SUNGUIDE®
DISSEMINATOR
Florida Department of Transportation's Traffic Engineering and Operations Newsletter

FDOT's Transpo2012 Experience

By Gene Glotzbach, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) exhibited at another Transpo conference this past October. Transpo is Florida's premier intelligent transportation systems (ITS) event, hosted by ITS Florida, the Florida Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, FDOT, and the Florida Division of the Federal Highway Administration. Tranpo2012 was held in Bonita Springs, just south of Fort Myers. You could not have asked for anything more of the venue. The hotel accommodations were first rate and there was plenty of room for the program tracks to meet and for exhibitors to display their products in the exhibit hall.

As a sponsor, FDOT exhibited at the event and used a similar setup as that used at the World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, held in Orlando in October 2011. FDOT's exhibit backdrop was a collage of pictures that depicted ITS deployments in Florida. The backdrop set the tone for the exhibit as the exhibits primary theme was to showcase FDOT's successes in deploying ITS.

FDOT's exhibit space at Transpo2012.

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605 Suwannee Street, MS 36
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(850) 410-5600
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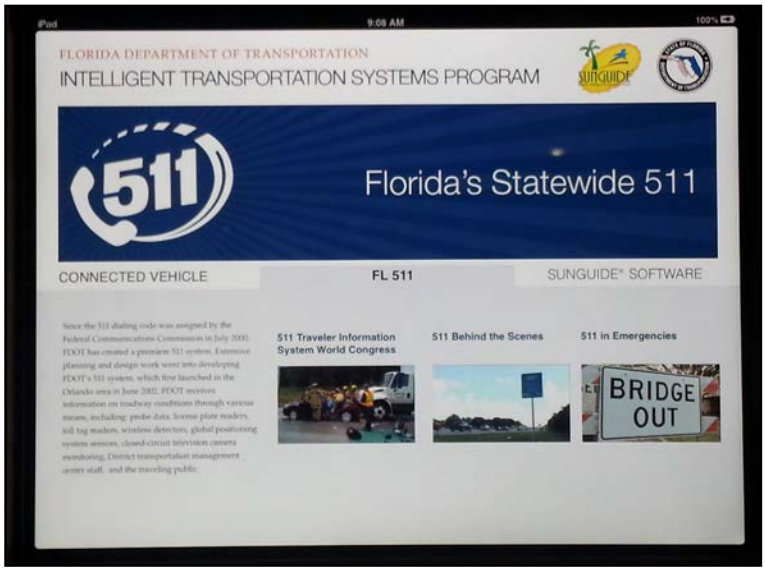
The exhibit provided a statewide view of the successes in ITS deployments in Florida via a continuously looping presentation of slides prepared by the Districts. An iPad kiosk was also set up to provide information on other initiatives to further advancement of ITS in Florida, including Florida's 511 advanced traveler information system, SunGuide® software, and connected vehicle.



FDOT used an iPad touch screen to show videos of FL511, SunGuide software, and connected vehicle.

FDOT distributed literature that highlighted the Central Office ITS Program accomplishments. Literature available to conference attendees included the ITS Program Annual Report, Florida's 511 Progress Report and the latest SunGuide Disseminator (FDOT's monthly ITS newsletter), as well as other project publications. These documents provided an overview of FDOT's ITS deployment accomplishments and a glimpse of future programs that will enhance the public's travel experience.

In addition, the FDOT exhibit provided a venue for promoting Florida's traveler information system, also known as FL511. Personnel representing FL511 were available to discuss and answer questions. Rack cards were given out that provided information on various components of the traveler information system that the public can use to get traffic information. These rack cards also provide useful hints to enhance the public experience with the system.

FDOT's mobile communications trailer.

Information on the SunGuide software was promoted on the iPad kiosk. Attendees were able to view short video clips that provided information on SunGuide software capabilities and how transportation management center operators use the software. There was also a brochure available so attendees could walk away with information.

FDOT also had space in the parking lot where the mobile telecommunications trailer was fully deployed. Attendees were able to view trailer features, including a satellite dish that provides space-based internet connectivity and a 100-foot telescoping tower arrayed with pan-tilt-zoom cameras, three WiFi® hot spots, and a weather station. The trailer's WiFi internet services were available to Transpo2012 attendees and approximately 100 attendees logged in during the event. The trailer has helped FDOT evaluate the need for WiFi service at rest areas and it has also served a public safety capacity by supporting the state's response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and a national communications interoperability drill at Camp Blanding, Florida. The trailer is designed as a set and forget platform, with multiple power sources, including a generator and solar panels, and can be deployed quickly anywhere in the state.

The overall exhibit was well received and provided a good location to meet and greet attendees during breaks; at the same time people were able to walk away with a little more knowledge on FDOT's ITS Program. In this business, a little knowledge can go a long way.

For information, please contact Mr. Glotzbach at (850) 410-5616 or e-mail to Gene.Glotzbach@dot.state.fl.us.

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FDOT District Four Completes Major Renovation in Control Room

By Daniel Smith, FDOT District Four

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Four has completed a major renovation of the Broward Regional Transportation Management Center (TMC) control room that nearly doubles the number of consoles for TMC operators.

There are now 22 workstations in the control room shared by the FDOT District Four Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program with Broward County Traffic Engineering and the I-595 Express Operations Team. Previously, there were 12 workstations for the three agencies.

District Four ITS staff will utilize the majority of the new consoles as it prepares for future expansion. The US 27 ITS project in Broward and Palm Beach Counties is scheduled for completion in late 2013 and the I-95 Express Lanes in Broward County will begin operations in 2014. Managed lanes are also planned on I-75 in Broward County and I-95 in Palm Beach County. Of the remaining workstations, six are assigned to Broward County traffic engineers and three to the 595 Express operations.

The Regional TMC now houses 22 workstations in the control room.

The new workstations give TMC managers greater flexibility in daily operations, resulting in more efficiency and better customer service. For example, operators for Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast can now work side-by-side, improving communication and coordination during major events.

The addition of the new workstations is just one of several upgrades to the control room over the past two years.

Five new monitors were added to each console to create a "mini video wall." At any time, 64 camera images can be displayed simultaneously, giving operators the ability to more quickly detect crashes and other disruptions to traffic.

Projectors were mounted to the TMC ceiling to display speed data, weather conditions, and web site status on empty wall space, essentially increasing the size of the main video wall at a fraction of the cost. This tool gives operators a more comprehensive view of the entire freeway network.

Some camera images on the main video wall were replaced with status of the roadway and ITS devices, including the number of active incidents, number of emergency generators currently in use, and status of fiber. Displaying "big picture" information in this manner gives both managers and operators a greater situational awareness of the ITS network.

For information, please contact Mr. Smith at (954) 847-2785 or email to Daniel.Smith@dot.state.fl.us.

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ITSFM Software — Formal Training Begins!

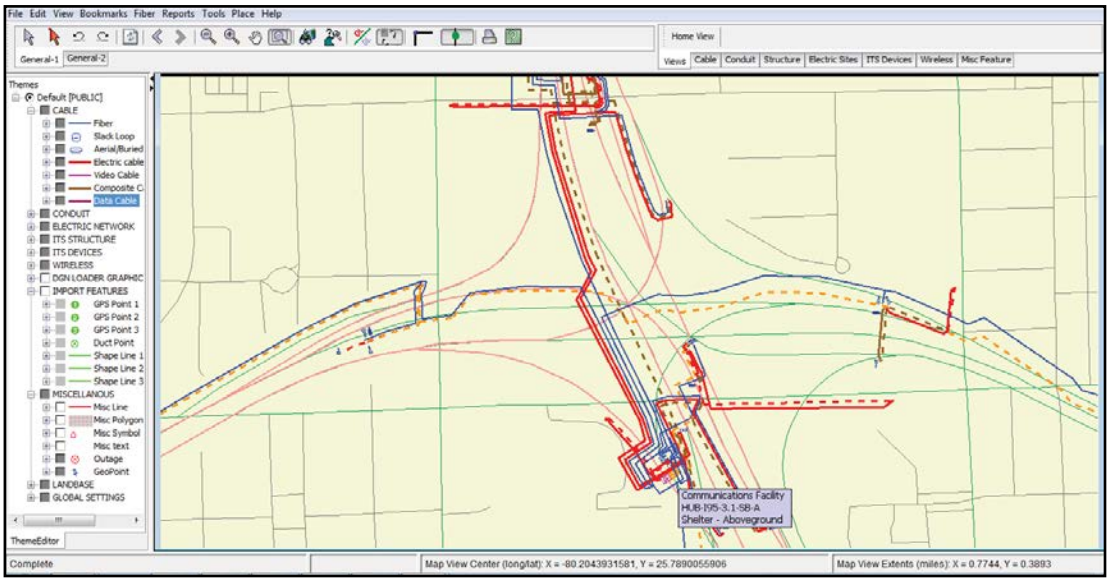
By Richard Easley and Sharon Easley, E-Squared Engineering

Ready – Set – Go!

The Intelligent Transportation Systems Facility Management (ITSFM) system training is now underway. The ITSFM is an extremely powerful tool designed to help the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts manage their ITS more efficiently, more intelligently, and with infinitely more visibility. Attendees will learn that the ITSFM is a geographical information system-based web application, which allows FDOT to manage its assets and configuration. Make sure your District is scheduled for training. That's the first step you'll need as you get ready, set, and go!

What ITSFM Can Do

The ITSFM is a tool that allows Districts to know exactly what they have, where they have it, and when it was put there. The ITSFM not only provides the Districts with this information relating to their ITS infrastructure (including power, ITS devices, fiber/cable/wireless/microwave communications, equipment facilities, signals), they can also fully understand how their systems interconnect. Answers to scenarios that used to be a nightmare are now only a few mouse clicks away utilizing the ITSFM. The following are four scenario examples that are easily handled utilizing the ITSFM; they are part of the training exercises that each student will learn how to answer in the intensive two and half day training course.



Sample screenshot of the ITSFM.

Scenario One: We are expecting a major storm with likely flooding on State Route 'X' between County Road 'A' and County Road 'B.' Do we have any ITS infrastructure in that area and, if so, what can we do to minimize disruption to our system? Do we need to shut off power to that area? Where is the power shut off? What devices are pole mounted in the area, and what equipment is sitting on a pad? Where are the dynamic message signs nearest to that area so we can warn motorists?

Scenario Two: We have a recall on all model #13 cameras manufactured by Irregular Corporation that were built in 2009. We need to provide the manufacturer with a full listing of all of the recalled cameras in our District so they can schedule replacement. They need this information by COB today since their technicians are already in the area.

Scenario Three: We have pretty expensive utility bills that we pay each month and there is no meter value; it's just an agreed upon estimate based on the equipment that we installed back in 2001. When we look at our ITS devices today, we know that most of our equipment across the District uses about one tenth of the power of the originally installed technologies. Let's run a report that shows all of the devices connected to each utility bill so we can renegotiate our electric billing rates. After all, it doesn't make sense to pay more than the amount for our actual power consumption.

Scenario Four: We have eight closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras that have gone dark. We need to go out and check each one to see if we need to repair them. Let's make sure we have all the information on each camera setup so we have spare parts if they're needed in the field. Also, let's check to see if the same fiber or power source is connecting each of the cameras. We may be able to see that each camera is connected to the same fiber and, if so, we can go to the first dark camera site on that

Sample screenshot of the FDOT ITSFM web site.

fiber and troubleshoot. There's a good chance that the seven remaining dark CCTV cameras along that fiber may not need a visit after all.

The Training

The ITSFM training can address all of these scenarios and many more. Unfortunately, many people don't fully understand what the ITSFM can do – and what it can't do. There are quite a few rumors as to what it can do, but there are very few facts. The ITSFM training provides the facts; it provides the hands-on experience; and it serves as the requisite 'gateway' to becoming authorized to use the system. Unlike other training sessions, the ITSFM classes require 100 percent participation and 100 percent attendance. Because of the many functions and capabilities of the ITSFM, each student is required to focus, participate, and say 'goodbye' to any texting or emailing during class time. The training also has very strict participatory requirements. Everyone learns the same things, at the same time, the first time. Fortunately, even though 100 percent focus is required, the training is actually fun!

How Do I Learn More?

For more information, the FDOT Central Office has created a an informative web site that provides detailed information. You can visit that web site at http://www.dot.state.fl.us/trafficoperations/ITS/Projects_Telecom/ITSFM/ITSFM.shtm. You'll find more information describing the ITSFM as well as how to schedule free training in your District

For information, please contact Mr. Randy Pierce (FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations) at (850) 410-5608 or e-mail to Randy.Pierce@dot.state.fl.us.

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Sample screenshot of the FDOT ITSFM web site.

FDOT District Six Recognizes Road Ranger Service Patrol with Special Award

By Javier Rodriguez, FDOT District Six

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Office awarded its first ever Excellence in Service Award to Road Ranger service patrol, Manny Collazo, for his long-standing contributions to its incident management program.

District Six Secretary, Gus Pego, presents Manny Collazo with the Excellence in Service Award during the November Town Hall Meeting.

Manny began his career as a service patrol soon after the program launched in 1998. There, he worked for approximately ten years and serviced mostly State Road 826 (Palmetto Expressway) as well as Interstate 95 in Miami-Dade County. He provided motorist assistance services and operated the full fleet of Road Ranger vehicles, which included pickup trucks, tow trucks, and flat bed vehicles. His on-the-job skills and professionalism quickly led him to a supervisory position where he trained and managed other service patrols throughout the county.

After ten years, Manny moved on to work for the Section 5 Project with Community Asphalt. In this capacity, Manny took a leadership role and spearheaded the launch of the Road Ranger Program for the SR 826/836 Interchange Reconstruction Project. Despite the project's large-scale construction activities, Manny's efforts helped ensure the roadways were kept free and clear of road blocking events. Manny excelled in this role because he understood the magnitude of the project and the impact it would have on the drivers, the community, and FDOT. He worked diligently to assist project management and trained new Road Rangers in field coordination, maintenance of traffic, and driver assistance efforts – all while serving as a Road Ranger himself.

After suffering an injury, Manny retired from his post in 2011. However, he undoubtedly left a mark in the District Six Road Ranger Program since his contributions helped launch and sustain the successful service many drivers enjoy today. For these reasons, District Six recognized Manny with the Excellence in Service Award during a special presentation at the November Town Hall meeting.

For information, please contact Mr. Rodriguez at (305) 407-5341 or e-mail to Javier.Rodriguez2@dot.state.fl.us.

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The Intelligent Transportation Society, Florida Chapter (ITS Florida) presented the 2012 awards during Transpo2012 held in Bonita Springs, Florida, in October 2012, to the following recipients.

ITS Florida President's Award

Chester H. Chandler III, PE, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program Manager, has been a staunch leader of ITS in Florida for over 20 years. He led the creation of the FDOT ITS Program and guided that program for years, overseeing the first series of Ten-Year ITS Cost Feasible Plans, ensuring that ITS would be part of FDOT Work Program on a regular, annual basis. He is a former president of ITS Florida and has initiated a number of important activities of the society. He is eminently deserving of ITS Florida's highest award, the ITS Florida Presidents' Award for 2012, and it is fitting that this should come on the 20th anniversary of ITS Florida.

ITS Florida Champion

Jim Wolfe, FDOT District Four Secretary, has been a strong supporter of traffic operations for many years. ITS is a key tool for optimizing traffic operations. He helped start FDOT's transportation systems management and operations (TSM&O) program and chairs the TSM&O Leadership Team. He instigated the first TSM&O consulting program in Florida, which resulted in the consideration of how FDOT should be involved in arterial management statewide and development of a TSM&O Business Plan. He led the deployment of the I-595 Express Lanes public-private partnership (PPP)—a uniquely innovative approach to PPPs. He likewise championed the extension of the 95 Express high-occupancy toll lanes into Broward County, and later in Palm Beach County. He was instrumental in getting a managed lanes project on I-75 from Miami-Dade County to I-595 in Broward County from concept to funded project.

ITS Florida Professional of the Year

Charles Stratton, Vice President of Traffic Operations and ITS, Metric Engineering, Inc., has dedicated over 20 years to the advancement of transportation; in particular, ITS design, integration, operations, and ITS construction management. While there are many examples, one noteworthy aspect of his experience includes the deployment of the largest continuous detection corridor in the United States, which included the installation of 450 vehicle detection devices installed approximately every half mile for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

ITS Florida Member of the Year

FDOT Central Office Traffic Engineering and Operations, TSM&O Program, established and integrated the TSM&O Program on a statewide basis. This provided significant steps to integrate planning and operations; develop high levels of coordination and communication with local traffic, transit, freight, and other modal entities; maximize the efficiency of existing infrastructure; and make use of tools and data for mobility and safety outcomes. Through TSM&O, FDOT expects decreased

travel times and increased travel time reliability, fewer incidents and traffic disruptions, reduced congestion and delays, and improved safety. All users of Florida's multi-modal transportation system will experience profound positive long-term impacts as a result of the TSM&O Program.

Outstanding Achievement

Traffic Engineering Research Lab (TERL), a product certification facility unique to Florida, ensures that traffic signals and devices listed on the FDOT Approved Product List meet FDOT's minimum requirements for products. The TERL's certification activities include evaluation and certification of many ITS devices used in transportation projects in the state. This project has been a team effort from its inception. Successful implementation has required the critical support of all involved in developing, reviewing, approving, implementing, and, more importantly, complying with the approved procedural documentation. This has resulted in increased operational efficiency and consistency of product certification activities. Routing of certification documents for review and approval is now completely automated and paperless. These internal improvements have led to enhanced customer satisfaction from various TERL customers and partners, including FDOT Districts; county and city maintaining agencies; and contractors, vendors, and consultants doing business in Florida. Additionally, TERL activities enhance credibility among product vendors through leading-by-example in the arena of quality management.

FDOT District Four ITS Unit is extremely pro-activeness on issues that affect motorist and responder safety. The US 27/I-75 Incident Management Task Force exemplifies this philosophy. The task force was created by FDOT in cooperation with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) and other partner agencies. The group's Activation Plan has pre-defined operational procedures, directing how emergency responders respond to highway closures due to poor visibility, resulting in improved communications, cooperation and coordination, and the rapid deployment of needed resources. This is an innovative, "take-charge" stance to a recurring problem that can potentially save lives and significantly reduce travel delays. The plan also benefits the public by improving traveler information services along key corridors.

Gainesville Advanced Traffic Management System excelled in a recent national survey with the shortest commuting time in Florida, and was ranked 19th nationally among all metropolitan areas, according to Nielsen. This outstanding result is because the City of Gainesville and its surrounding Alachua County are nearing completion of one of the country's most sophisticated traffic management systems, recognized within Florida and nationally as a state-of-the-art implementation of ITS technology.

Martin County Transportation Management Center (TMC) was built as a fully functional TMC to withstand Category 5 hurricanes. There are 52.5 miles of fiber cable throughout the county to monitor its systems using advance traffic management systems software. The TMC also incorporated advanced features within the traffic controller to maximize the efficiency of their corridors. They utilize coordination adaptive split algorithm within the controller by time of day, which takes unused times during morning and evening peaks and places the extra time on the phases with increased demand. This methodology optimizes the utilization of phase time based on demand to maximize the throughput of vehicles at each intersection while maintaining coordination along the corridor.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) operates 15 citizens band radio advisory system (CB RAS) transmitters at strategic locations along the Turnpike roadways for disseminating information to CB radio users. CB RAS supplements other modes of information dissemination (dynamic message signs, highway advisory radio, 511, public broadcasters) by providing advance warning about lane closures/blockages, severe weather, or other incidents. FTE uses this tool to reduce congestion and secondary crashes by providing information primarily to over-the-road commercial drivers and truckers.

FDOT District Six ITS Program developed an ITS maintenance module. This web-based software is a first-in-Florida application that is increasing the District's network device reliability to help improve the quality of traffic management, incident management, and traveler information services provided to the public. This software saves time and money while improving the quality of services. It was designed to address the ITS Program's need for device checks and may be used by other Districts statewide.

Certificates of Appreciation

Stephanie Hoback, Wavetronix, has provided ITS Florida continuous support. This support includes the Transpo2012 banner with stand, the willingness to offer and assist ITS Florida activities and event, and staffing ITS Florida's booth at trade shows. This would not be possible without the full support of the management at Wavetronix.

John Brown, Gobal-5 Communications, has continuously supported ITS Florida. He has provided his expertise for the ITS Florida web site, new banner/exhibit display designs, and the Transpo logos. He has participated in previous Transpo

events serving as our professional photographer. Since its inception, John Brown has been instrumental in the layout and creation of the ITS Florida calendar. This would not be possible without the support of the management at Global-5 Communications.

Honor Roll

Charles Wallace, PhD, PE, is one of Florida's best-known transportation professionals, having made immeasurable contributions to this industry. For this reason, Charlie is the inductee to ITS Florida's ITS Honor Roll for 2012 on the ITS Florida 20th Anniversary.

Throughout Charlie's career, he has advanced the transportation profession. He led the University of Florida Transportation Research Center as Director and founded the McTrans Center. In addition to this role, Charlie consulted nationally and internationally on work ranging from research to signal optimization, simulation modeling, and training.

Charlie has tirelessly contributed to the ITS profession through its organization's committees, work groups, and task forces. These include the Transportation Research Board, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, the International Road Federation, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and ITS America as a Board Director. However, what we remember most is Charlie's work to form the Florida Chapter of ITS America in 1992 and his continuous leadership to make the organization the award winning state chapter we know today.

Anne Brewer Scholarship Winners

Eileen Cabrera was the recipient of the Anne Brewer Scholarship. Eileen received her undergraduate degree from Florida International University (FIU) in December 2011. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree from FIU, and is expected to graduate August 2013. Her work experience includes interning for the City of Sunrise Utilities Department, FDOT District Four, and the FIU ITS laboratory. She has a career interest in ITS and TSM&O. She would like to apply new technologies to roadway systems to improve mobility, safety, and the environment. Eileen received a $2,000 scholarship check and certificate.

Rui Guo was the runner-up recipient of the Anne Brewer Scholarship. Rui received her undergraduate degree from Southeast University in China, and her Master of Science degree from the University of South Florida (USF). She is currently pursuing a doctorate at USF. Rui has work experience with the Center for Urban Transportation Research and as an intern with Albeck Gerken, Inc. Her career goal is to engage in original applied research and development projects involving ITS. Rui was presented with a $1,500 scholarship check and certificate.

For more information on ITS Florida, please check the ITS Florida web site at www.itsflorida.org or contact Sandy Beck, Chapter Administrator, at itsflorida@itsflorida.org.

If you wish to contribute an article to the SunGuide® Disseminator on behalf of ITS Florida, please email Erika Birosak at Erika.Birosak@transcore.com.

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Editorial Corner: Happy Birthday SunGuide® Disseminator—Celebrating Ten Years

By Elizabeth Birriel, FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations

The SunGuide® Disseminator has its roots from a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) intelligent transportation systems (ITS) publication that began in May 2001, titled Florida's ITS Evolution, which was published three times a year. By 2002, distribution and interest in the early newsletter had grown substantially and FDOT decided to seek a new name that would reflect its evolving content and distribution. FDOT posted announcements in the newsletter soliciting name suggestions from the readership and received several suggestions, including:

- Intelligence Reports
- Central Intelligence
- SunGuide Communicator
- SunGuide Connection
- SunGuide Update
- UPDATE/from Florida's Transportation Districts
- SunGuide Scout
- SunGuide Review
- SunGuide Summary
- SunGuide Journal
- SunGuide Intelligentsia
- SunGuide Disseminator

FDOT asked the readership to cast a vote to determine the favorite name. By this time (April 2002), the newsletter had become a monthly publication and readership was still growing. Many votes were cast and the new name was selected in July 2002 – SunGuide Disseminator won by a large margin.

Florida's ITS Evolution

ITS America 2001 - A Florida Showcase

Florida hosted the Intelligent Transportation Society of America's Eleventh Annual Meeting June 4-7 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and our many transportation partners were well represented at this important showcase for ITS deployments in Florida.

The Annual Meeting began with Florida's ITS Showcase. Hal Worrall of the Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority presented a video prepared specially for the showcase entitled "Florida's ITS Future Shines Bright" and provided comments on the future of ITS in Florida. This video provided an overview of the State of Florida and many of the successful ITS deployments in Florida together with future plans for ITS deployments with our many partners.

FDOT co-sponsored a booth with the Miami-Dade Expressway as part of the exhibition. Our booth was hosted by the "Florida Flamingo" who welcomed visitors to the Exhibition Hall. More than 300 people took home a photo with the Florida Flamingo to remember their visit to Miami Beach (sponsored by PBS&J).

The booth included demonstrations by District Six of video surveillance along I-95. Real-time internet protocol (IP) addressable video was demonstrated with PB Farradyne. Consultech Systems demonstrated the Statewide ITS Architecture and Standards website and databases. Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and District Six provided a Road Rangers vehicle to demonstrate incident management services.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Incident Management Working Group 1512 demonstrated standardized traveler information message sets. Meggitt Defense Systems demonstrated their unmanned aerial vehicle which was a major display in the booth. The Florida booth was one of the most popular booths in the Exhibition Hall thanks to the many people who contributed to its success.

Several successful tours and demonstrations were hosted in conjunction with the meeting including the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Demonstration with Meggitt Defense Systems, the District Six SunGuide Traffic Management Center, Miami-Dade Public Works Traffic Control Center, Port of Miami, MetroRail, SmartRoute Systems Traveler Information Center, and the Miami-Dade County Emergency Operations Center.

SUNGUIDE

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Lodestar Communications
CVISN
ITS Progress Report
FloridaTS.com
ITS Office Open House

Florida Department of Transportation
ITS Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS 90
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450
(850) 414-4980
http://www.dot.state.fl.us

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July 2001 issue of Florida's ITS Evolution.

FDOT ITS Program team, circa 2002.

Many faces have come and gone since those early days and the SunGuide Disseminator has also evolved from a mostly internet-based newsletter, with printed issues coming out three times a year (coinciding with FDOT's ITS Working Group Meetings), to a more user-friendly portable document format, enabling easier downloading and printing.

The SunGuide Disseminator has tracked FDOT's ITS Program progress since its birth and contains a wealth of information on how the program evolved over the years. We hope that you take a moment each month to go through our "little" newsletter so that you are aware of ITS trends in Florida.

For information, please contact Ms. Birriel at (850) 410-5606 or e-mail to Elizabeth.Birriel@dot.state.fl.us.

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Announcements

Welcome Aboard!

Please join us in welcoming **Wayne Brost** to the ITS Program as our new Local Area Network Administrator providing desktop, server, and web site support. Wayne comes to us with 12 years experience, the last six at FDOT Office of Information Systems providing telecommunications support in the Tallahassee FDOT offices; and server and desktop support in the Business Systems Support Office in the Rhyne Building.

Also join us in welcoming **Marie Tucker** to FDOT's Traffic Incident Management and Commercial Vehicle Operations section in the Traffic Engineering and Operations Office. Marie will oversee day-to-day operations of FDOT's Commercial Vehicle Information Systems and Networks grants, and assist with budget administration and the Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board meetings. Marie spent the last 13 years in the private sector and brings a vast amount of knowledge to FDOT.

Please join us in welcoming Wayne and Marie.

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FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Mission and Vision Statements

Mission:
Provide leadership and serve as a catalyst in becoming the national leader in mobility.

Vision:
Provide support and expertise in the application of Traffic Engineering principles and practices to improve safety and mobility.

FDOT Contacts

District 1
L.K. Nandam, DTOE
Chris Birosak, ITS
FDOT District 1 Traffic Operations
PO Box 1249
Bartow, FL 33831
(863) 519-2490

District 2
Jerry Ausher, DTOE
Peter Vega, ITS
FDOT District 2 Traffic Operations
2198 Edison Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 360-5630

District 3
Jared Perdue, DTOE
Cliff Johnson, ITS (Interim)
FDOT District 3 Traffic Operations
1074 Highway 90 East
Chipley, FL 32428-0607
(850) 638-0250

District 4
Mark Plass, DTOE
Dong Chen, ITS
FDOT District 4 Traffic Operations
2300 W. Commercial Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 777-4350

District 5
Richard Morrow, DTOE
Nathan Ruckert, ITS (Interim)
FDOT District 5 Traffic Operations
719 S. Woodland Blvd., MS 3-562
DeLand, FL 32720-6834
(386) 943-5310

District 6
Omar Meitin, DTOE
Rory Santana, ITS
FDOT District 6
1000 NW 111th Avenue, MS 6203
Miami, FL 33172
(305) 470-5312

District 7
Gary Thompson, DTOE
Chester Chandler, ITS
FDOT District 7 Traffic Operations
11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 615-8600

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
John Easterling, DTOE
Eric Gordin, ADTOE
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
PO Box 9828
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310-9828
(954) 975-4855

* * * *

Mark Wilson
State Traffic Engineer
(850) 410-5600

Elizabeth Birriel
Deputy State Traffic Engineer - ITS
(850) 410-5606

Paul Clark
Incident Management and
Commercial Vehicle Operations
(850) 410-5607

Fred Heery
Deputy State Traffic Engineer - Operations
(850) 410-5419

Alan El-Urfali
Deputy State Traffic Engineer - Systems
(850) 410-5617

Physical Address:
Rhyne Building
2740 Centerview Drive
Suite 3-B
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Mailing Address:
Burns Building
605 Suwannee Street
MS 36
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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