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Your Update from ITS Heartland

January 2014



Real-Time Rule -- Coming Soon!

The deadline for the first phase of implementation of the Real-Time Rule is fast approaching. By November, information on construction activities, roadway or lane blocking incidents, and roadway weather observations on the Interstate highway system must be available and shareable within 20 minutes (10 minutes for certain metro Interstates). Plus, three metropolitan areas in the ITS Heartland region (**Kansas City, Oklahoma City and St. Louis**) must offer travel times for their Interstate routes.

The Real-Time System Management Information Program was included in Section 1201 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The program will provide the capability to monitor, in real-time, the traffic and travel conditions of the major highways across the U.S. and provide a means of sharing these data with state and local governments and with the traveling public.

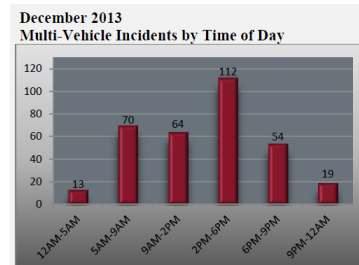
A Final Rule was issued on November 8, 2010 and it established a four-year deadline for Interstate routes. By 2016, real-time information for traffic and travel conditions along other significant roadways (as designated by state and local agencies) will be addressed.

More information on the rule is available from the [Federal Highway Administration](#).

Deadline for 2014 NRITS Conference Abstracts is Approaching

The 2014 NRITS Conference Planning Committee invites you to submit an abstract for presentation at the August 24 - 27 conference in Branson. In an attempt to make this conference more "results oriented," particular consideration will be given to those that document benefits of existing deployments.

Abstract topics areas include asset management, ATIS (traveler information), city & county rural ITS, connected vehicles, emergency response, ITS funding, ITS leadership, ITS performance measures, succes stories of multi-agency colaboration, multimodal, operations & maintenance, rural ITS safety measures, rural traffic management, traffic incident management, traffic operations, transit application, and work zone ITS. Topics outside of these areas will also be considered.



[KC Scout's monthly report](#) includes many charts and graphs. This one shows that 33% of multi-vehicle incidents in December occurred between 2 and 6 p.m.



All abstracts must be received by **Friday, February 7, 2014** and can be submitted through an online form at <http://fs18.formsite.com/MeetingsNorthwest/form8/index.html>. Email submissions to info@nritsconference.org must include abstract title, lead and supporting author contact information, topic area and a 750-word maximum abstract text. Questions can be directed to Meetings Northwest at 866/633-8110.

This year's ITS Heartland Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2014 National Rural ITS Conference in August. Make plans to join us at the beautiful Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Missouri!

State Updates

Iowa

► Iowa travelers can now find out if and where snowplows are working in the state by clicking on the Iowa DOT's [snowplow locations](#) link on the winter driving Web page. On the map, snowplow icons show the current location of each truck and a click provides the direction of travel, air temperature, road temperature and other information from that truck.

Missouri

► Kansas City Scout developed two new performance measurement tools for the [KC Scout public website](#). The first is an interactive [traffic flow performance dashboard](#) that collects and stores traffic speed and volume data for the KC Metro area. A user can query for a map and graphs of traffic flow conditions for a roadway segment on any given date or time.

► The other new valuable performance measurement tool is the monthly and annual [KC Scout Operations Report](#). The report is published monthly to the Scout webpage and gives users access to statistical incident, traffic flow and roadwork data for the KC Scout region. All data is collected in real time by KC Scout operators.

Nebraska

► The first stakeholder committee meeting for the ITS Strategic Plan took place on January 7.

► ITS projects to be deployed this year include cameras, anti-icing systems and rest area kiosks.

Kansas

► January 15 marked the 10th anniversary for the 511 phone system in Kansas. It has been a work in progress since that day in 2004 and recent improvements include Kansas City metro traffic info (both sides of the state line), call transfers to transit, tourism and motorist assist plus personalized information via email or text alerts. Similar information is available on the [511 map website](#). Kansas 511 became the 11th system in the U.S. when launched. There are now 38 states providing the service.

Oklahoma

► ODOT ITS is working on connecting 20 ODOT facilities to its ITS network. This will enable viewing and controlling ITS assets.

► ODOT's ITS branch has been moved again -- it is now under the Maintenance & Operations Division

Operations Division.



Contact the ITS Heartland Board President at sarah.tracy@nebraska.gov
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Visit the ITS Heartland website at www.itsheartland.org

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