



2025 GRITS Annual Meeting

Conference Agenda



Monday, November 10, 2025

3:30 – 6:00 | Board Meeting

Bridge – Riverside Building

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

9:00 – 3:00 | Golf Tournament

Audubon Park Golf Course

11:00 – 5:00 | Registration Open

The District – 3rd Floor

12:00 – 4:00 | Exhibit Hall Set Up

St. Charles – 3rd Floor

12:00 – 1:30 | Training Session

Fulton – 3rd Floor

Safety Oriented Data

Rick Ayers – CATT Lab Public Sector Advocate

1:30 – 2:00 | Break

Jefferson Ballroom – 3rd Floor

2:00 – 3:30 | Training Session

Fulton- 3rd Floor

Work Zone Focused Data

Rick Ayers – CATT Lab Public Sector Advocate

5:00 – 6:00 | Social Hour

The District & St. Charles – 3rd Floor

6:00 – 10:00 | Cornhole Tournament

St. James – 3rd Floor





Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:30 – 3:30 | Registration

The District – 3rd Floor

7:30 – 3:30 | Exhibit Hall

St. Charles – 3rd Floor

7:30 – 9:00 | Breakfast

St. James – 3rd Floor

9:00 – 10:00 | Session 1

Jefferson Ballroom – Welcome Address & Opening Session

Bert Moore – GRITS President

Julia Cormier – Deputy Secretary (LADOTD)

10:00 – 10:30 | Break with Exhibitors

St. Charles – 3rd Floor





10:30 – 12:00 | Session 2

Jackson – 3rd Floor

AI Meets Asphalt: A Holistic Approach to Traffic Optimization

Jenny Wolfschlag, P.E. – City Engineer, (City of Gulf Shores)

This presentation examines how artificial intelligence is reshaping traffic management into a more adaptive, efficient, and safety-oriented system. It will highlight the integration of key technologies—including smart traffic signals, detection systems, cameras, emergency vehicle preemption, and connected users—to streamline traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance safety. The discussion will also focus on how AI supports safer mobility for all road users, including drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Roadway Challenges and Solutions - Keeping Up with Technology and AI Resources

Steven Aertker, Jr. P.E. – Business Development Engineer (Tensor)

In this presentation, we'll look at the challenges local agencies face as they work to manage their pavement inventories and the importance of having a pavement design and management system in place. We'll also outline the importance of proactively managing your pavement maintenance program and the benefits of performing the right maintenance at the right time to maximize cost-effectiveness and pavement life.

ALDOT / UAH – ITS/911 Communication Concept

Thomas “Glenn” Taylor Jr – Manager – ALDOT North Region Traffic Management Center (Gresham Smith / ALDOT)

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) and the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH) are collaborating on a concept to improve traffic incident communication efficiency through integration with emergency call centers (primarily Local 911 Centers) and the regional Traffic Management Centers (TMC). The optimum result will be real time and continual traffic incident information dissemination to the traveling public through the ALDOT ALGO travel application with maximized data gathering for future transportation research.

12:00 – 1:30 | Lunch

St. James – 3rd Floor

10:30 – 12:00 | Session 2

Magazine – 3rd Floor

Communicating ITS for Public Acceptance

Gabriel Smith – Manager of Public Outreach and Engagement (Global-5 Communications)

This presentation will highlight the importance of explaining and defining ITS to the public. Additionally, the presentation will explain why it is important to educate the public on ITS topics now more than ever.

ALDOT ITS Deployments along I-565 and I-65 in the Rocket City

Jenny Brown – Senior Civil Engineer & Associate (Kimley-Horn)

From design to construction, this presentation will provide a detailed overview of the ITS Deployment projects completed by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) North Region along the I-565 and I-65 corridors in Huntsville, AL. The projects include an extensive expansion of ALDOT's communication network with fiber optic, cell modem, and radio technologies; direct connections to ALDOT's Regional Traffic Management Center (TMC), Tanner District office, and Huntsville District office; and the installation of numerous ITS technologies along both corridors, including dynamic message signs, road weather information systems, radar vehicle detection systems, CCTV cameras, and hub cabinets. This presentation will also highlight the completion of a propagation study that was needed for radio communications design and the coordination that was needed with the Federal Aviation Administration, Redstone Arsenal, and Norfolk Southern Railway to ensure seamless integration and maximum operational efficiency.

Strengthening Cybersecurity in Transportation Systems: Addressing Vulnerabilities from Devices to Network Infrastructure

Thomas Montz – Senior Traffic Engineer (Q-Free)

As transportation networks become increasingly connected, vulnerabilities ranging from outdated controller protocols to broader network risks are creating serious cybersecurity challenges. This session will highlight threats from endpoints to infrastructure and share practical strategies agencies can use to modernize protections, safeguard operations, and build resilience against cyberattacks.





1:30 – 2:30 | Session 3

Jackson – 3rd Floor

TDOT Wrong Way Detection System in Memphis, TN

Said El Said – Transportation System Manager (Neel-Schaffer, Inc.)

Urban areas are typically faced with high rates of Wrong Way Driving (WWD) Incidents. Southern states have some of the highest fatality rates related to WWD Incidents. This presentation focuses on the Wrong Way Detection Systems technology projects and lessons learned through the project starting with System Engineering Analysis all the way to testing and acceptance.

From Data to Decisions: How AI is Transforming Traffic Safety

Kimberly McDaniel, P.E., PTOE, PTP – CEO & Principal (Intelligent Transportation Systems)

Jamie Sullivan – Vice President of Sales (DERQ Inc.)

AI-technology is becoming an inherent part of our daily lives. But can AI make our roadways safer? In this session, we will explore cutting-edge technologies and ways to apply it to traffic safety and operations.

1:30 – 2:30 | Session 3

Magazine – 3rd Floor

Improved Incident Response through Interoperable Communications

Dr. Milhan Moomen – Assistant Professor, Research ITS/Traffic Research Manager (Louisiana Transportation Research Center/University of Louisiana at Lafayette)

Traffic incidents result in congestion, delays, and pollution which all increase economic costs while exposing travelers and first responders to safety risks. A coordinated approach is required to efficiently and safely clear incidents to mitigate these impacts. Interoperable communications when effectively integrated into incident response programs could help in quick clearance of incidents and lead to improvement of safety and better utilization of resources.

Connect and Protect your ITS Applications and Critical Infrastructure

Abd Qadura – Transportation Account Executive (Cisco Systems)

Daniel Boles – Transportation Solutions Architect (Cisco Systems)

Cisco provides secure, reliable, and scalable connectivity solutions designed to enhance roadway safety and support advanced connected vehicle applications such as Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X). Our solutions enable real-time data collection and processing from roadside sensors, improve traffic management, and ensure cybersecurity through embedded protections and centralized management.

2:30 – 3:00 | Break with Exhibitors

St. Charles – 3rd Floor





3:00 – 4:30 | Session 4

Jackson – 3rd Floor

Exploring the overall impacts of Connected and automated truck platooning on roadways network performance

Hany Hassan, Ph.D., P.E. – Associate Professor in Transportation Engineering (Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, LSU)

This presentation will summarize recent research investigating how different Truck platooning configurations, such as platoon size, vehicle spacing, lane usage, and adoption rates, impact fuel consumption, traffic efficiency, roadway safety, and pavement durability.

Navigating the Future: The Current Landscape of Autonomous Vehicles

Ashifur Rahman, Ph.D. – Research Associate (Louisiana Transportation Research Center)

Modern vehicles increasingly incorporate driver assistance technologies that warn of hazards or intervene to prevent crashes. As these systems progress toward automated driving, they are expected not only to enhance safety but also to improve mobility, efficiency, and user convenience. This presentation dives into an overview of where autonomous vehicles stand today, exploring their current use, technological and design challenges, legal issues, and potential infrastructure needs.

Freight Forward: Rethinking Freight Management with Transportation Intelligence

Terri Johnson, P.E. – Director, Public Sector Services (INRIX, Inc.)

This presentation will explore how transportation intelligence solutions powered by connected bike, car vehicle, and commercial truck data are transforming how local and state agencies manage freight planning—from deep insights of micro freight (ebike delivery) operations and real-time loading zone occupancy data to truck parking management.

5:30 – 9:30 | Off Site Social

Howlin' Wolf

3:00 – 4:30 | Session 4

Magazine – 3rd Floor

Geaux with the Flow: Optimizing Baton Rouge Traffic for LSU Football

Cyndi Pennington – Chief Traffic Engineer (Baton Rouge)
Trevor Heap – Traffic Engineer (Baton Rouge)

Every LSU football game day, Baton Rouge experiences a dramatic surge in traffic demand that places significant strain on the city's roadway infrastructure and signal coordination system. To manage these extreme conditions, City Traffic Engineers actively monitor roadway performance and assist the police by utilizing the centralized traffic signal management system to implement real-time adjustments. These operational changes such as modifying signal timing plans, extending green phases, and coordinating corridor movements are designed to enhance traffic flow, improve safety, and support contraflow operations during peak ingress and egress periods surrounding Tiger Stadium. Let TikTok determine how well it works.

Safer & Smarter Roadways: Automated Lane Closures in Action

Marie Seguin – President (Versilis)

This presentation explores two innovative automated lane closure systems aimed at improving safety and reducing congestion: the Bay Bridge ALCS in Maryland and the Bayview Avenue Flood Mitigation System in Toronto. The Bay Bridge ALCS enables remote lane control during two-way traffic operations, replacing manual closures with automated signals, gates, and markers. Toronto's LDTMS uses automated gates and signs to safely redirect traffic during flood events, enhancing resilience and motorist safety.

Connected Worker Module for Work Zones

Todd Hartnett – Director Business Development (Ver-Mac)

In this session, we explore how the innovative fusion of worker presence detection and speed management technologies transform safety in work zones by reducing speed only when and where needed. Such dynamic speed management solutions in work zones have proven effective in curbing speeding behaviors. We will demonstrate how states are leveraging worker presence detection to enable innovative and intelligent work zone management solutions, such as real time in-car alerts about worker presence or issuing speeding violations only when workers are present to ensure precise and fair penalty imposition.





Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:30 – 12:00 | Registration

The District – 3rd Floor

7:30 – 11:00 | Exhibit Hall

St. Charles – 3rd Floor

7:30 – 9:00 | Breakfast

Jefferson – 3rd Floor

9:00 – 10:30 | Session 5

Jackson – 3rd Floor

VIASmart – Safe Streets & Viaduct Proof of Concept

Caitlin Breland – Vice President – Transportation South (Prime AE Group, Inc.)

Terri Combs – VP of Transportation – KY (Prime AE Group, Inc.)

The Louisville Metro Government is executing a \$2M Smart Grant project to mitigate safety issues for travelers at 4 VIA DUCT locations in Louisville, Kentucky. Over height Detection Systems, Flood Detection Systems, AI Video Detection, LiDAR Vehicle Detection Systems and advanced warning signs and flashing beacons are being installed at 4 viaduct locations. An AI based web data exchange platform is being developed to notify travelers in advance of flood or over-height vehicles using traveler information systems.

Object-Based Tracking Data for Traffic Signal Operations

Jeff McAleer – Regional Sales Director (NoTraffic, Inc)

Traditional detection systems fall short in capturing complex traffic movements. AI-powered, object-based detection delivers richer, real-time data to classify and track all road users, enabling dynamic, policy-driven signal timing. The result: safer intersections, smoother traffic, and reduced congestion. This presentation will showcase the transformative potential of object-based detection in modern traffic management.

Evaluating the Efficacy of In-cab Safety Alerts for Commercial Motor Vehicles

Brenda Colombus – Product Manager (Drivewyze by Fleetworthy)

Terri Johnson – Director, Public Services (INRIX)

In-cab alerts for commercial vehicles are a relatively new tool for potentially improving roadway safety by providing real-time warnings about congestion, sudden slowdowns, work zones and other hazards. This presentation will look at the deployment of in-cab alerts where real-time traffic data is being used to give truck drivers advance warning about traffic slowdowns. We will examine three recent academic studies on the effectiveness of in-cab alerts and their impact on truck speed reductions and overall roadway safety. Learn how in-cab alerts work to help keep freight priority routes safe.

9:00 – 10:30 | Session 5

Magazine – 3rd Floor

Real World Microwave Reliability

Rhett Westerman – President (Deep South Communications LLC)

This presentation will cover the actual reliability of Microwave and Wireless Communications in relation to ITS deployments.

Threats Don't Stop at Red Lights: Securing Your ITS Infrastructure

Sam Brown – Critical Infrastructure Lead (Palo Alto Networks)

With increasing attacks on critical infrastructure and the growing adoption of V2X technologies with public safety implications, our ITS networks must adapt. Come discover how a state Department of Transportation is modernizing their Signal Operations and ITS Networks and extending cybersecurity to the edge of the network.

Securing the Edge of the Network – FDOT Weigh In Motion WIM

Steve Bowles – Director Cyber & Physical Security (360 Network Solutions)

Securing the edge of the ITS network has been much overlooked in the past. Now, more than ever, agencies are looking at traffic cabinets as nodes on their critical infrastructure and it is time to provide enhanced security by means of better physical security at the cabinet. Change out the #2 corbin lock to an electronic lock or intelligent lock to add better key holder management and over-all security to the cabinet.





10:30 – 11:00 | Break with Exhibitors

St. Charles – 3rd Floor

11:00 – 12:00 | State of the States & Closing

Jackson – 3rd Floor

Bryson Moutry – Alabama Representative

Joshua Harrouch – Louisiana Representative

James Sullivan – Mississippi Representative

