

TSM&O DISSEMINATOR

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

March - April 2023



Bridging the Gap in Incident Management

FDOT District Four and Six Promote Safety at Annual Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade

ITS Florida 2023 Board of Directors

Special Event Planning Helps Central Florida Roads Run Smoothly



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

3	District Six Launches Alert System for Warning Gate System on 95 Express
4	Special Event Planning Helps Central Florida Roads Run Smoothly
6	Save the Date ITS Transportation Showcase
7	FDOT District Four and Six Promote Safety at Annual Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade
8	Bridging the Gap in Incident Management
10	Florida ITS Architecture FDOT Lunch & Learn
11	ITS Florida 2023 Board of Directors

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.

Looking to be a Contributor for the Next Issue of the TSM&O Disseminator?

Email teodisseminator@dot.state.fl.us with your story subject and title.

We would love to have your contribution be a part of the next edition.

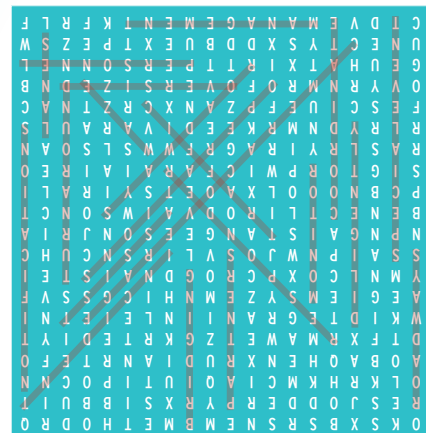
Photo credits: FDOT

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

Barry Building
3185 South Blair Stone Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

MAILING ADDRESS:

Burns Building
605 Suwannee Street, MS 90
Tallahassee, FL 32399



District Six Launches Alert System for Warning Gate System on 95 Express

By Javier Rodriguez, PE, TSM&O Engineer, District Six



The system after being installed on warning gate

The District Six Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) Office launched a new traffic alert system that notifies the public when select ramps for 95 Express are closed due to incidents.

The system was installed on the warning gates located on the ramps from NW 39 Street/NW 10 Avenue and from the Golden Glades Multimodal Transportation Facility. It uses a transponder with a direct wired communication connection that detects when the gates are open to traffic or closed due to an incident or event. The detector uses this connection to send status alerts to the WAZE traffic mobile application and to vehicles equipped with Vehicle to Infrastructure (V2I) technology. This lane closure digital alert solution disseminates this information so drivers can plan their route and avoid the area. The alert further secures the incident scene and allows responders to clear the event quicker and more efficiently.

To ensure accurate information is being disseminated to the public, the system has a built-in quality control feature named Safety Cloud Dashboard (SCD). The dashboard serves as an interface for District Six to view and edit all closure information that is being collected in real-time from the transponders. The SCD also allows the District to establish closure parameters such as their geometric configuration, description, as well as the messages being published. The District launched the system as a pilot project to evaluate the feasibility of adding an external device to assist in distributing traveler information. The District will determine if the system will be expanded to other 95 Express ramps.

For more information, please contact Javier Rodriguez at javier.rodriguez2@dot.state.fl.us.

Special Event Planning Helps Central Florida Roads Run Smoothly

By Gabriel Smith, Technical Information Consultant, District Five

When a major event comes to Central Florida, a lot of planning goes into venue availability, security, and parking. A major undertaking that many don't stop to think about is traffic planning. Thankfully, there are strategic plans in place to make sure that interstate, toll roads, and arterial roads are ready to handle the influx of visitors and travelers to the area for dozens of special events.

In November, two such events took place in FDOT's District Five Area - the Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) music festival in Orlando, and the launch of NASA's Artemis I mission from the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County. The EDC music festival is a weekend-long event held each year just outside of Downtown Orlando. This year, over 200,000 people flocked to Orlando for the three-day event. Just days later, NASA successfully launched Artemis I after months of weather and technical delays. The launch drew thousands of onlookers and space enthusiasts to the coast near Cape Canaveral in the early morning hours of November 16th.

Much of the work to ensure traffic can safely and efficiently operate in the region during these events happens well in advance. According to Senior Traffic Incident Specialist Garrett Popovich, working with the mapping and navigation systems that many motorists rely on to get around is paramount in preparing for a special event. "One of the biggest advantages we have is having people available here that are intimately knowledgeable of the roadways. It allows us to make sure these systems are sending people on routes where they can get in and out of where they need to be. It also allows us to work directly with the representatives to set up correct routing or put out additional signage." According to Popovich, this preplanning and coordination with responders is one of the keys to successfully navigating special events.



Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County where launch operations, including NASA's Artemis I mission, are carried out.

“Working an event like EDC requires a level of coordination with the responders on the ground. We communicate directly with the Orlando Police Department via radio and provide support by closing ramps and using Road Rangers for the safety of pedestrians, posting DMSs advising motorists of closures, and mitigating congestion,” says Michael Hudson, Traffic Incident Management Program Manager. “Having a TIM (TIM) manager that can make the direct decisions on-site for a major event like the Artemis launch or EDC has been very valuable for our special event partners.”

The location of the events also presents unique challenges and opportunities. Michael Hudson explains that “An event like EDC has quite a bit of camera coverage that we can utilize for special event coordination and response. However, Brevard County currently has less camera coverage and requires more direct interaction with first responders. That is why we have been working diligently to expand the camera coverage in the surrounding areas of Brevard County.”

This communication and planning goes all the way to the arterial level. Ongoing coordination with the arterial teams is necessary to implement signal plans in place to accommodate the flow of traffic. For some events, such as the Artemis launch, this can mean sending members of the team to assist with directing traffic. Michael states,

“Coordinating with our arterial managers to manage traffic has been very effective, and our partners have been very grateful for this. Having this ability reduces the staffing needed from law enforcement to

control signals manually. These events also build relationships for our TIM teams as well, so if a major unplanned event occurs, our responder partners know who they can reach out to for help.”

Another key element in monitoring the roadways is FDOT District Five’s RTMC. The RTMC, located in Sanford, is open 24/7, 365 days per year. Operators and Traffic Incident Management specialists at the RTMC are able to keep eyes on traffic cameras and coordinate with first responders in the event of emergencies. The RTMC and traffic operations personnel continually monitor and assist in the daily operations of Central Florida’s roadways, improving mobility and safety in the region.

For more information, please contact Gabriel Smith at (407) 571-6798 or by email at gabriel.smith@dot.state.fl.us.

Travel on roadways can be disrupted before and after a hurricane or tropical storm. **The Florida Department of Transportation** encourages all motorists to check **FL511** before a motor trip for this essential information:

- Alerts for hurricane evacuees
- Road and bridge closures, toll suspensions and evacuation routes
- Downed powerlines and flooded roads
- Crashes, stalled cars and congestion
- Much more **live 24/7 traffic information** provided by the FDOT
- Website available in **Spanish**

FL511.com

SAVE THE DATE



I3 TRANSPORTATION SHOWCASE

JULY 31 - AUG 3, 2023

HILTON ORLANDO, ORLANDO, FL

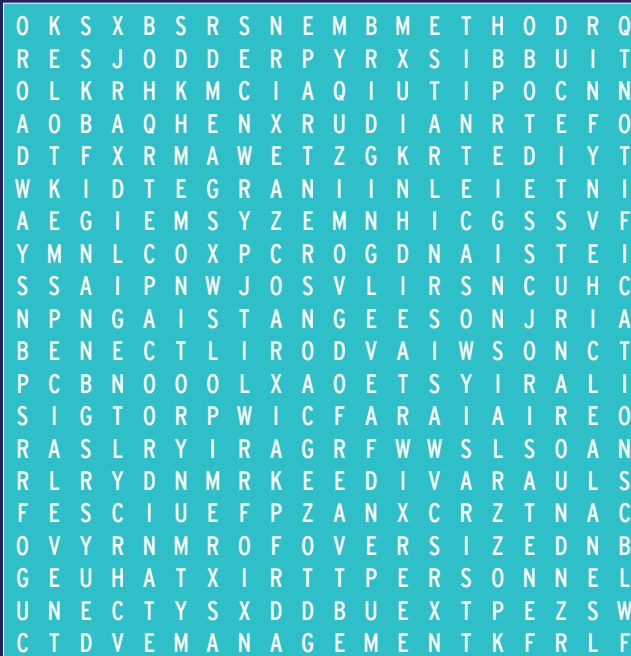
"INTELLIGENT INFRASTRUCTURE: INVESTING IN THE TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE"

By Sandy Beck and Russell Allen, ITS Florida

The Florida Puerto Rico District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida and the Florida Section of the International Municipal Signal Association are proudly joining together for the Florida I3 Transportation Showcase. Don't miss the opportunity to attend this exciting conference. This transportation showcase will take place from July 31 - August 3, 2023 at the Hilton Orlando. This meeting will combine topics of interest for member of each organization. Registration information will be available soon at 2023 i3 Conference - Florida Puerto Rico District ITE (flprite.org).

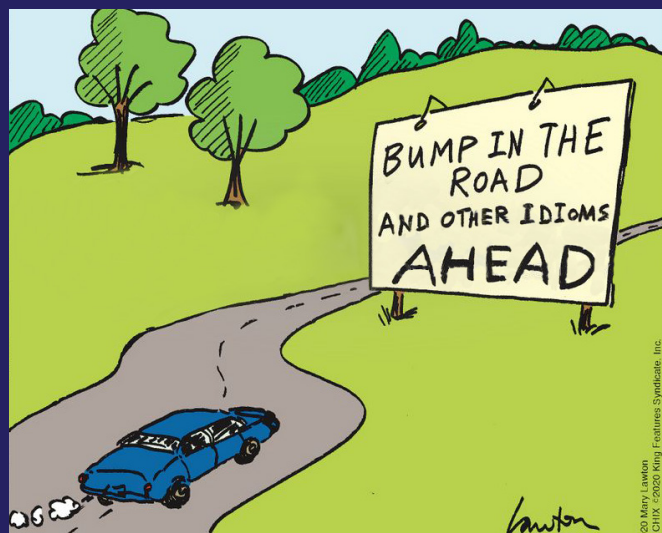
For more information, please contact Ms. Sandy Beck, Executive Director at ITSFlorida@ITSFlorida.org

Break Time



CAMERA COVERAGE
SPECIAL EVENT
NOTIFICATIONS
DILIGENTLY
PARTNERS
RESPONDER
MONITOR
COORDINATE
OPERATIONS
PERSONNEL

ASSIST
ROADWAYS
TRAFFIC
INCIDENT
MANAGEMENT
BRIDGING
OVERSIZED
WAZE
LANES
TURNAROUND



FDOT District Four and Six Promote Safety at Annual Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Tatiana Mitchell, CSM, TSM&O Specialist, FDOT District Four



On Saturday, March 11, 2023, the District Four and District Six Community Traffic Safety Teams, Road Rangers, and SIRV Operators, along with volunteers from both districts, participated in the annual Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival. With a new parade route and festival location, this year's parade was set to be bigger than previous years.



The new parade route traveled south along US A1A before stopping just before the festival at Las Olas Circle. FDOT had three motorized vehicles in the parade this year, including a Severe Incident Response Vehicle (SIRV), a Road Ranger truck, and a Yellow Dump truck from the District Four Broward Operations Office. Some of the volunteers included District Four Secretary Gerry O'Reilly, District Four Director of Transportation Development Steve Braun, and District Six Secretary Stacy Miller. As the parade made its way down, volunteers passed out items with the safety message "Be Safe, Not Lucky," which emphasizes the importance of responsible driving and avoiding unnecessary risks. The items included pencils, flashing lights, tire spoke lights, t-shirts, and bags.

New this year, FDOT also hosted a booth at the festival. The SIRV Team provided educational materials and fun items to children, such as hard hats and coloring pencils. At the same time, they distributed flyers to the public to raise awareness about the program.

Volunteers from the Target ZERO initiative were also present and focused on promoting safety messages. They emphasized the importance of wearing seat belts, avoiding distractions while driving, and driving sober. Additionally, they engaged with parade attendees, answered questions, and gathered feedback through surveys. They provided information and resources related to road safety to further educate the public.

For more information, please contact Tatiana Mitchell at (954) 847-2796 or by email at tatiana.mitchell@dot.state.fl.us.

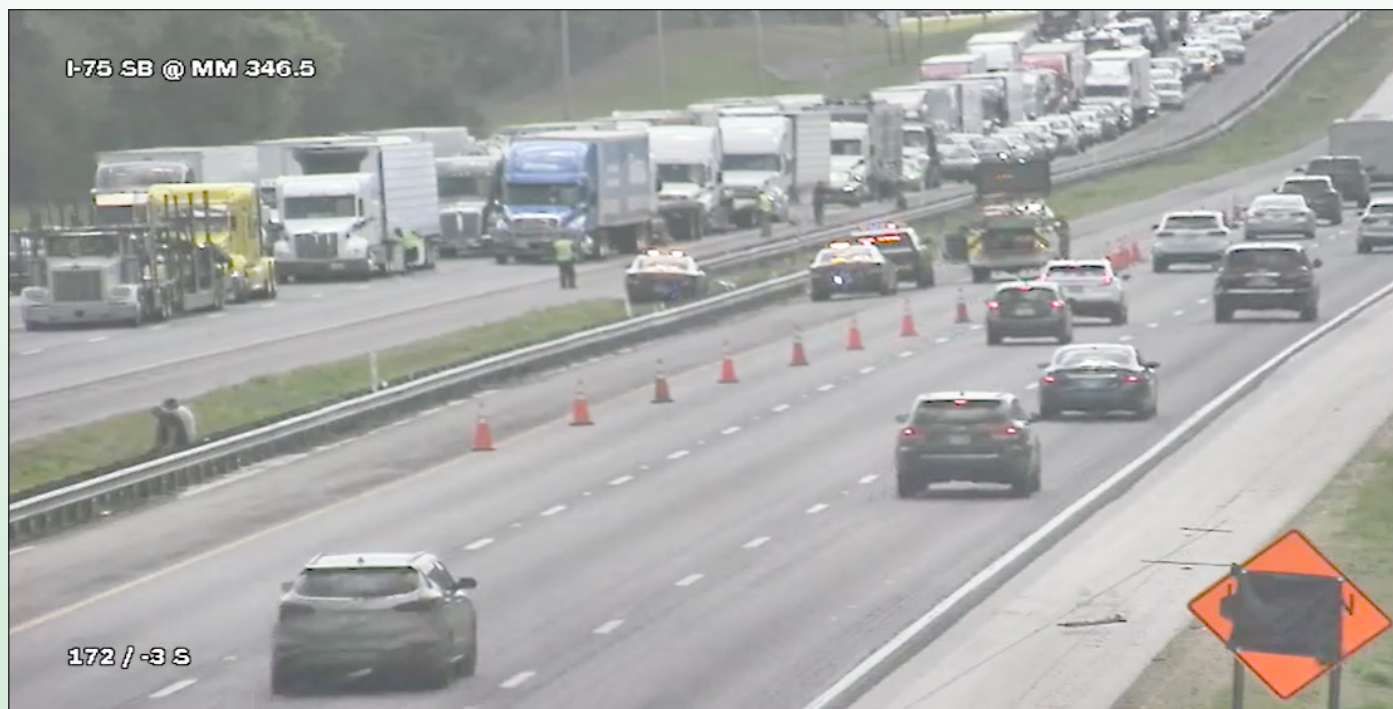
Bridging the Gap in Incident Management

By Sheryl Bradley, District Five ICM Project Manager

On February 22, just after 9am, the District Five RTMC received a TSS alert on I-75 at MM 347. Via CCTV, the Traffic Management Specialist observed FHP stopping all northbound traffic. Within a couple minutes, FHP Troop B dispatch had called to alert District Five that the 66th St overpass (MM 348) had been hit by a semi hauling an oversized load.

On camera, the RTMC could see a semi with an oversized load straddling multiple lanes underneath the bridge, but did not have a visual of the damage. Incident management kicked into high gear, requesting a Road Ranger to respond and get pictures of the bridge. Asset management was simultaneously dispatched to establish a closure of northbound I-75 with diversion at Exit 341/CR 484. Structures Maintenance was notified and instantly called for a bridge inspector, and our ICM signal engineers went to work implementing diversion plans to help manage the diverted traffic, while adjacent districts were notified. Our Mapping and Navigation Support team worked diligently to provide driver notification through partnerships with Waze, Google, Apple, and TomTom.

Images from the Road Ranger showed significant damage and were immediately shared to all relevant stakeholders in FDOT's incident response group, requiring further response by the District. The ICM TIM manager called FHP to determine a plan for the 6-miles of vehicles trapped between the incident and the closure. FHP had hoped the left lane would be reopened once the bridge inspector arrived. Based on the extent of the damage, however, the ICM TIM manager reached out to Structures Maintenance who was now enroute to the scene and asked about the likelihood of opening a lane. Structures Maintenance advised we would be several hours from opening any lanes as the loose debris from the underdeck would have to be removed and the bridge secured. With this information, the ICM TIM Manager and FHP Lieutenant worked together to establish a plan for turning trapped vehicles southbound using an emergency turnaround at MM 336. A Road Ranger was sent to shut down the left lane of southbound MM 336 to allow for a free-flow lane for traffic being directed to the emergency turnaround and the process began, ultimately taking 2.5-hours to clear the 6-miles of trapped traffic.



Ocala Operations and Structures Maintenance were on scene, along with the Asset Management contractor and bridge inspector, where work commenced for what would be an 11.5-hour closure of the northbound lanes. Signal engineers worked throughout the event to ensure all adjacent arterials were working at maximum efficiency. Even so, the impact on traffic throughout Sumter and Marion Counties was significant. Arterial management was compounded by several secondary incidents, including a fatality on US 441 - our only alternate northbound route - and involving a diverted semi that ran a red light and hit a sedan and killing its driver. Communication efforts were well coordinated with local law enforcement working the incident. Because of the potential impact of a long-term closure of US 441, they expedited the traffic homicide investigation and had the roadway reopened in under an hour.

Although a challenging incident, the teamwork between the RTMC/TIM, FDOT's response team, and local partners, made for a well-orchestrated, multi-faceted event. Northbound traffic on I-75 never extended beyond the Turnpike (13-miles from the point of closure), which is an impressive feat on any closure that lasts more than a couple hours. The same level of collaboration was used in the following weeks as additional closures were needed for ongoing bridge repair work, which was completed on Thursday, 3/30/23.



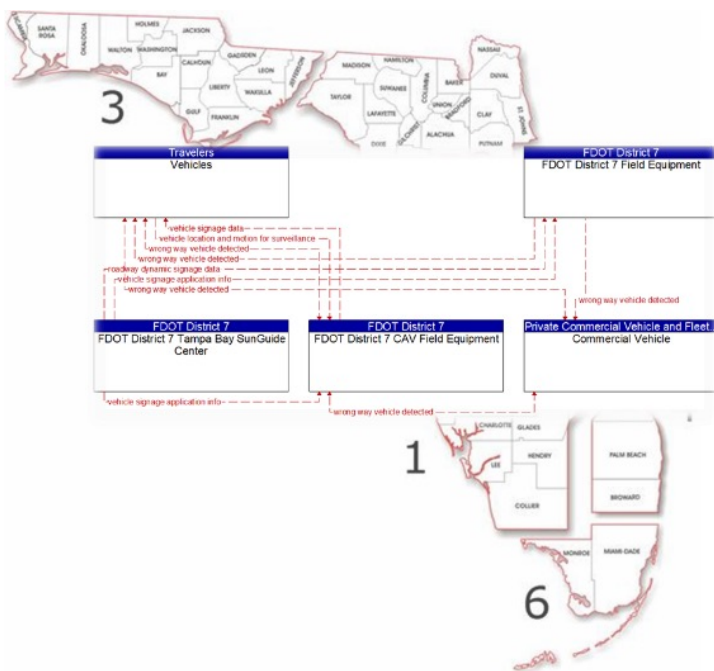
Images from the Road Ranger showed significant damage and were immediately shared to all relevant stakeholders in FDOT's incident response group, queuing further response by the District.

For more information, please contact Sheryl Bradley at sheryl.bradley@dot.state.fl.us.

Florida ITS Architecture FDOT Lunch & Learn

By Clifford Heise, Regional Vice President, Iteris, Inc.

The Florida's Statewide and Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architectures define the functional relationships between transportation systems across the State of Florida. Florida transportation agencies and organizations, including FDOT, can use the ITS Architectures to plan and develop transportation solutions to meet their organization's transportation needs. FDOT began a project in 2019 to update the Statewide and Regional ITS Architectures to reflect the latest transportation systems implementations and to identify what will potentially be needed to support and address the transportation needs over the next ten years.



session on May 25, 2023 at 12:00 Noon eastern time. The Lunch & Learn session will review the ITS Architecture project and processes, explore the Florida ITS Architecture website content, and inform stakeholders about how to communicate changes to the architectures to reflect their perspectives, systems and services.

The Lunch & Learn session will cover the following topics:

- ITS Architecture
- Architecture Update Project Overview
- Architecture Update Summary
- Architecture Change Process
- Florida Architecture Website
- Architecture Software Tools
- Stakeholder Actions

Please plan on joining this Florida ITS Architecture Lunch & Learn session.



Meeting ID: 242 496 745 921
Passcode: LxwTTc

The ITS Architectures need to reflect the world of ITS as it continues to evolve with new technologies and communication approaches that support connected and automated vehicles, advances in transportation management capabilities, cybersecurity, and data management and analytics. The Florida ITS Architectures are being maintained as part of the Florida ITS Architecture Update and Support project. The ITS Architectures' content evolves as ITS projects are defined, developed and implemented or as changes in transportation service delivery takes place. To keep you informed about the Florida ITS Architecture, FDOT will be conducting a Lunch & Learn

For more information, please contact James Landini at (850) 410-5626 or james.landini@dot.state.fl.us

ITS Florida 2023 Board of Directors

By Sandy Beck and Russell Allen, ITS Florida

Meet the 2023 Board of Directors

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Florida (ITS Florida) held its annual elections and is pleased to introduce its 2023 Board of Directors.

OFFICERS



Mr. Craig Carnes, Vice President, Metric Engineering, is our 2023 **Immediate Past President**. He has served on the Board of Directors for many years moving from Director-at-Large positions through the officer positions to lead ITS Florida as President in 2021 and 2022. He has over 20 years of experience in ITS construction, maintenance, and project management. He is also very active as Co-Chair of the ITS Florida Technical Committee and Management Committee, and will continue to lead the Management Committee. Craig was awarded ITS Florida's Professional of the Year in 2016.



Mr. Rob Price, PE, Deputy Director for Lee County, is our 2023 **President** and Chairman of the Board. He has previously served on the Board and then through the Officer ranks. Rob has over 20 years of experience in the transportation industry. He has served on the Local Activities Committee for several years, Management Committee and the Planning Committee for Transpo2022.



Mr. Jeremy Huffman, Director of Business Development, Southern Manufacturing, is our 2023 **Vice President**. He has previously served on the Board as Director-at-Large, Treasurer, and most recently as Secretary. Over the past 10 years he has participated in many local, regional, and national ITS, ITE IMSA conferences. Jeremy served on the Member Services Committee, and is serving on the Management Committee, Transpo Planning Committee and is a Liaison to Florida Transportation Builders Association.



Mr. Russell Allen, PE, Senior Project Manager with Atkins, is our 2023 **Secretary**. He has previously served as Director-at-Large and most recently Treasurer. Russell has over 23 years of public and private sector experience in wireless communications, ITS and TSM&O. His current role at Atkins supports the Central Office, Districts Two, Three, Four, and Seven with ITS, ATMS, CAV, communications, and Work Program efforts. Russell serves on the Management Committee, Membership Committee, and Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee.



Mr. Andrew 'Drew' Young, Associate Vice President, TransCore, is our 2023 **Treasurer**. He has previously served as Director-at-Large. He has over 15 years of experience in the deployment, integration, and maintenance of technology-rich operations focused on ITS, including implementation and integration of ITS freeway management systems, underground fiber-optic networks, ITS and communications project management, specification development, and CEI services. Drew is the Chair of the ITS Awards and Scholarship Subcommittees.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE



Dr. Nithin Argarwal, Ph.D., Director of the Florida Technology Transfer (T2) Center, will continue to serve as **Director-at-Large** for 2023. Dr. Agarwal brings to all his roles over a decade of experience in the field of traffic operations, highway design and safety, technology transfer, and education, with contributions in numerous areas of the profession. He chairs the Transportation Research Board's Subcommittee on Traffic Signal Timing and is a member of the Traffic Signal Systems Committee. He is Co-Chair of the ITS Florida's Lunch and Learn Subcommittee.



Ms. Sara Calhoun, PE, President, VIBE, will continue to serve as **Director-at-Large** for 2023. She has been active in ITS Florida for many years. She has over 25 years of ITS experience in all phases of ITS from planning through construction. Sara has been an active participant in professional organizations, including ITS Florida, having previously served as an officer in the organization, the Florida Section Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the Tampa Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society (FES) for many years. She served as a Board member for the FES Tampa Chapter for several years, chairing the Scholarship Committee. Sara is a former President of ITS Florida and serves on the Membership Campaign Subcommittee.



Dr. Mohammed Hadi, PE, Professor at Florida International University, will continue to serve as **Director-at-Large** for 2023-2024. He has over 30 years of experience in transportation engineering (10 years in the private sector and the rest in academic and research institutions). His experience has been in ITS, TSM&O, data analytics and decision support, performance measurement, planning for operations, connected and automated vehicles, and multi-resolution transportation system modeling. Mohammed serves as a Co-Chair of the Lunch & Learn Subcommittee.



Mr. William 'Acey' Roberts, P.E., Division Manager at WGI, will continue to serve ITS Florida as **Director-at-Large** for 2023. He has 22 years of experience in ITS, traffic management and traffic signalization as a consultant and as the statewide ITS engineer for MS DOT from 2008 to 2016. He was a founding member of ITS America Chapter, Gulf Region ITS (GRITS), serving in all leadership positions of the GRITS board. Acey serves on the Awards Committee and Outreach Committee.



Mr. Rakesh Sharma, P.E., Vice President at HNTB, will serve ITS Florida as **Director-at-Large** for 2023-2024. He has 19 years of experience in both public and private sectors in TSM&O and ITS. Rakesh served FDOT Central Office, District 1, District 2, District 3, District 5, Turnpike, Central Florida Expressway, and Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID) in various roles. Rakesh serves on the Scholarship Committee and Awards Committee.



Mr. Fred Heery, P.E., FDOT State TSM&O Program Engineer, Central Office, will continue to serve ITS Florida as the **FDOT Representative** for 2023. Fred has over 30 years of experience in traffic engineering and ITS in both public and private sectors. Fred has been with FDOT since 2005. Fred plays a critical role in keeping the ITS industry up to date with FDOT's vision and mission.

For more information on ITS Florida, please check the ITS Florida website at www.ITSFlorida.org or contact Ms. Sandy Beck, Executive Director at ITSFlorida@ITSFlorida.org.

CONTACTS

DISTRICT 1

Mark Mathes, DTOE
Steven Davis
FDOT District 1 Traffic Operations
801 N. Broadway Avenue
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 519-2490

DISTRICT 2

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

DISTRICT 3

Kimberly Toole, DTOE
Amy DiRusso
FDOT District 3 Traffic Operations
1074 Highway 90 East
Chipley, FL 32428-9900
(850) 638-0250

DISTRICT 4

Jonathan Overton, DTOE
Alexandra Lopez
FDOT District 4 Traffic Operations
3400 W. Commercial Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 777-4350

DISTRICT 5

Jim Wood, DTOE
Jeremy Dilmore
FDOT District 5 Traffic Operations
719 S. Woodland Blvd., MS 3-562
DeLand, FL 32720-6834
(386) 943-5310

DISTRICT 6

Omar Meitin, DTOE
Javier Rodriguez
FDOT District 6 Traffic Operations
1000 NW 111th Avenue, MS 6203
Miami, FL 33172
(305) 470-5312

DISTRICT 7

Ron Chin, DTOE
Megan Arasteh
FDOT District 7 Traffic Operations
11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 615-8600

FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE

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

CENTRAL OFFICE

Rudy Powell, Director
Traffic Engineering and Operations Office
(850) 410-5419

Fred Heery
State TSM&O Program Engineer
(850) 410-5606

Vacant
Connected Vehicles, Arterial Management,
Managed Lanes
(850) 410-5616

Jeff Frost
State TIM/CVO Program Manager
(850) 410-5607

Derek Vollmer
Traffic Engineering Research Lab Manager
(850) 921-7361

Vacant
State Traffic Services Program Engineer
(850) 410-5416

