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Heartland ITS Pulse

Heartland Conference 2018 - Call for Abstracts!



The **Call for Abstracts** is out for next year's ITS Heartland Annual Meeting to be hosted in Lincoln, Nebraska! Abstracts can be submitted online at www.itsheartland.org and will be accepted through January 8, 2018. Look for Annual Meeting updates and information on the [2018 Meeting page](#).

Keynote speakers are still in the works, but the potential speakers bring a wealth of knowledge from which we know our community will enjoy!

MCOMP grant RFP has been posted.

Submit your proposal soon for the MCOMP Grant RFP as the deadline is **Oct. 12, 2017**.

View MCOMP documents and the RFP at www.itsheartland.org.



Colorado DOT Demonstrates Autonomous Impact Protection Vehicle (AIPV) to enhance Work Zone Safety!



UPCOMING EVENTS

9/28/17: ITS Heartland - Regional Operations Forum Training Session - Delivering TSMO: Conveying the TSMO Message, Making a Business Case for TSMO, Developing a TSMO Plan. In-Person (Omaha, NE) and Webinar: 10AM to 2PM CDT.

[Register HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for more information.

10/29/17-11/2/17: ITS World Congress (Montreal)

4/23/18-4/25/18: [ITS Heartland Annual Meeting](#) (Lincoln, NE)

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As part of its RoadX program, CDOT and some of its program partners demonstrated the use of a first-of-its kind work zone safety vehicle. Positioned behind road construction or maintenance crews to protect workers from the traveling public, the Autonomous Impact Protection Vehicle increases work zone safety by removing the driver from a truck that is actually designed to be hit. According to the FHA, in 2015 there was a work zone crash every 5.4 minutes. The AIPV is designed to reduce the frequency of crashes by using technology to mimic the position, speed, and direction of a lead vehicle that transmits a signal to the trailing driverless vehicle, ensuring the AIPV is always correctly positioned between the roadway workers and live traffic. Read the full article [HERE](#). Watch the video [HERE!](#)

Distracted Driving Series: Technology to Change Behavior



Driving while distracted has become a deadly epidemic in the United States and across the globe. However, the very technology that is causing the problem may also act as a potential solution. A number of technologies have been developed to try to eliminate potential distractions within the vehicle cab. The question then becomes, are people willing to adopt these technologies by choice or is a more aggressive, intrusive action required through government intervention? A survey sponsored by the National Safety Council polled 2,400 drivers from across the country to ask if they would support cars or mobile devices which came pre-set with solutions to block some outgoing and incoming communications. 55% of drivers said they would leave technologies alone to avoid being distracted if they knew it would not function. Only 23% said they would attempt to deactivate the communication-preventing technologies. See an article from CNN about in-vehicle equipment [HERE](#).

Southwest Research Institute Sponsors ITS World Congress 2017 Student Essay Competition

Southwest Research Institute announced that it will once again sponsor the Student Essay Competition of ITS World Congress 2017. This competition encourages engineering students to help advance transportation

technologies by sharing their ideas and concepts in an original essay. This year's topic entails envisioning the city of the future and addressing transportation through the use of new innovative technologies. The winning student will receive a \$1,000 cash prize and complimentary registration to attend ITS World Congress including



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air and hotel expenses! See the essay requirements [HERE](#).

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