

# Express Lanes

## 2006 Annual Meeting venue set

Meeting in downtown Chicago will be held back-to-back with the ITS America EPS workshop and explore ways to improve ITS awareness.

The 11th ITS Midwest Annual Meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 7, 2006, and will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites in downtown Chicago. The theme for the annual meeting is *Getting the Word Out*.



"Although ITS has been around for over a decade, the public and many government policy and decision makers know little about ITS," notes Tom Ewing, ITS Midwest Publicity chairman. "At the same time, the trends for congestion in the region over the next decade are dismal. This impacts the Midwest's ability to grow and keep jobs, and affects energy consumption, pollution, safety and security. Clearly ITS has an important role to play in solving these problems."

The thrust of the annual meeting will be to explore opportunities to improve awareness of ITS. There will also be a technical tour and reception in the evening following the annual meeting.

This year, the annual meeting will be held back-to-back with the ITS America national workshop on Electronic Payment Systems

(EPS) deployment, which will take place the day after the annual meeting (February 8). The workshop examines local progress and explores EPS integration challenges in

the Midwest, and give participants insights on national lessons learned and 'next generation' EPS integration plans.

According to Gary Rylander, President of ITS Midwest, "holding the EPS workshop in conjunction with the ITS Midwest annual meeting provides a cost-effective opportunity for our members to participate in both events. The annual meeting complements the EPS workshop, and provides a Midwestern venue to hear and interact with national leaders in the EPS community."

Richard Easley, coordinator of the EPS Workshop, agrees that it is a great opportunity that should benefit both events. He notes, "I believe the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts." □

For more information, contact Duana Love (RTA), ITS Midwest Meetings Committee, [loved@rtachicago.org](mailto:loved@rtachicago.org) or 312-913-3248.

## President's message



BY GARY RYLANDER  
President, ITS Midwest

Implementation of the Chapter's Strategic Directions Plan adopted last year by the Board of Directors is continuing. The new standing committees have begun work on accomplishing their initial goals and objectives. The committees provide a great opportunity to contribute to the success of ITS Midwest, and additional committee members are still

needed. The Committee co-chairs and their contact information are:

- **Meetings:**  
Duana Love - RTA (312-913-3248)  
Meggan Simpson - Indiana DOT (317-899-8603)
- **Member Services:**  
Austin Provost - Meade Electric (708-588-2540)  
Dave Henkel - Edwards and Kelcey (317-636-1552)
- **Outreach:**  
Michelle McGinn - HDR (773-380-7994)  
Jeremy Wolstan - NAVTEQ (312-453-0011)

See **Message** page 2

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*EXPRESS LANES* is the official newsletter of ITS Midwest and the GCM Priority Corridor. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome.

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- **Publicity:**  
Tom Ewing - Argonne National Laboratory (630-252-5455)  
Charles Sikaras - IDOT (847-705-4800)
- **Recognition:**  
Rick Weiland - Ygomi (847-864-8500)  
Francesca Lendrum - NAVTEQ (312-453-0011)

- **Technical:**  
Joseph Brahm - NET (847-925-0120)  
Co-chair position vacant
- **Training:**  
Darcy Bullock - Purdue University (765-494-2226)  
Chad Hammerl - Edwards and Kelcey (312-251-3000)

Collectively, we will be able to take advantage of the many opportunities

that exist for, and meet the evolving challenges faced by, ITS Midwest and its members. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and ideas. I look forward to hearing from you. □

*For more information, contact Gary Rylander at grylander@ekmail.com or 312-251-3000.*

## ITS Forum 2005 begins a new chapter

Following on the great success of the landmark 10<sup>th</sup> annual ITS Forum 2004, the ITS Forum 2005 has renewed vigor and showcased some exciting features! The 11<sup>th</sup> annual ITS Forum theme was "ITS: A to Z," encompassing an all-things-ITS approach.

The session topics ranged from Funding, to Traveler Information, to Parking Applications, and Intelligent Vehicle Initiatives. Speakers were on hand from all over the U.S., and as close as



Milwaukee's own Tom Carr from WTMJ radio.

The Annual ITS Forum provides a great place to hear about new technologies, lessons learned, and other exciting projects. The Forum concluded with a tour of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center (TOC) in downtown Milwaukee, which is currently planning a control room renovation to enhance the new 24/7 operations. □

*For more information on the ITS Forum 2005, please contact Chair Paul Kutz at 414 359-2300 or pkutz@hntb.com.*

## Commercial Vehicle Freight Mobility Forum held in Chicago

*ITS America conducted their annual Commercial Vehicle Freight Mobility Forum in Chicago on August 30th thru September 1st. The GCM Corridor participated in several of the sessions and helped sponsor the tour of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Intermodal Facility in Elwood, Illinois.*

The conference brought together a unique set of stakeholders for the purpose of discussing freight mobility issues around the country. Presentations were given from several viewpoints including the federal, academic, state DOT and private industry perspectives. Topics that were covered included wireless communication trends, recent Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) developments, regional corridor activities, Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO) related security initiatives, and emerging changes to regulations and licensing.

The GCM Corridor was represented in both of the Special Interest

Groups' (SIG) breakout sessions. In each of these presentations, conference attendees were given an overview of the Corridor, and a brief update on initiatives that impact CVO within the three GCM states. These included the Virtual Weigh Station program, automated driver medical records processing, rest area truck parking remedies, 511 systems in the three GCM states, the Corridor Action Teams, the GCM Website, weigh station exit ramp queue monitoring, Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS) deployment, Hoosier Helper assists with Superloads and several other topics.

Some common themes emerged from the various presentations. In particular, the Virtual Weigh Station program, traveler information systems (especially relating to weather information), and security issues topped the list of high interest topics. Some creative brainstorming also occurred on the potential for using CVISN data for security purposes. There was also discussion about the future of CVISN deployment, now that the reauthorization bill has been passed. □

*For more information, please contact Dan Shamo at 317-636-7469 or dan\_shamo@urscorp.com.*

## Transportation security preparedness exercise

*The Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee Priority Transportation Corridor is planning a transportation security functional exercise involving several regional agencies to introduce some new concepts and improve preparedness for a significant incident that has corridor-wide impacts.*

The primary goals for this exercise are to utilize computer models to improve the fidelity of the event information and to conduct the exercise from multiple operation centers using a sophisticated videoconferencing system developed by Argonne National Labs.

On the subject of modeling, Tom Ewing of Argonne National Laboratory explains, "Whether it is a natural disaster, an accident, or a terrorist event, the laws of physics govern how the scenario evolves in time. Modeling tools are available to create more realistic scenarios involving chemical, biological, or radiological releases that take into account physical properties of the hazard, release mechanisms (e.g., explosion, spill, aerosol releases), terrain and meteorological impacts, as well population distribution and toxicity data to estimate health effects. These tools are also useful to efficiently explore a wide range of scenarios to ensure our



response plans are up to the potential challenges we could face."

The second goal for the exercise is to explore the use of Access GRID technology to conduct an operation "in place". This better utilizes the various participating agencies' resources to more closely approximate real world conditions. This computing and communications tool developed at Argonne can facilitate the coordination and sharing of information between incident management centers.

Table top exercises are typically performed where all participants are in a single room. In this exercise GRID technology will allow participants to work from their own response centers, enabling them to access all of their usual resources. This approach also minimizes travel expenses, particularly for out-of-state agencies.

The exercise date has not been set, but it will likely take place either late in 2005 or early in 2006. Other exercises are also planned so that the use of new technologies can be incrementally explored.

Dan Shamo, Executive Director for the GCM Corridor, stated, "This exercise is a key component of the GCM Corridor's Security Work Plan. It is a Corridor-wide initiative that promotes effective interagency relationships, refines operating procedures at the TMC level, and ushers in new transportation technologies that have multiple uses. Others will be watching this exercise because it has great potential for improving the way we train for major incidents." □

*For more information, contact Dan Shamo at [dan\\_shamo@URSCorp](mailto:dan_shamo@URSCorp) or 317-636-7469.*

## SAFETEA-LU

*The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was enacted August 10, 2005, as Public Law 109-59.*

SAFETEA-LU authorizes the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period (federal fiscal years 2005-2009) and represents a funding increase of approximately 30% over the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the previous surface transportation program. SAFETEA-LU contains elements aimed at mitigating congestion - congestion management programs and policies, real-time information, and ITS - as well as a strong focus on freight issues and needs.

SAFETEA-LU mainstreams ITS deployment throughout the Federal-aid program, clarifying eligibility and referencing ITS in a number of different areas. It makes clear that ITS is eligible for funding under the National Highway System (NHS), Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programs and requires the establishment of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (environmental determination) for ITS projects.

While SAFETEA-LU ends the TEA-21 funded ITS Deployment Program at the conclusion of federal fiscal year 2005, it establishes a new program to fund the deployment of the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks (CVISN). In addition, a

number of ITS projects are contained within the thousands of high priority projects contained in SAFETEA-LU. The ITS Research & Development program is reauthorized in SAFETEA-LU and funded at \$440 million over 4 years. The program authorities were expanded to more broadly cover the range of tools and techniques needed to improve system management and operations and reduce congestion. Other significant provisions include requirements for the establishment of an ITS advisory committee and the development of a new 5-year program plan. □

*For more information on SAFETEA-LU, visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>.*

## RTA announces new cell phone & PDA accessible traveler information web site

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) announced the debut of a new traveler information web site for northeastern Illinois. Known as RTA Mobile.com, the new web site can be accessed using Internet-enabled cellular phones or personal digital assistants (PDA's) at [www2.rtamobile.com](http://www2.rtamobile.com). The site will initially provide the wireless Internet version of the RTA's Itinerary Planning System and provide users with door-to-door transit directions. The new RTA wireless service complements the existing GCM and IDOT wireless service providing highway travel times to similar devices at [www.gcmtravel.com/gcm/cqt.jsp](http://www.gcmtravel.com/gcm/cqt.jsp).

In addition to the interactive kiosks and electronic message sign projects that the RTA is currently demonstrating in the region, RTA Mobile is another user-friendly mechanism

enabling travelers to access transit information. The new site's capabilities are intended to grow with the implementation of other ongoing technology projects.

RTA Mobile will also provide scheduled next bus or train information. Additional features that will be integrated in the near future include multi-modal travel directions, matching of local attractions with trip itineraries, and real-time street conditions.

"In anticipation of further advances in the RTA's traveler information program, we have accelerated enhancements to the RTA TripsWeb system to include the foundation for a wireless web site," said former RTA Executive Director Paula S. Thibeault. "When fully implemented, RTA Mobile will allow the region's commuters to plan their trips and access transportation information on-the-go. We also anticipate the site will decrease



the amount of calls to the RTA Travel Information Center's 836-7000 phone line."

RTA staff conducted a demonstration of the site for RTA Board Members at the August 4 Board Meeting.

For more information, contact Gerry Tumbali at [tumbalig@rtachicago.org](mailto:tumbalig@rtachicago.org) or 312-913-3251.

## GCM Corridor Program Plan workshops provide valuable insight

Challenges and opportunities, project concepts and priorities, and the GCM Mission Statement were all topics of discussion at the recent GCM Corridor Program Plan workshops. Workshops were held in Gary and Chicago on May 25, Springfield, Illinois on May 26, and Milwaukee and Madison on June 9.

Participants provided their thoughts and recommendations for the Corridor and identified a number of projects and concepts that would be beneficial for the future of the Corridor.

Members of the URS program management team facilitated the workshops and began each session with a corridor focus presentation and a review of the GCM Mission State-



ment. Some needs and project concepts that were identified include: transportation management and congestion relief, feedback from the public regarding useful traveler information, infrastructure security protection, commercial vehicle operations, and condition monitoring for incident management. The workshops initiated a brainstorming discussion

of identification and prioritization of needs and determining program areas.

Improving traveler information, information sharing between agencies, agency coordination, traveler safety, and transit options were identified as areas for GCM activities in the future. Challenging issues facing the Corridor include staff and funding

reductions, staying abreast of new technology, educating legislators, and uniting on issues to bring all stakeholders to the table. A number of opportunities including enhancing the public/private partnerships in the Corridor, Computer Aided Dispatch coordination across borders, a new Reauthorization bill, and hazardous materials handling were also discussed at the workshops.

More than 60 participants representing over 30 agencies, associations, and universities provided valuable feedback and suggestions for the next projects that the GCM Corridor will pursue. The input from the participants will be incorporated in the new Corridor Program Plan, which will set the direction of the Corridor for the next five years. □

For more information, please contact Paul Lamb at 612-373-6463 or [paul\\_lamb@urscorp.com](mailto:paul_lamb@urscorp.com).

## GCM committee/work group updates

**The Transportation Security Work Group** toured the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) in Glenview, Illinois. The academy is the only training facility in the Chicago area, and provides a place for police, fire, and public works departments as well as private industry to train for incidents, events, and daily operations. The group toured classrooms, a large driving surface, and an indoor exercise area housed on the 20-acre campus. More information on the academy is available at [www.NIPSTA.org](http://www.NIPSTA.org).

**The Traffic Incident Management Work Group** is looking at ways to communicate information about existing laws so that drivers will move their vehicles out of lanes of traffic after minor accidents. Language in existing state statutes direct drivers not to obstruct traffic more than is necessary. Removing damaged vehicles from lanes of traffic will reduce congestion at an incident site and reduce secondary accidents caused by sudden braking.

**The Commercial Vehicle Operations Work Group** heard an update on the expanded CVISN concepts developed by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration program area working groups. Two capabilities were designated high priority in each of the four program areas: Driver Snapshots and Access to Driver Data in the Driver Information Sharing program area; Safety Data Quality and Carrier Access to Safety Data under Expanded Information Sharing; Roadside Access to Data and Virtual/Remote Roadside Sites under the Smart Roadside program area; and Better E-Credentialing and Access to Credentials Data under Expanded E-Credentialing.

**The Coordination Work Group** is guiding the development of the Corridor Program Plan, a document that will provide direction for GCM ac-



Tour of NIPSTA in Glenview, Illinois.

tivities in the coming years. The program plan will incorporate input from a variety of stakeholders and explain what the Corridor can do to help agencies coordinate and inte-

### Executive Committee meeting summary

The members of the GCM Corridor Executive Committee met on July 14, 2005 to review the accomplishments of the Corridor and review the direction of Corridor activities in the upcoming year. The committee members continued their support of cross-border cooperation and directed Corridor members to continue to find cost-effective ways of improving mobility and safety in the Corridor.

The executive committee, consisting of Illinois DOT Secretary Timothy Martin, Indiana DOT Commissioner Thomas Sharp, and Wisconsin DOT Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony, Jr. (representing WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi), reviewed accomplishments such as coordinated planning for state 511 traveler information services, construction coordination through the Corridor Action Team, sharing of lessons learned with the I-95 Corridor Coalition, and enhancements to the Gateway traveler information website.

The Coordination Work Group and the program management consultants also outlined planned activities in the next year and preliminary results from the Corridor Program

grate efforts to improve mobility and safety in the Corridor.

**The Corridor Action Team** has developed a set of usage guidelines for Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS). These guidelines provide standardized message formats and data integration recommendations in order to give travelers a consistent experience as they travel between different jurisdictions in the Corridor. The team is also exploring opportunities to coordinate construction information with Michigan DOT. □

*For more information, please contact Paul Lamb at 612-373-6463 or [paul\\_lamb@urscorp.com](mailto:paul_lamb@urscorp.com).*

Plan development process. The Executive Committee provided direction on the Corridor Program Plan, saying that it should focus on outputs and the benefits provided to users. GCM Executive Director Dan Shamo described how the Corridor was developing performance measures to better track how effective GCM projects are. Activities for the coming year include a cross-border security planning exercise, creation of a new action team to address construction support coordination near the Illinois/Wisconsin border, and completing high-speed data links for sharing traffic data between the three member states.

Robert Tally, Jr., the FHWA Division Administrator for Indiana, gave an update on the Reauthorization bills in conference committee and how potential changes would affect funding for ITS projects. The Executive Committee decided to have a teleconference meeting after the Reauthorization was passed to discuss its impact on the GCM Corridor. □

*For more information, please contact Paul Lamb at 612-373-6463 or [paul\\_lamb@urscorp.com](mailto:paul_lamb@urscorp.com).*

## Illinois Tollway integrates with E-ZPass system

*In September, a new service aimed at making interstate travel smoother arrived at the Illinois Tollway. Now, Illinois Tollway customers can use I-PASS transponders on all tollways, bridges and tunnels that accept E-ZPass, and E-ZPass is now accepted on the Illinois Tollway. This new convenience makes travel across state lines a breeze for customers using electronic toll collection.*

The E-ZPass system began accepting I-PASS transactions on September 26. This service was made possible after the Illinois Tollway joined the E-ZPass Interagency Group (IAG) in 2004. The IAG is a collaborative group of 21 member agencies operating toll roads, bridges and tunnels in 11 states, mostly in the eastern United States.



"The Illinois Tollway's membership in the E-ZPass Consortium shows that the Tollway is committed to advancing Governor Blagojevich's reform agenda, operating more like a business and improving customer service," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Jack Hartman. "The ability to use I-PASS on the E-ZPass system and vice versa will result in a seamless driving world for customers as they travel to out-of-state destinations."

The Illinois Tollway has been working for the past year to ensure that its technology and equipment are compatible with that of the E-ZPass System. The integration with E-ZPass means that interstate truckers, bus drivers and vacationers in recreational vehicles or passenger cars no longer need multiple transponders, which eliminates related costs and the possibility of duplicate reads, and increases convenience. Billing and customer service issues such as credits, adjustments, or lost/stolen transponders also are simplified, as the customer's "home" agency, the agency which issued the transponder, now handles these matters.

### Trucks/Buses/RV's/Campers with I-PASS Will Need New Transponders

Drivers with I-PASS in trucks, buses, recreational vehicles and cars towing campers or trailers who want to use their transponders on the E-ZPass system must exchange their I-PASS transponders for compatible transponders that can be used on the Illinois Tollway as well as the E-ZPass system. Trucks with five axles or more will receive a blue transponder, as required by the E-ZPass Consortium.

There is no charge for the transponder exchange, which can be done in the following ways, depending on vehicle axle count:

Customers driving vehicles with 5 or more axles can go online to [www.getipass.com](http://www.getipass.com) and click on the E-ZPass button on the right to fill out an online form to schedule a convenient transponder exchange. After receiving email or phone confirmation of their scheduled pick-up date and time, they can go to one of the six Tollway Oases located on the Tri-

State (I-94/294), Northwest (I-90) and Reagan Memorial (I-88) Tollways. The Illinois Tollway's Mobile I-PASS Unit at the Oases will have their E-ZPass-compatible transponders ready.

Customers driving vehicles with 4 or fewer axles can exchange their I-PASS transponders by mailing them to the Illinois Tollway, Attention IAG Exchange, 2700 Ogden Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515, or visiting in person at the Tollway Customer Care Center, 2700 Ogden Ave., Downers Grove, IL.

Drivers with E-ZPass who also have an I-PASS will want to turn in their I-PASS transponders and receive a refund for both their initial deposit as well as any funds remaining in their accounts. Customers completing this transaction in person will receive cash back, those exchanging by mail will be issued either a refund check or a credit to their credit card account, depending upon their original method of payment.

For information about toll rates and for E-ZPass agency discounts on the E-ZPass system, go to the E-ZPass Web site at [www.ezpass.com](http://www.ezpass.com) for a list of participating toll agencies and Web links to their toll rates and discount plans. □

*For more information, please contact Joelle McGinnis at 630-241-6800 ext. 2380 or [jmcginnis@getipass.com](mailto:jmcginnis@getipass.com).*

## Calendar



12th World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, November 6 – 10, 2005, San Francisco, CA. For info: <http://www.itsworldcongress.org>

ITS Midwest 11th Annual Meeting, February 7, 2006 at the Doubletree Guest Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago, IL. For info: Duana Love, 312-913-3248, [loved@rtachicago.org](mailto:loved@rtachicago.org).

ITS America Electronic Payment Systems (EPS) workshop, February 8, 2006 at the Doubletree Guest Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago, IL. For info: Richard Easley, [reasley@e-squared.org](mailto:reasley@e-squared.org).

# NEWS

## Skyway update

The Chicago Skyway has been provided with a link to update traffic conditions and travel times on the Skyway at the GCM webpage. These reports are updated whenever an incident occurs on the Skyway or travel times change. Additionally, Skyway management participates actively in the GCM Corridor Action Team that develops strategies to improve traffic flows through the network. *For more information, please contact Belan Marcos at BMarcos@chicagoskyway.org.*

## Additional Gateway enhancements provided in IDOT/UIC agreement

The Illinois Department of Transportation's ITS Program Office has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to maintain the GCM Gateway System and [www.gcmtravel.com](http://www.gcmtravel.com). The agree-

ment includes system monitoring and configuration management activities. The effort includes assisting the integration of new regional devices and systems as they come on-line and configuration of the Center-to-Center communications network. The agreement includes accommodation of basic system enhancements to improve overall performance and usability. For more information, please contact David Zattero at 847-705-4800 or [zavatteroda@dot.il.gov](mailto:zavatteroda@dot.il.gov).

## WisDOT Traffic Operations Center gets facelift

Just in time for the Marquette Interchange reconstruction project, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center control room is going through an exciting renovation. "It's much overdue, and with the switch to 24/7 operations, the new build out will assist in enhancing our operations," according to Doug Dembowski, WisDOT MONITOR project manager.

The control room build out is scheduled for completion in December 2005, and will include many new features. A new freeway camera display wall,

workstation LCD monitors, camera control equipment, and new hardware and software are all components of the project. New computer consoles for the operators will also enhance operations. For more information on the WisDOT Traffic Operations Center build out project, please contact Doug Dembowski at (414) 227-2149 or [douglas.dembowski@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:douglas.dembowski@dot.state.wi.us).

## ITS Midwest adopts new logo

A new ITS Midwest logo was approved by the ITS Midwest Board of Directors in September. The old one was a stylistic symbol of the three member states (WI, IL, IN) and Lake Michigan, and had become obsolete with the departure of Wisconsin. "As a practical matter, simple, clean designs are the best – they are more memorable and wear well with time," notes Tom Ewing, who led the logo redesign effort. "A transportation theme is implied in the design, and the strong vertical lines converging to infinity reflects our image as a dynamic, progressive organization." The new logo makes its debut with this issue of *Express Lanes*.

## RTA Shares the Wealth

*Transportation information goes public online at [www.rtams.org](http://www.rtams.org)*

Have you ever wanted to know just what capital improvements are planned for your community? Or have you ever been curious about how many people use a particular train station or how many parking



spaces are available at that station? Do you need to find a copy of a specific planning study? The RTA is providing the answers to these and many other questions about transportation and planning in northeastern Illinois with a public version of its online transportation information system.

The RTA's Regional Transportation Asset Management System (RTAMS) web site [www.rtams.org](http://www.rtams.org) became available to the public on June 23. RTAMS provides detailed planning and financial information about the transportation systems in northeastern Illinois. Users can search and cross-reference RTAMS's data sets, including the location of transportation assets and services, public transit ridership, Tollway traffic vol-

umes, planning studies, transit sales tax revenues and political jurisdictions. The site also includes information from the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, the regional traffic signal inventory, aerial imagery, and land use maps.

RTAMS was developed by the RTA in coordination with the CTA, Metra, Pace, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA), the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) and the University of Illinois - Chicago (UIC). Originally designed as an in-house tool for RTA staff, the RTAMS information system has evolved into an extensive intermodal transportation web site popular among transportation professionals, elected officials and advocacy groups. The region's transportation agencies have had access to RTAMS since 2002, and municipalities have had access since 2003. RTA officials felt that the introduction of a

public version of the RTAMS site was the next logical step.

"Chicago has the second largest transit system in the nation. Our goal was to package the wealth of data about our transportation system so that professionals and members of the public could easily search and find information about how transportation is funded, planned, and used in northeastern Illinois," said former RTA Executive Director Paula S.Thibeault. "The RTAMS web site enables users to examine our transportation system from both regional and localized perspectives." Thus far, response to the public release of the RTAMS web site has been favorable. Traffic on the site has increased three-fold since June 23rd. RTA staff is continuing to expand the web site and work with other partners to add new content.

RTAMS can be accessed at [www.rtams.org](http://www.rtams.org) or by clicking on the RTAMS logo on the RTA web site [www.rtachicago.com](http://www.rtachicago.com). Users must establish an RTAMS account through a simple online form. □

*For more information, please contact Sidney E. Weseman at (312) 913-3247 or [WesemanS@rtachicago.org](mailto:WesemanS@rtachicago.org).*

## Membership

Membership in ITS Midwest is open to corporations, companies, government agencies, universities, and other organizations and individuals with an interest in ITS development and deployment. Paid members of ITS America are entitled to up to three free chapter memberships and may select ITS Midwest as one of their free chapters.

A qualifying organization which is not a member of ITS America may join the ITS Midwest chapter for \$150 per year. Organizations belonging to ITS America which have used up their complimentary chapter memberships may also join for \$150. Individuals not affiliated with an organization willing to join ITS Midwest may become a member for \$50 per year.

Chapters like ITS Midwest play a key role of outreach, education, and support for ITS technical and planning activities. ITS Midwest also provides a forum for planning and support of the GCM Priority Corridor.

**Join ITS Midwest today and play a role in shaping our future transportation systems!**

### MEMBERS:

3M Intelligent Transportation Systems  
Adaptive Micro Systems, Inc.  
Addco, Inc.  
Adesta LLC  
American Motorcycle Association  
Argonne National Laboratory  
Atlantic Scientific  
Brown Traffic Products  
Cambridge Systematics  
Chicago Area Transportation Study  
Chicago Department of Aviation  
Chicago DOT  
Chicago Transit Authority  
City of Rockford  
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.  
Computer Sciences Corp.  
Control Technologies  
Corning Cable Systems, Inc.  
CORNET Technology Inc.  
Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier  
Daktronics, Inc.  
DMJM + HARRIS  
Dupage County  
Eaton Corp.  
ECM Inc.  
Edwards & Kelcey  
EIS Electronic Integrated Systems  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Transit Administration  
Ford Motor Co.  
Garcia LE & Associates  
General Motors Corporation  
HDR Engineering  
HNTB Corp.  
Hudson Institute  
Illinois DOT  
Illinois Commerce Commission  
Illinois Section ITE

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority  
Indiana DOT  
International Road Dynamics  
Iron Mountain Systems  
Iteris Inc.  
Jacobs Civil  
Kimley-Horn and Associates  
Lake County Division of Transportation  
Ligas Consulting  
MasTec North America  
Mid-West Truckers Assoc./D. Schaefer  
Motion Maps/R. Winick  
Motorola Inc.  
National Engineering Technology Corp.  
NAVTEQ  
Pace Suburban Bus  
Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.  
PB Farradyne Inc.  
Purdue University  
Regional Transportation Authority  
Schneider National  
TAPCO  
Traffic Control Corp.  
TransCore  
TranSmart Technologies Inc.  
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign  
URS Corp.  
Westwood One (Metro Networks)  
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For further information about joining and the benefits of membership in ITS Midwest, please contact Gary Rylander at [grylander@ekmail.com](mailto:grylander@ekmail.com). □



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**Express Lanes** is the newsletter of the Intelligent Transportation Society of the Midwest and the GCM Corridor Coalition. Contributions of general interest to our readers are encouraged, including news from members, upcoming events, articles on technology,

research and deployment projects, and other ITS-related information.

For more information on ITS Midwest, visit [www.itsmidwest.org](http://www.itsmidwest.org).

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