

ITS Florida: Transpo2008™—Piecing It All Together

How many of you out there have never attended any Transpo Conference?

Good, not too many hands up.

Now, how many of you have not yet registered for Transpo2008?

Bummer, too many hands up.

Well, there is **still time to register** before Monday, September 22, when the Transpo2008™ [Golf Tourney](#) tees off at 8:30 a.m. at the fabulous Rosen Shingle Creek Golf Club and the conference itself kicks off at 6:00 p.m. with an Ice Breaker Reception at the conference venue—the beautiful Rosen Centre Hotel—all on or near International Drive in sunny Orlando, Florida.

The graphic features the 'Transpo 2008' logo in large, bold letters. To the right, a red banner reads 'REGISTER NOW!' with the website 'www.itstranspo.org' below it. A diagonal banner across the middle states 'September 22 - September 25, 2008' and 'Rosen Centre Hotel • Orlando, Florida'. The central focus is a large board with the letters 'ITS' on the left and the phrase 'piecing it all together' on the right. Four interlocking puzzle pieces are arranged in a diamond shape: a red piece labeled 'plan' at the top, a blue piece labeled 'implement' on the right, a green piece labeled 'manage' on the left, and a yellow piece labeled 'innovate' at the bottom. In the bottom left corner, there are logos for 'ITS Florida', 'IIE', and 'FLORIDA'.

Why Should You Attend Transpo2008™?

Well, we believe it is the second or third largest ITS event in the nation, only behind the ITS America Annual Meeting and Exposition and the 2002 ITS World Congress in Chicago. This year, and likely from now on, those events will be held together, so we should remain number 2 from here on out.

So why *do* 450 to 500 transportation professionals attend Transpo every other years?

- It always has a dynamite technical program. This year, in keeping with our theme, there are four super tracks—Plan, Implement, Manage, and Innovate (more on these later).

- Leaders in transportation and ITS always make important pronouncements at Transpo. This year, Transpo features the following VIP speakers:
 - ITS America (ITSA) President and CEO, **Scott Belcher**, *News from ITSA*
 - Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) International President (to be), **Ken Voigt**, *News from ITE*
 - Assistant Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Division Administrator, **James Christian**, *ITS in the Reauthorization*
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) **Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos**, Keynote Address (tentatively, *P3s—Connecting Florida Through New Planning, Implementation, Management, and Innovation Paradigms*)
- The exhibition is always great; indeed several exhibitors have told us they get more bang for the buck at Transpo than, well you know, the “Hertz” ITS Conference.
- The host organizations and their members are the leaders in planning, implementing, managing, and operating—Florida Division of FHWA, FDOT, Florida Section/District 10 of ITE (FSITE), and ITS Florida (ITSFL).
- The banquet is a stellar event and FSITE and ITSFL present their awards to their most deserving members in the state.
- Last, but certainly not least, the networking is the best you’ll find. In fact, that’s what most delegates tell us is the best thing about Transpo—sharing new ideas with friends and colleagues.

Of course the blood stream of a conference is the technical program. As of the end of June, we have the following sampling of topics offered, by track:

Track 1 – Plan: *Finding the Right Pieces*

- Dynamic LiDAR Data Collection to Support Traffic Safety Initiatives
- Investment in Lightning Protection For Equipment Survival - What Cost?
- Data Mining Using Archived ITS Detector Data
- Sketch Planning Tool for the Evaluation of ITS within the Florida Standard Urban Transportation Model Structure (FSUTMS) Modeling Environment
- Performance Measures for the Hudson Valley Transportation Management Center (HVTMC)
- Assessment of Impact from Regional Special Events on a Small Town
- Reducing Congestion on Facilities with Heavy Pedestrian and Parking Activities
- Justification and Fine Tuning the Design of Managed Lanes Using Microsimulation to Assess Freeway Operations: The I-95 Express Experience in South Florida

Track 2 – Implement: *Making the Pieces Fit*

- Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) ITS Signal Priority Program Study
- Improving Broward County Rail/Highway Grade Crossings Through ITS
- Design-Bid-Build vs. Design-Build ITS Deployment Projects, Lessons Learned

- Why Technological Innovation May Give the Private Sector an Advantage in the Acquisition of ITS Public Projects
- Effectiveness of Camera-based Backing Crash Avoidance Systems for Motor Carriers

Track 3 – Manage: *Keeping the Pieces Together*

- Integrating P3 Projects Within an ITS Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Framework
- Traffic Signal System Maintenance and Operations Level of Service (LOS) Study
- Travel-time Based Performance Monitoring
- ITE’s Informational Report on the Management and Operations of Intelligent Transportation
- Development of Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Training Program for Incident Responders in Florida.
- Florida's Intelligent Transportation Systems Wide Area Network

Track 4 – Innovate: *Building a Better Puzzle*

- Real-time Risk Assessment and the Viability of Proactive Traffic Management
- Implementing Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Graphics on Dynamic Message Centers
- Ramp Metering for Maximizing Freeway Throughput
- How Large Scale In-vehicle Technology Deployments Can Improve Driver Behavior
- Network Design of an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Using a Modular Hierarchical Approach.
- Software Development for Testing National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) Devices at the FDOT Traffic Engineering and Research Laboratory (TERL)
- Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII)

An open forum on VII—to learn more about the programmatic issues, such as: When will it happen? Who will pay for it? Where does the vehicle industry stand on the mobile side? What will states and local agencies have to deploy on the infrastructure side?—will complement the VII technical session. The open forum panel will consist of representatives from ITSA, FHWA, FDOT, the Safe Trip Program, and the OEM Consortium.

More information and on-line registration for Transpo2008 is available at <http://itstranspo.org/>.

This article was provided by ITS Florida (Charles Wallace, Telvent Farradyne) and the D10/Florida Section ITE (Angela Garland, HNTB). For more information, please contact Mr. Wallace at Charles.Wallace@telvent.com or Ms. Garland at AGarland@hntb.com.

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