



IBEC Newsletter July 2003

News of ITS America 2003

The Intelligent Vehicle Highway Society of America (ITS America) held its 13th Annual Meeting and Exposition May 19-22, 2003 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As in previous years, the ITS America Annual Meeting had much to offer those interested in ITS benefits, evaluation and costs.

A workshop entitled "Show Me The Benefits!" was held on the Sunday prior to the conference. The purpose of the workshop was to examine what benefits of ITS have been identified to date, and then to discuss how those benefits can be presented to public officials to help them make better informed decisions about investments in ITS.

The session entitled "Where to Find the Data", was an interactive demonstration of the ITS Benefits and Unit Cost Database (available at <http://www.benefitcost.its.dot.gov>). There is a new published report that summarises the contents of the database: Intelligent Transportation Systems Benefits and Costs: 2003 Update (available at <http://www.itsdocs.fhwa.dot.gov/jpodocs/reports/13772.html>).

In the final workshop session, a distinguished panel of speakers answered the pressing questions: "So what? How does information on ITS costs and benefits help with more or better ITS?" The conclusion of this session was that communicating the benefits of ITS to the public and to decision-makers remains a perpetual challenge. Proceedings from the workshop, including electronic versions of the presentations given, are available on ITS America's website at: [http://www.itsa.org/ITSNEWS.NSF/4e0650bef6193b3e852562350056a3a7/6967bdce1c860bcd85256d66006f0cde/\\$FILE/Show%20Me%20The%20Benefits%20Workshop%20Proceedings.doc](http://www.itsa.org/ITSNEWS.NSF/4e0650bef6193b3e852562350056a3a7/6967bdce1c860bcd85256d66006f0cde/$FILE/Show%20Me%20The%20Benefits%20Workshop%20Proceedings.doc).

Moving to the formal portion of the Annual Meeting Agenda, in Session 8, Dr. Joseph Peters moderated a panel in which speakers revealed the results of the 2002 ITS Deployment Tracking Survey (available at <http://www.itsdeployment.its.dot.gov>.) In Session 34, Jane Lappin of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center moderated a panel entitled "A Tale of Two Cities: Customer Response to Online ATIS" in which speakers talked about user response to traveller information websites in Los Angeles and Seattle.

In Session 36, speakers explored how archived data originally collected for ITS purposes were used in

transportation operations and planning. Session 55 was a panel session on measuring travel time reliability. Finally, Session 64 was a panel session entitled "When Bad Things Happen To Good Projects", in which speakers shared their hard-earned experience about the challenges they faced on the road to ITS deployment.



Conference of Euro-Regional ITS Projects

In June, the six Euro-Regional ITS projects held their first conference. It was attended by over 200 ITS experts, including Joe Peters from the US DoT Joint Program Office.

The sessions covered:

- Opening sessions on ITS in Europe, the TEMPO programme 2003-2006, the USA and key European initiatives
- Incident and Emergency Handling
- Traveller Information Services
- Evaluation
- Traffic Management and Control
- European Network of Traffic Centres
- Road Monitoring
- Closing summary of technical sessions, summary of VMS platform and reflections on the conference

The presentations from the conference are now available on the CENTRICO web site: <http://www.centrico.org/er-conference.html>

The evaluation session in the conference covered:

- The European vision of evaluation within the MIP (Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for investment in ITS for road traffic management on the Trans-European Road Network), which provides some of the funding for the six Euro-Regional ITS projects.



- Work within IBEC – the US perspective, including the US approach to ITS evaluation and reporting, and the benefits and costs databases for recording results
- A series of presentations on a common approach to evaluation across the Euro-Regional ITS projects:
 - Towards European guidelines for evaluation
 - A common approach to reporting achievements
 - Indicators for deployment and evaluating achievements
 - Future programme for evaluation and reporting results
 - Plans for a Handbook of Best Practice
- Examples of evaluation in practice:
 - Impacts of ITS on safety and user acceptance on the motorways in northern Italy
 - Long term assessment of controlled motorway in Germany
 - Evaluation in the SERTI Euro-Regional Project
 - Evaluation in the STREETWISE Euro-Regional Project

The presentations on the evaluation session are available at: <http://www.centrico.org/er-conference.htm#Str15>

In addition to the evaluation session, a meeting was held for those with an interest in evaluation to discuss ideas for joint working between the US and Europe, and to plan the European input for the IBEC sessions at Madrid.

The discussion on co-operation between the US and Europe focused on issues with using the US databases on ITS benefits and ITS costs, and ways of including European examples, whether by providing reports of European evaluation results, or by setting up a parallel database for Europe.



IBEC sessions at ITS World Congress in Madrid

The timing of the IBEC sessions has been changed so that all of the workshops will now be held on one day: **Wednesday 19th November**, with the training sessions on the following morning. We hope that this will make it

easier for people to attend the workshops and provide greater continuity of discussions. The timetable is now:

- How do those Yanks do it? Overview of ITS evaluation in the United States: Wednesday 19th 10:00 to 11:30
- How do those Europeans do it? Overview of ITS evaluation in Europe: Wednesday 19th 12:00 to 13:30
- Show me the benefits: Examples of ITS evaluation results: Wednesday 19th 15:00 to 16:30
- Now I know the benefits of ITS... So what? How are ITS evaluation results used?: Wednesday 19th 17:00 to 18:30
- IBEC training session ITS Evaluation 101: ITS performance measures and evaluation techniques: Thursday 20th 10:00 to 11:30 and 12:00 to 13:30.

We would be pleased to hear offers for contributions to these sessions.

If you are planning to attend, please note that there is a discount on registrations made before 31st July 2003. The latest details of the congress programme and registration is available on the congress website: www.madrid2003.itscongress.org

IBEC website and email group

IBEC Secretariat is currently updating the IBEC website www.ibec-its.org. The library section of the website now contains a larger collection of ITS cost and benefit resources. We welcome your suggestions to develop the website.

IBEC has set up a yahoo group enabling any IBEC member to send an e-mail message to all other members, allowing members to send announcements and pose questions to knowledgeable experts. All IBEC members have received an invite to join the yahoo group. The subject line of all messages sent to the yahoo group will be preceded by "[ibec]", so that members will be able to clearly identify IBEC-related e-mail. Members will be able to remove themselves from the group at any time. Please contact us if you require any further information about the yahoo group. The address for the IBEC-ITS Yahoo! Group is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ibec-its/>.