



Winter Edition — 2019



Heartland ITS Pulse

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And the winner is...

ITS Heartland wins NOCoE award for TSMO University!



ITS Heartland received an award for their role in the ever-evolving area of Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) at this year's Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference in Washington DC! The honor comes from the National Operations Center of Excellence (NOCoE) and recognizes a new education program (TSMO University), which promotes and facilitates the major ideas and goals of TSMO within an agency.

TSMO University provides a series of education modules to help "train the trainer" on how to best present and promote TSMO strategies. Each module helps prepare representatives to present and demonstrate the advantages and uses of various TSMO strategies to others within their de-



partment or agency. Most modules focus on specific strategies for making the best use of available infrastructure and are available [online](#).

"Our success is all about partnerships and education," said KC Scout Traffic Center Manager and ITS Heartland President Randy Johnson. "Traffic Managers, Civil Engineers, First Responders—we all have

the same goal – keep traffic moving—and TSMO is a key part of that."

KC Scout, along with their partners at the Missouri Department of Transportation, also recently won several awards for their innovative debris removal tool, which is also a TSMO tool. Read more about that innovation [here!](#)



Calendar — Upcoming Events

February 15, 2019: ITS America Paper Submissions Duel!

March 27, 2019: Deadline for ITS Heartland 2019 Room Block Rates

April 29-May 1, 2019: [2019 ITS Heartland Conference in Kansas City!](#)

June 4-7, 2019: [ITS America in Washington DC](#)

Message from President Randy Johnson



On behalf of the ITS Heartland Board of Directors, Happy New Year! ITS Heartland accomplished many things in 2018, and 2019 will be even better. During the past year, we worked toward our three major goals from our newly-developed strategic plan:

- We extended our outreach by implementing an improved website and PULSE newsletter.
- We started collecting a variety of documents from DOTs, consultants, vendors, and academia to share on our future members-only section of the website.
- We created 10 committees that allow members to get more involved with the chapter's success.

You will notice that each of these goals has one common theme – communication. Whether it's peer-to-peer or a deeper dive into industry knowledge, we have committed to offering a new level of information exclusive to our members.

In 2019, ITS Heartland will host its annual conference April 29 – May 1 in Kansas City, one of the world's most connected smart cities. This year's conference will take our chapter communication to a new level, with high-energy forums and technical tours that focus on education, engagement, and connecting with other attendees. We will kick off with an opening session from Ford Motor Company and end the conference with a brand new session format that you won't want

to miss.

I am grateful to be the president of this amazing organization. I want to thank all the loyal sponsors and members whose support help make the ITS Heartland conference a great experience. I am excited to see every one of you!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the ITS Heartland Board of Directors about getting involved. I may be reached at randy.johnson@modot.mo.gov.

Let's make 2019 the best ever!

Update from ITS America:



On December 18th, the USDOT announced that it is seeking public comment on the use and integration of Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication technologies into the transportation environment, which have the potential to improve motor vehicle safety and efficiency as well as support cooperative vehicle automation concepts. The USDOT intends to maintain the priority use of the 5.9 GHz spectrum for transportation safety communications, as it has made clear in past statements and in its recent automated vehicle guidance, *Preparing for the Future of*

Transportation: Automated Vehicles 3.0.

In late December, ITS America filed reply comments regarding Phase I Testing in the 5.9 GHz Band. The reply comments highlighted other comments from ITS America Members, including: GM, Toyota, Volvo, Panasonic, and Cisco, and reiterated the FCC's decision to allocate the 5.9 GHz band to transportation as visionary and necessary. At the same time, it was critical of the NCTA, the internet and television association, to push for short-circuiting the testing process. In a

press statement, ITS America President and CEO Shailen Bhatt stated that "NCTA's comments in the proceeding have revealed its utter lack of understanding of both the actual state of development of connected vehicle communications and, even more importantly, of the complexity involved in developing and deploying an ITS architecture in the U.S. national transportation network."

ITS America remains committed to protecting and securing the 5.9 GHz band for transportation safety and technology. [Read more](#)

ITS HEARTLAND 2019 ARE YOU READY!?

KANSAS CITY

Can you believe ITS Heartland's 2019 Annual Conference is only 13 weeks away? The ITS Heartland Board of Directors is working diligently to ensure everything is ready to go for this year's conference in Kansas City!

This year's keynote speaker will be a representative from the Ford Motor Company! We are excited to hear what ideas and perspectives are coming from the auto industry which could drastically change the future of transportation! Additionally, technical tours of Kansas City's streetcar line are planned with inside looks at the cutting-edge maintenance facility and operations center. Additionally, an open house of KC Scout is planned for Wednesday afternoon to highlight recent updates and improve-

ments which help to improve traffic in the Kansas City area.



The abstract committee is hard at work narrowing down the record turnout of submitted abstracts for the 2019 conference. Over 50 abstracts were submitted for consideration this year: almost double the 20-30 that are typically received in any given year. Thank you to every-

one that submitted and know that the abstract committee is doing their best to ensure a wide-range of topics are included in this year's sessions!

The Social Event and Vendor Reception committees have developed some awesome and engaging ideas to help members better connect and interact throughout the conference. Additionally, the Student Competition committee is planning to find new ways to further highlight the great works that our student members contribute to the annual conference!

The Wednesday morning session is being completely reimaged and will include an all-new session that will engage attendees and encourage connection. Get ready!

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM!

Room Block Deadline is 3/27

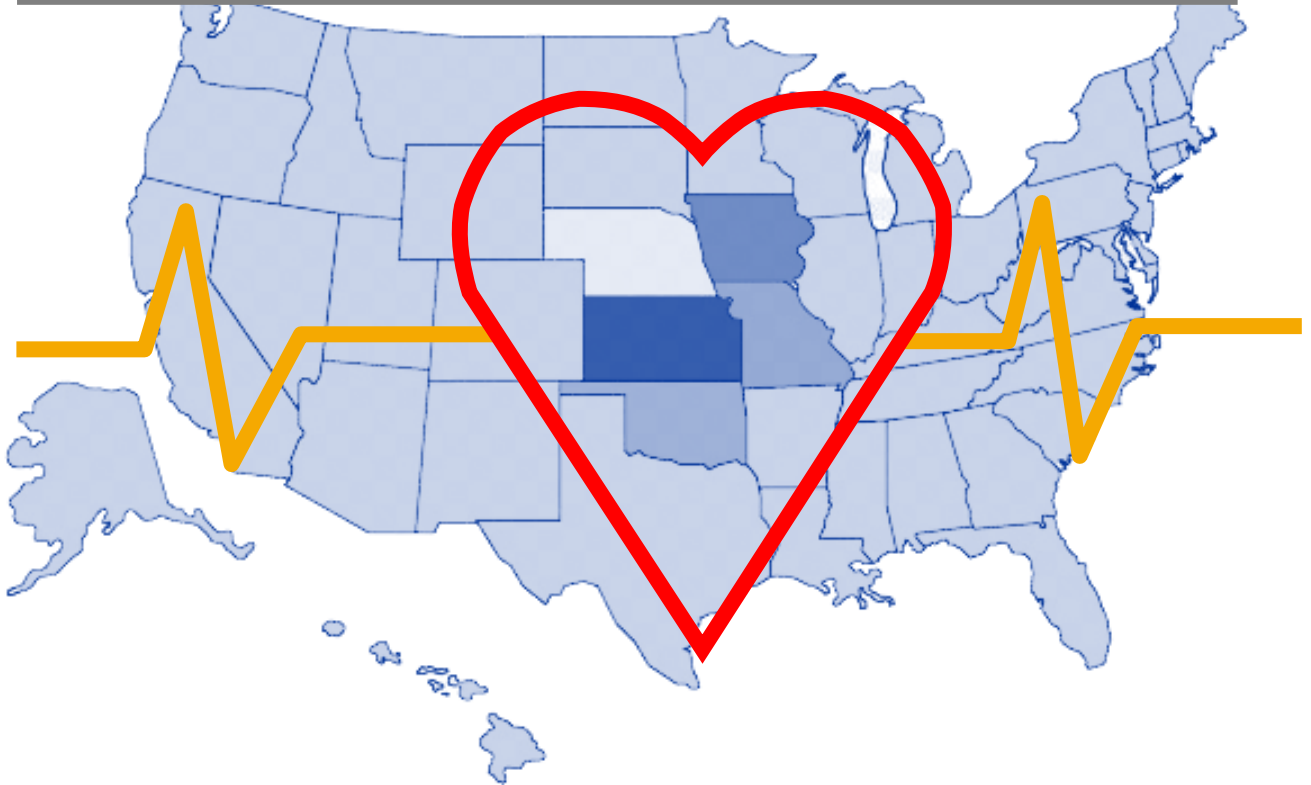
We are excited to be at the Sheraton Crown Center for this year's conference! This conference hotel is right in the heart of Kansas City and central to all of the conference's events and activities. All conference sessions and activities are at the hotel or just a short walk / shuttle ride away. Enjoy a well-equipped fitness center, on-site restaurants, and even a heated, outdoor pool! Make your room reservations today using the links below. Be sure to reserve your rooms soon—they are expected to go very quickly, especially at the rates we've locked in!

[ITS Heartland Government Rate: \\$125.00 + Tax](#)

[ITS Heartland Non-Government Rate: \\$147.00 + Tax](#)



Winter 2019 State Updates



Nebraska: Matthew Baker

The Nebraska Department of Transportation will enrich our 511-traveler information with plow tracking. The public will be able to see the progress of our crews as they clear the roads during winter events. The website will also display dash camera images for a firsthand

look at road conditions. NDOT is mourning the loss of long time ITS Heartland member Gary Forman after his short battle with cancer. Gary was our Omaha Operations Center Manager. His presence, leadership, and enthusiasm for ITS will be missed.



Oklahoma: Alan Stevenson

The Oklahoma GODOT Safety Patrol is beginning its regular daily patrol routes of the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area this month. The program started with patrol coverage of a construction project on I-235 in the summer and fall of

2018 as a pilot. With regular patrols now beginning for the Oklahoma City Area we plan to focus on refining service and safety, as well as grow the program to have patrol vehicles covering the Tulsa area later this year.



Kansas: Joe Finley

On January 4h, KDOT launched the MAASTO Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS) project at 18 rest areas covering 330 miles along I-70. KDOT is the lead agency for the eight states that received a \$25 million federal TIGER grant to develop systems to provide information to truckers regarding the parking spaces available in rest stops to allow them to more efficiently plan their stops. Kansas implemented a technology developed by the University of Minnesota that uses cam-

eras and "Computer Vision" software to build a 3 D model of the lot to determine available spaces. KDOT also recently started work to add signs and cameras along U-54, a major truck route in southwest Kansas, and locations on I-35, I-135 and US-50 in rural Kansas. In the Kansas City and Wichita areas, several signs and cameras are being added in key locations to provide better traveler information. Approximately 30 miles of fiber are being constructed in Wichita to complete a fiber communication loop for that area.



Missouri: Alex Wassman

Missouri is working on combining data from various platforms to develop new performance metrics for our statewide Tracker document. In particular, MoDOT is combining incident and work zone data with probe-based speed data to

attempt to better explain why delays occur. MoDOT has also recently updated all sections in Category 910 of the online Electronic Policy Guide related to ITS. Policies on DMS, ITS architecture, and ITS device procurement were all updated. In addition, a new section on CCTV was added to cover policy on sharing live video streams and CCTV maintenance. Both the Tracker document and the EPG are both available to the public online.

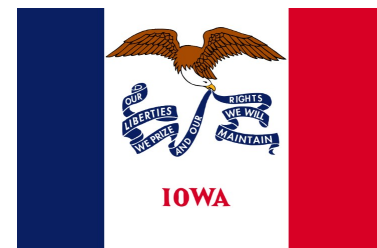
The first project to install color DMS in Missouri has been awarded and construction will begin soon. Meetings to develop policy for messaging formatting are beginning in January. Colors of text, location of graphics, and types of graphics are examples of items which must be developed. Finally, MoDOT is pursuing two new RFPs due to be released in early 2019: one for a video distribution platform and one for probe traffic data.



Iowa: Tim Simodynes

The [Truck Parking Information Management System \(TPIMS\)](#) went live earlier this month and was a coordinated effort with several others states in the MAASTO region. Iowa has focused on I-80 as the corridor for real-time truck parking information to be made available to truck drivers via in-cab navigation, a smart-phone app, or the 511 website. Connected and Automated Transportation (CAT) efforts continue to ramp up

in Iowa as the DOT filled a new Automated Transportation Program Manager position. Adam Shell filled this position in October 2018. Some of the current efforts that Adam is involved with include ITS programming, coordination of GIS and data efforts, supporting the Iowa Advisory Council on Automated Transportation, and supporting the CAT program which includes automated vehicle (AV) testing and research by the



University of Iowa, a variety of ITS and traffic engineering research by Iowa State University, and HD mapping and roadway queuing data collection by HERE.



Member Spotlight:

Mark Sommerhauser - KC Scout



How did you get into/start in ITS?

As a MoDOT Resident Engineer in 2001, I was assigned Construction management duties over the \$25 million bi-state construction project that built the first 60 miles of the KC Scout Intelligent Transportation System in the Kansas City region. My team managed the ITS construction activities seamlessly over 60 miles in both Kansas and Missouri using both KDOT and MoDOT construction inspectors.

What is the best part of working in ITS?

Since technology and ITS are fairly new and quickly-changing, there are limited guidelines and standards available. It is a great challenge to research new solutions and innovations that can be quickly implemented to immediately improve motorist safety and overall quality of life.

What is the most interesting/fascinating thing you've done/seen with ITS?

Improving queue warning messages with not only work zones, but with other sudden, non-recurring incidents, has been a great and rewarding challenge. Automated vehicles and automated braking improvements are great, but too few vehicles have those capabilities right now, so using technology and real-time messaging to fight distracted driving and prevent secondary accidents is very important to me.

What would you say to new ITS Heartland Members or those who are considering joining?

Get involved now! There are numerous tools and technologies already available right now that can be implemented to save lives and reduce congestion. Use ITS Heart-

land resources to learn about studies and new technologies being developed, but every month, take some existing technology or TSMO initiative back to your work group and implement it so you can improve roadway operations and safety this year!

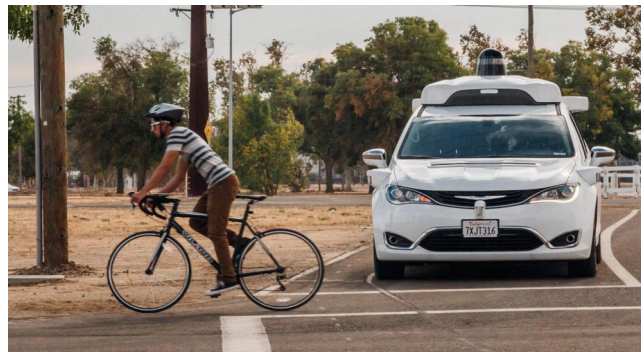
What is one interesting fact about you?

I am still a die-hard St. Louis Blues hockey fan. They will win the Stanley Cup one of these days!



Google's WAYMO Making Huge Strides in California and Beyond!

Google's autonomous vehicle company, Waymo, has been granted permission to test its autonomous vehicles in another area of the country. The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has opened up the Palo Alto area to Waymo for its research. The location is convenient for Waymo, whose Mountain View headquarters are included in the testing area. The DMV's permit allows day and night testing on a variety of road types with speeds up to



65 mph. To learn more about Waymo's plans for testing and past work, read their piece in Medium [here](#).

Lime - The ‘Final Mile’ Solution we’ve been waiting for? Bikes, Scooters, and now Cars: Coming soon to a City near you!



The popular bike and scooter sharing start-up, Lime, has now added car-sharing to their services. Lime is known for its “dockless” or “free-floating” sharing method, where bikes and scooters can be rented without being returned to a specific location. The company has purchased hundreds of two-door Fiat 500s to scatter around Seattle available for rental. Lime is hoping to find success despite recent recalls

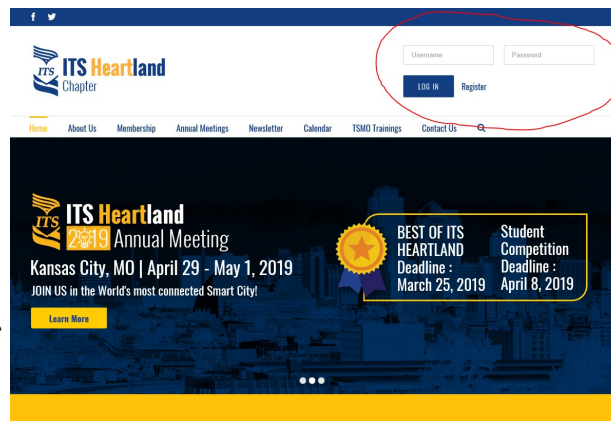
of their scooters and Seattle’s already high saturation of free-floating car sharing businesses. Lime also hopes to switch to electronic vehicles, but is struggling with the difficulty of easily moving and charging large quantities of cars around the city. An article on Lime’s new launch was published in The Mercury News and can be found [here](#).

Coming Soon: Members ONLY

Working to promote the benefits of Membership!

Over the last year, the ITS Heartland Board of Directors has been working to develop ways to promote the benefits and advantages of membership in our organization. One of the most popular ideas that came up repeatedly in discussions was the development of a ‘Members-Only’ section of the ITS Heartland website. Ideas ranged from a directory of members to a repository of information developed by member agencies and vendors. As the ideas continued, the board voted unanimously to include a members-only login site within the development of the new ITS Heartland homepage.

Now that our new website is live, we are pushing forward in the col-



lection and development of content and information to include in the new members-only section. Content collected thus far includes Construction and Equipment Details, Reports, Evaluations, Research Materials, Specifications, and more! All existing TSMO documentation, along with many training-type videos are also planned for

inclusion in the new members-only area.

While we are still working through many details and coming up with ways to best organize and present content, we are excited to announce that the members-only section is planned to go into service during this year’s conference in Kansas City!

Special thanks in the development efforts for this ambitious plan should be given to the ITS Heartland Board of Directors, the Website Development Committee, and of course, our wonderful partners at Meetings Northwest who work to keep this organization running smoothly!

Have you **RENEWED** your **MEMBERSHIP** yet?



Commit to this **AMAZING** organization and become a **PARTNER** by registering as a **MEMBER** for 2019!

[CLICK HERE](#) to Renew/Register to become a Member!

Thanks to our 2019 Annual Meeting Sponsors!



WALTER P MOORE



[Comments on this edition of the Pulse?](#)

Please send comments to the Editor/Communications Director, Zach Hanson:

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Also, be sure to follow @ITSHearthland on Twitter for updates and great articles!