

Quarterly Newsletter – November 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alaska is embracing ITS and the application of new technologies to improve safety, enhance mobility, and provide travelers with real-time information. It has been a privilege for me to serve as President for the past two years and witness the growth and expansion of ITS across the state.

We recently held our 6th annual ITS-Alaska Annual Meeting in Juneau. For the second consecutive year we held a full-day program to showcase the multi-modal nature of transportation in Alaska and how new technologies are transforming the way Alaskans travel. We learned about efforts to improve incident management, the use of new technologies to support surface, air, and rail transportation, the expansion of RWIS and weather tracking systems that support operations and maintenance, plans for a statewide Traffic Operations Center, and new systems and software being deployed across the state to support mass transit. I would like to thank the program committee for organizing an outstanding conference and recruiting a diverse group of industry experts to share their experiences with us.

As my two-year term comes to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and our members who have volunteered their time to grow ITS-Alaska. Through their efforts we were able to institute bi-monthly webinars, conduct two full-day annual meetings, and update the bylaws. The membership has grown 20% and our bank balance is healthy.

This is an exciting time to support ITS in Alaska. We are starting the nominations process to fill our Board of Directors. Please consider getting involved.

Regards,
Jeff Adler, President

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ITS-AK will be conducting an election to fill our 7 positions on the Board of Director. The new Board Members will assume office effective January 1, 2014 and serve a two-year term expiring December 31, 2015. Nominations are due by November 30th.

The composition of the Board of Directors includes seven (7) officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Immediate Past President, and two (2) at-large Directors of the Chapter. The Board should have a balanced representation from the public, private and academic sectors. All Board members shall be current employees of an Organizational Member or Small Business member or shall be an Affiliate member. No more than two Board members shall be from the same organization.

Please submit your nomination(s) for the Board no later than November 25, 2013 to Ginny Crowson (Crowson@acconsultants.org), ITS-AK Nomination Committee Chair. Please contact Ginny if you have any questions. There is no limit to the number of nominations your organization can submit, and self-nominations are perfectly acceptable.

Ballots will be sent to the membership in early December.

WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

We are looking for speakers to participate in our winter webinar series. If you would like to make a presentation to the chapter membership please contact Jeff Adler (jadler@openroadsconsulting.com)

BECOME A MEMBER

ITS Alaska membership is open to public agencies, private companies, academic organizations, professional associations or individuals with an interest in advancing the purpose of ITS Alaska. Please contact Lisa Idell-Sassi ((lisa.idell-sassi@alaska.gov) or look at our website for more information.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Session #1- Traffic Incident Management and Emergency Coordination

- Work is underway to explore the feasibility of a Statewide TOC
- Strong focus on incident management – helping to quickly respond to incidents and minimize the time needed to clear the roadway
- Alaska is looking to improve communications along the roadways



Session #2- Innovative ITS Technology Applications

- Operations and Maintenance team is using MDSS to improve decision making and make winter maintenance more economical
- FAA is moving ahead with NextGen navigation, making air travel safer and more efficient
- The Alaska Railroad continues to invest in new technologies like Positive Train Control and CAD to improve safety, reliability, and improve traveler information



Session #3-Transit Technology Deployments – Helping Transit Providers and Transit Riders

- Transit services are a critical means of transportation for many of Alaska’s residents.
- Alaska’s transit agencies continue to pursue innovative technology to improve the quality of services
- We are fortunate to have several vendors (Trapeze, Routematch Software, and Avail Technologies) who are partnering with Alaska’s transit providers to deploy new systems for fare collection, scheduling, AVL, and routing.

Session#4 – Multimodal Roundtable Discussion

- Opportunities to foster greater cooperation and data sharing between agencies
- Lessons learned on best practices for deploying new technology



About ITS-Alaska

As an official State Chapter of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, ITS Alaska is a society of professionals dedicated to the development and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems in Alaska. The Mission of ITS-Alaska is to elevate safety and mobility through leadership and promote a strong innovative ITS community in Alaska.



2013 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ITS-Alaska is pleased to announce that Jack Stickel (DOT&PF) and Brian Findley (Vaisala) have been honored as co-recipients of our 2013 Outstanding Achievement Award for their efforts in promoting the Alaska Statewide Road Weather Information System.



Jack Stickel has been the road weather information system manager for the Alaska DOT&PF for over 10 years, managing over 50 environmental sensor stations statewide. Before that he served many years supporting military meteorological requirements as an operational meteorologist. As the RWIS program manager for the Department he's established and continues to foster strong partnerships with the FAA, NWS, US Forest Service, National Park Service, local governments, the University of Alaska Fairbanks and even power and communication providers to build RWIS infrastructure in remote places. Jack is the driving force behind the RWIS website (roadweather.alaska.gov) to share Alaska's weather data and camera views.



Brian Findley has been a Field Service Engineer with Vaisala for over 20 years, a global leader in environmental technologies. He's been servicing Alaska's road weather stations and network for over 10 years. Brian braves the elements of Alaska at all times during the year to travel to, and repair weather sensing equipment. He works long hours, often times driving 100's of miles to reach remote sites, and then puts in 110% to make sure sites are operational before he leaves. His resourceful ideas to overcome local obstacles are one of his strongest attributes. He's been known to use the rental car battery to charge up and heat RWIS equipment; he's even slept in them to save time of not having to drive 100's of miles to a hotel.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

GOLD



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