES 2020, where 5G rollout, autonomous vehicles and smart cities dominated the event.
- Continuation of the webinar series including the MOD Alliance, and major players in our space, including Google and others.
- On-going attention to the communications markets including 5G, DSRC, C-V2X and our existing systems as the integration with connectivity.
- Mobility as a Service (MaaS) is a major focus area and a broad one as we engage with the MOD Alliance.
- Examining the private and public sector market places, as well as the policy side of our safety and mobility needs as a chapter.
- Continuing our collective knowledge base with regard to standards, grant programs, and new technology deployments.

As the first quarter of 2020 comes to a close, our membership, our country, and our world have been rocked by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts of this event are being felt on a daily basis, as many of us shift to working from home, practice social distancing, and perfect our hand-washing skills.

This situation will test our resolve, but we can take heart in the fact that the systems and infrastructure that we have all helped to build will support life under the pandemic and spur recovery when the time comes. Traffic data is still being gathered, communications lines are transferring information between incident responders, and those ITS professionals among us deemed essential personnel continue to promote safety and the movement of critical goods and services.

The effects from this pandemic will be far-reaching. ITS Midwest looks forward to working with you to find solutions to the challenges ahead.

Rivian R1T at Amazon Web Services – CES 2020

Our organization is as strong as our membership and 2019’s success forged the board’s commitment.

Reach out to any board member and help us engage our entire membership for 2020. Events ideas, presentation topics, training and learning opportunities, as well as areas in which you wish to participate are all welcome. And above all, be safe and be well.

Thanks,
Matt Letourneau, President
CES 2020: Smart Mobility Happens in Vegas and Stays with ITS Midwest

The Consumer Technology Association’s Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2020 was held in Las Vegas on January 7th through 10th. CES brings together consumers, manufacturers and those specifying and applying new technologies across many industries. This year’s event was particularly notable to the ITS Midwest community featuring major tracks focusing on Smart Cities, Autonomous Vehicles, Vehicle Technologies, Sustainability and 5G communications.

In attending on behalf of ITS Midwest and TranSmart/EJM, the goals were to examine and bring back show floor and discussion session highlights.

At the highest level, Elaine Chao, US Secretary of Transportation announced the Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies: AV 4.0 guidance program. See https://www.transportation.gov/av/4 for more information.

Secretary Chao and multiple sessions throughout the week focused on the overarching reset of the connected and autonomous vehicle industry to ensure clarity of focus on needs, safe rollouts, and appropriate levels of standards and consistency for the industry.

Within Secretary Chao’s session, Michael Kratsios, Chief Technology Officer of the United States, The White House, provided an overview of the guiding principles that will drive Artificial Intelligence including a foundational policy to not stifle any industries through regulation, while maintaining public trust and protecting multiple levels of security and intellectual property on a national and global scale.

From an ITS perspective, the use of dedicated bandwidth for transportation safety initiatives is likely to not be focused on DSRC 5.9 Ghz, but rather a collection of technical approaches and standards. Ms. Chao and Mr. Kratsios emphasized a broader, all-encompassing level of assessment and utilization of bandwidth across all sectors.

CES 2020 hosted over 175,000 people for the week, and it was generally impossible to see everything. Through some of the sessions a few overarching statements and forecasts were noted.

- OEMs are learning to more aggressively train staff, dealers, and the public on the technologies in their new vehicles. OEMs, manufacturers, and insurance analysts are focusing on ways to gain public trust and confidence in the technologies and systems. Consumers require a better understanding of the technologies such as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), and are continuing to explore ways to ensure that consumers are not deciding to turn the technologies off.
- Mobility solutions are not homogenous. Mobility will include the array of modes and services we have now, along with to be determined solutions that must be tailored to meet the needs of the specific communities based on the people, industries, and geographical and environmental characteristics of each specific region.
- Both public and private sector participants urged investments now, noting that waiting will not decrease costs on multiple levels.
- The forecast for autonomous vehicle deployments is generally still quite aggressive. That said, the timeline of these forecasts is partly cloudy. Florida State Senator Brandes was one of only a few folks willing to estimate a deployment timeline. He estimated that Level 2 autonomy will be in 50% of vehicles in 2035 and Level 4 autonomy will be available in 50% of all vehicles in 2045.
• 5G rollouts are accelerating. Verizon noted that they exceeded their 2019 rollout goals of reaching 30 major cities. Their goal for 2020 is to reach half of the US population with 5G.

• From a rural side, the ability to reach all of the country will require technological efforts to extend 5G over longer distances. These efforts include policy activities and cooperative efforts among rural utilities, private sector providers including equipment manufacturers such as John Deere, Caterpillar, and perhaps even service and convenience station providers to collaborate in new ways.

• It was noteworthy that while urbanization was referred to as a global trend, rural community viability and technology investment considerations were directly important for the 5G implementers and industries that serve or thrive in rural communities including agriculture, energy development and distribution, and healthcare.

CES 2020 focuses more on the vision, products and policy trends within our industry than the technical projects and implementation approaches. The show provided a dynamic environment to explore our industry from an innovation perspective. It helped connect ITS technologies to the wider influence of technologies on many industries and the consumers.

See www.ces.tech for the show agenda and speakers lists. You can also reach out to your ITS Midwest Vice Presidents and Directors, or reach out to Scott Lee directly at slee@transmartinc.com for more links and references.

The 2019 ITS Midwest Annual Meeting was held at the DoubleTree Suites and Conference Center in Downers Grove, Illinois on September 26-27, 2019.

The theme for the 24th Annual Meeting of the Intelligent Transportation Society of the Midwest (ITS Midwest) was “Midwest Connections: Travel Smart.” The meeting was focused on the actions, research, development, and deployment needed to continue the advancement of ITS and transportation technologies to benefit all users of our transportation system. It also highlights the emerging emphasis on connectivity across vehicles and with infrastructure towards the ultimate goal of automated vehicles. Research has shown that such a future will reduce crashes, injuries, and deaths on our roads and highways.

The two-day event included a “Ruffled Feathers” Golf Event on September 25th, held at the Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont. The Thursday evening ITS Midwest 2019 reception and social event was a well-attended evening of dining, colleagues sharing dinner, Pizza and Bowling
bowling, and bocce ball held at nearby Pinstripes.

The technical tour was an exciting O’Hare International Airport “Behind the Scenes” Technical Tour” followed the closing sessions on Friday. The tour included a bus tour around the O’Hare grounds, with stops showing behind the scenes logistics.

The event used a multi-track format for sessions this year, which allowed for 28 technical presentations to be made. In addition to connected and autonomous vehicles, there were presentations on Advanced Traffic Management Systems, Traffic Signal Systems, Data Collection/Analysis, Smart Cities, Travel Time production, transportation systems management and operation, commercial vehicle operations, safety innovations, incident management, work zone ITS, transit applications, federal updates, and new and innovative technologies. There were also a larger number of vendors and exhibitors displaying and presenting their products and services.

ITS Midwest President, Matthew Letourneau welcomed the audience to Illinois and declared this the largest ITS Midwest Annual Meeting to date, with over 230 registered attendees. He then introduced Keynote Speaker, Mr. Shailen Bhatt, President and CEO of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America.

Mr. Bhatt discussed policies that advance the development and deployment of intelligent transportation technologies throughout the United States. He specifically discussed the communications technologies and band spectrums which will allow connected and automated vehicles to communicate with each other and all roadway users to improve safety and reduce congestion. He related that
ITS Midwest President Matthew Letourneau opens the Annual Meeting.

Vendors displayed their wares and services.

ITS Midwest President Matthew Letourneau announces the Excellence in Service Award winner is Dan Shamo.

ITS Midwest President Matthew Letourneau (center) of AECOM presents ITS Midwest Project of the Year Award to Elise Morgan (left) of Illinois Tollway, and Nick Hegemier (right) of the Ohio DOT.
Bhatt is a leading voice in transportation on technology’s ability to save lives and reduce crashes on U.S. roadways. He speaks extensively about the importance of vehicles to communicate with each other and all roadway users as one of the best ways to improve safety and reduce congestion. He is also passionate about reducing transportation’s carbon footprint and the need to provide seamless mobility and transportation choices to people no matter where they live.

The luncheon was held in the host hotel. Prior to our luncheon speaker, the 2019 project and service awards for the Society were announced by ITS Midwest President, Matthew Letourneau. Dan Shamo was not able to be in attendance (due to retirement travel) but was awarded the Excellence in Service Award for his many years of service to ITS Midwest, and dedication to the coordination of Project of the Year and Service Awards.

The 2019 ITS Midwest “Project of the Year” awards were announced by Matthew Letourneau. The 2019 ITS Midwest “Project of the Year” award for the Most Outstanding ITS Project had strong contenders this year including:

- Lake County PASSAGE & AVL Upgrades – the upgrades include an updated PASSAGE mobile app, the addition of a full featured Snowplow Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system to the website and app. The complete redesign of the app’s user interface was updated as an ‘in house’ effort and offers vastly improved features.
- DriveOhio Framework for CVAV Deployments Agency – the Ohio DOT developed a Systems Engineering Analysis (SEA) to create a statewide framework to guide Connected and Automated Vehicle (CV/AV) technology deployments across the state. The framework includes a project architecture that integrates into ODOT’s existing Statewide ITS Architecture, a Concept of Operations that describes the target CV/AV environment and operation, establishes system requirements that define functionality for CV/AV applications and the support environment, construction drawings for various components of CV/AV infrastructure, and verification plans to validate each application.
- Illinois State Toll Highway Authority Traffic Operations and Management Big Data Integration and Utilization – this Tollway project includes improved integration of data sources including several sources of third party and connected vehicles data, and the development of system and decision support tools to implement TSMO principles. Project benefits include improved analytic tools to optimize operations, support planning and evaluation of investments in technology, improved event type reporting and filtering for construction events and event-specific analysis such as wrong way driver events. The timeline from requests for TIMS information to delivery of information to stakeholders has dropped substantially.
- Illinois DOT TravelMidwest.com Mobile Website Enhancements - The TravelMidwest.com website was revamped to be “mobile responsive”, with one code base now capable of rendering the website on a wide variety of desktop web browsers, tablets, and mobile phones. A “Use my location” feature was added, which allows the user to center the map on a device’s current position. Changes were made to the Trip Map pages and the Announcement/Reports pages (High Priority, Construction, News Items, Transit and Weather, Truckers Report) to improve mobile
devices usage, with many hidden but tap-accessible dialog boxes integrated. Extensive testing was necessary to ensure both existing website users and mobile app users were able to use the new mobile web site.

- Ohio DOT 670 SmartLane Project – the project converts seven miles of the left (median) shoulder of I-670 connecting downtown Columbus to the I-270 outer belt, which serves as the major artery connecting to the Columbus airport. The shoulder is converted to a travel lane for the PM peak traffic periods each day and will revert to its normal shoulder function outside of these hours. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology, including 11 DMS and 46 closed-circuit TVs, will be used to monitor the SmartLane system and to inform motorists of changes in lane usage and variable speed limits which will help harmonize the flow and improve safety. Interchange modifications and two miles of widening along I-270 were designed to fully realize the capacity benefits from the SmartLane project, to fix an existing bottleneck at I-270 and I-670. Benefits of the project include increased capacity and improved traffic flow and safety during afternoon peak hours.

And the winner was … a tie between the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority Traffic Operations and Management Big Data Integration and Utilization, and the DriveOhio Framework for CVAV Deployments! Congratulations to both agencies!

Gordon Paesani ITS Midwest Scholarship - ITS Midwest established the Gordon Paesani ITS Midwest Scholarship in 2019 to honor the memory of our colleague Gordon Paesani. Gordon Paesani was a great mentor to many young engineers, and a committed innovator in ITS. Gordon established and implemented a variety of traffic and transportation technology concepts long before the term Intelligent Transportation Systems (or ITS) was coined. He was a pioneer in freeway operations with a focus on Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS) and their components including incident response plans and adaptive ramp metering algorithms. ITS Midwest was pleased to announce the inaugural award of the Gordon Paesani ITS Midwest Scholarship to Natasha Breslieva to assist in the continuation of her education.

For this year’s ITS Midwest event, we were fortunate to have as our Luncheon Speaker Jerry Quandt, the Executive Director of the Illinois Autonomous Vehicles Association. Mr. Quandt discussed the potential transformations of how we will live, work and travel in the future due to autonomous and connected vehicle technologies. He discussed some of the Illinois initiatives in this area and stressed the mobility and safety benefits which will be derived from widespread adoption.

After the Luncheon Address, Matt Letourneau announced the election results for the ITS Midwest Officers and Directors. The position of Treasurer was won by Bini William of Parsons, the Vice President po-
sition for Indiana was won by Ryan Elliott of AECOM, and the Vice President position for Ohio was won by Ed Williams of TEC Engineering. The four Director posts were won by (Indiana) Dave Henkel of CHA Consulting, Inc., (Illinois) Elyse Morgan of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, (Kentucky) Todd Hood of Northrop Grumman, and (Ohio) Sara Senger of TEC Engineering.

A complete list of ITS Midwest Officers and Directors is provided on the last page of this newsletter.

Additional presentations were made on various ITS topics, and one of the anticipated segments was the portion of the program where vendors discussed their current technologies and services, which were on display throughout the Annual Meeting in the vendor Display area. The individual vendors made presentations on their wares and services to the assembly, and this presentation period was followed by the Exhibitor Open House, where the vendors and attendees met to discuss their products.

On Thursday afternoon, an Executive Panel Roundtable discussion of select DOT executives was moderated by ITS Midwest Past President, David Zavattero. The distinguished panelists included Lloyd MacAdam, Chief Engineer, Ohio Department of Transportation; Joe Crabtree, Director of the Kentucky Transportation Center at the University of Kentucky; and Terry Heffron, the ITS Program Office Manager for the Illinois Department of Transportation. This panel discussed a wide variety of topics including funding, legislation, project procurement methods, and specific ITS initiatives within each state.

Following the Roundtable discussion, the ITS Midwest Annual Meeting Co-Chairs Brian Plum & Justin Potts made closing remarks to bring the Annual Meeting to its conclusion. They thanked the assembly for their attendance and their support.

The ITS Midwest Annual Meeting provides a forum where members and vendors can showcase their progress in planning and deploying state of the art ITS technology. ITS has grown from a fledgling industry to a major factor in the future of transportation in the United States and around the world. ITS Midwest and our members can take pride in the contributions being made through technology to achieve safer, more informed, and more efficient travel. Yet much remains to be accomplished.

Thanks, and appreciation goes out to all our vendors who exhibited.

Special thanks to our sponsors including our Diamond Sponsor Traffic Control Corporations, Platinum Sponsors AECOM and Kimley-Horn, Gold Sponsor Jacobs Engineering and Parsons, our Silver Sponsors CHA Design/Construction Solutions, Gannet-Fleming, and McCain, and our Giveaway sponsor TranSmart/EJM.
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