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In This Issue

Council News 3
From the Editor .................................................. 3
Comments from Council's President .......................... 3
Summary of IEEE ITS Ad Hoc Committee Meeting,
November 14, 1998 .............................................. 4
IEEE's Newest Entity Focuses on Solving Transportation
Problems Worldwide ............................................. 7
New ITS Council Provides Creative Support to Member
Society ............................................................ 8
Calendar of Council Events .................................... 9
New IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation
Systems .......................................................... 10
Announcement for next ITSC'99 Conference ............ 11
ITS Standards - Beneficial or Barrier ...................... 13

Non-Council ITS News 15
The Seattle Smart Trek Project ............................ 15

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Announcements, feature articles, books and
meetings reviews, opinions, letters to the
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of reports, and other material of interest to
the ITS community is solicited.

Please submit electronic material for con-
sideration in any of the following formats:
LATEX, plain ASCII, or Word, to the Ed-
tor at a.broggi@ieee.org at least 1 month
prior to the newsletter’s distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>December 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>March 1st</td>
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<td>July</td>
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</tr>
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<td>October</td>
<td>September 1st</td>
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From the Editor

by Alberto Broggi

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first newsletter of the brand new ITS Council, which I’m honored to serve as Editor. I am extremely glad to have the possibility to serve on the ITS Council, and I’m very lucky to be so well supported in doing this by a large number of outstanding, professional people.

The newsletter—which will be distributed quarterly—features three different sections:

Council News, prepared by ITSC officials: press releases, comments from the ITSC officers, calendar of Council events, news and announcements on ITSC-sponsored conferences, standards activity related information, and news from our technical publication—the IEEE Transactions on ITS;

General News, contributed: announcements and programs of conferences and workshops, book announcements and reviews, letters to the Editor, feature articles;

Other, contributed: professional activities of non-commercial nature, abstracts of reports, other material of interest to the ITS community.

The current issue contains mainly news from the just-established Council, whilst, starting from the next issues, the newsletter will feature also material contributed and submitted by Council’s members and interested people. Therefore, I would like to encourage you to send me (by e-mail at a.broggi@ieee.org) your possible contributions and your suggestions to make the newsletter more and more interesting and better focused.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ITSC President, and the whole ITS Council for this opportunity to participate in the activities of this important entity.

Comments from Council’s President

by Umit Özgüner

It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to write for the first issue of our Council’s Newsletter. The last year of the ITS Committee, 1998, has been an incredible year!

Many, many dedicated individuals contributed to bring us here, where we are, an IEEE Council with 18 participating Societies, potentially reaching well over half of IEEE’s individual members. The list is long,
but I would like to mention a few by name: Rye Case, who started the ball rolling and set the stage for the Council; Charles Herget, who helped the process and was the major force in initiating our efforts to publish a Transactions; Emily Sopensky, who was always there, always attending to all the details, and many more: Bob French, Dan Dalkey, Lyle Saxton, Richard Klafter, Toshi Fukuda, Chip White, Ichiro Masaki and all the members of the Committee. Each individual solved a problem, or accomplished something special for the Committee as it turned into a Council. But even more, they were always there, lending support, giving advice. Thanks to all.

And finally, of course, a lot of thanks are due to Alberto Broggi who put this, your Newsletter, together.

I had intended to list all the accomplishments and developments of the year. But that sounded dry and dull, so I will highlight just a few:

First, of course, the Council was voted into existence by the IEEE TAB. TAB approved our interest area, our Constitution and our Bylaws. You can find them on our Web Page. (Yes, we have a Web Page. Check it out!)

TAB also decided to donate $75K to the initiation of our Transactions. We were lucky to have Prof. Chip White accept to become Editor. I am sure it will be a great success.

Our Conference has become an annual event and is scheduled through 2001.

We have established a number of Committees and many individuals have agreed to participate and help.

We have initiated the coordination process with the IEEE ITS Standards activity.

There are many more developments. You will hear details in future issues of the Newsletter.

IEEE relies heavily on volunteers. The ITS Council is no exception. Do participate. It is a way to contribute to your profession. You can meet individuals working on similar problems, participate in consensus building and move the boundaries of our area.

Feel free to send an e-mail to your Society Representative, or to Council Committee Chairs or to any of us. Tell us if interested. This is your ITS Council.

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**Summary of IEEE ITS Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

**November 14, 1998, Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick, NJ**

*by Emily Sopensky*

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**State of the Council and Business Timing Plan**

Ozguner, announcing that the ITS Council will be placed under Division X, summarized the Committee’s 1998 accomplishments: (See President Ozguner’s letter for details.)

Ozguner suggested the Council meet twice a year and the Council officers meet two more times preceding the Council meetings. The following schedule was proposed:

**Officers:** February IEEE TAB Meeting or ITS America Conference.

**Business:** Year’s workplan, budget

**Full Council:** June IEEE TAB Meeting.

**Business:** Election of next year’s president; discussion of conference 3 years ahead; status of other conferences; report on publications

**Officers:** IEEE ITS Conference.

**Business:** Nominations; status of conferences; budget
Full Council: November IEEE TAB Meeting.
   Business: Election of other officers, committee chairs and committee members; finance annual report; conferences annual report; selection of conference site (3 years ahead)

Election of Officers

   Rye Case, past president of the ad hoc committee and chair of the Nominations and Appointments Committee offered the slate (as follows).

   ● Vice President: Ichiro Masaki
   ● Treasurer: Richard Klafter

Both were elected.
   The appointments of committee chairs and members were made.

Subcommittee reports

1. Meetings/Conferences
   ITSC’97 Finance Chair Klafter reported that all societies should have been repaid their loans to the committee for the successful 1997 conference. Case and Ozguner will help Dick document how to do it better for future conferences.

   (a) Status of ITSC99
       The conference site has been moved from the Keio-Plaza Hotel to Waseda University because it has better facilities for international conferences and provides a more academic setup.

   (b) Budget & Hotel approval for ITSC2000
       The IV and ITS conferences are planned to be held back-to-back on the same site (The Ritz-Carlton) in Dearborn for a total of 5 days. The room rate is $140. Dates are October 1 to 5. Days 2-3 are ITSC and 4-5 are for IVHS. Attendance for ITSC is estimated to be 200; for IVHS 180. Tutorial 50. Fukuda, general chair of the ITS conference, noted that the combined conference rate will be a better deal than if an attendee signs up for just one conference.

   (c) Approval of Chairs/Time for ITSC2001
       Masaki recommended that the ITSC2001 conference be held on the West Coast. (Seattle or San Francisco are likely candidates) with Pravin Varaiya and Dan Daley as General and Program Chairs, respectively. By June the Conferences Committee will come up with a city and include Oakland in possible sites, since Varaiya is at Berkeley.

   (d) World Congress issues
       White, IEEE’s single member on the board of World Congress, reported on the ITS World Congress held in Korea. Over 5000 attended-breaking attendance records. Even the prime minister of Korea was present. He noted that what the IEEE ITS Council brings is respectability and an academic influence.

       Masaki offered to organize some sessions for the Toronto 1999 World Congress. White suggested relying on geographic sectors to determine who and what should be considered for participation. 1999 is in Toronto; 2000 Turin; then Australia; then Chicago. Since IEEE is worldwide, it can be in any of the world conferences.

2. Publications
   ITS does not have a body of work, which means authors, especially academics, have to scatter their papers around to various publications. The transactions, some maintained, brings cohesion of the community-the technical focus. Herget distributed the final Transactions proposal, which included
IEEE staff’s input. He explained that the proposal had milestones through March 2000, which is when the first transactions is scheduled to be published. The committee accepted the proposal, which will be distributed to Society Presidents for a 30-day comment period. Finance will review it in January 1999. At the February board meeting, the TAB Periodicals Committee will vote on whether to send it to the President’s Forum with a motion to accept or deny the creation of a new transactions. Herget will now getting the call for proposals into each society’s newsletter and at each conference.

White, the transactions editor, asked for names of possible associate editors. Specifically he is looking for editors who would not stimulate turf issues, who can bring marketing; endorsements and high profile statements. He wants to establish criteria for evaluating the transactions before the first issue. Citation and usage statistics will also be valuable in evaluating the transactions.

Newsletter: Ozguner discussed the electronic newsletter distribution. With the support of the committee, Ozguner appointed Professor Broggi, Università di Pavia in Italy, be appointed the newsletter editor.

3. Finance
Sopensky announced that the first official budget for the Council will be available from IEEE Finance by the end of the year. Ozguner and Klafter will work on a 5-year projection.

4. Outreach
French announced that he had prepared a press release that will be distributed next week to all IEEE editors. With the help of Kenna, French will release it to the general press.

In addition to getting some visibility for the Council at the Governor’s Workshop, Sopensky explained that she and Ozguner were arranging a presentation at the next TAB Information Session held at the February Board Series. She asked for volunteers to present at the session. White will present on the transactions; Case and Ozguner also volunteered to present.

Website: Ozguner and Sopensky called attention to the excellent work that Dan Dailey and colleague Kathy Burch did on the website and the Council logo, which was accepted as the official Council logo. Ozguner will be the point of contact for approving website content.

**New business**

1. Standards Committee.
Case reported that the SCC32 will exist separately for one year with him as liaison between it and the Council. SCC32 has urgent needs, especially for volunteers to work on standards setting subcommittees. Ozguner noted that the Council will develop a plan. Gottschalk has agreed to be chair our SCC32 and TC204, and informally maintain the relationship between the two. SCC32 is in IEEE and can elevate its standards to international standards to 204.

2. Gavel.
Sopensky announced that she be the first one to present the gavel to the first Council President. With that she presented Ozguner with a gavel engraved with his name and office for 1999 as president of the ITS Council.

**Next meeting**

The next meetings will be held as follows:

**Officers** will meet during the TAB Board series, Feb 13, 1999 at The Westin Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC.
The full Council will meet during the TAB Board series, June 26, 1999, 1-6pm, Seaport Hotel, Boston

Officers will meet during the ITSC99 Conference, October 8 (time TBD) Keio Plaza Hotel or Waseda University Tokyo Japan

The full Council will meet during the TAB Board series, November 13, 1-6pm, Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah.

IEEE’s Newest Entity Focuses on Solving Transportation Problems Worldwide

by Robert French

For some engineers, 1999 New Year’s Day activities include celebrating the birth of a new entity dedicated to studying intelligent transportation systems (ITS). The Technical Activities Board (TAB) of the 320,000-member Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) voted to transform the TAB Ad Hoc Committee on ITS into a permanent entity, the new Intelligent Transportation Systems Council (ITS Council), which begins activities January 1, 1999.

The ITS Council joins the ranks of 37 other societies and councils within IEEE. The purpose of the Council is to advance and coordinate scientific, literary and educational work in the field of ITS throughout IEEE and the larger ITS community. The ITS Council’s field of interest includes the theoretical, experimental and operational aspects of electrical and electronics engineering and information technologies as applied to all intelligent transportation efforts.

Membership

Eighteen societies with interests in the field of ITS are already members of the ITS Council. That’s more than half the total number of IEEE Societies. The ITS Council’s founding members include the following:

- Aerospace & Electronic Systems
- Antennas & Propagation
- Communications
- Computer
- Consumer Electronics
- Control Systems
- Electromagnetic Compatibility
- Electron Devices
- Industrial Electronics
- Instrumentation & Measurement
- Microwave Theory & Techniques
- Power Electronics
- Professional Communication
- Reliability
- Robotics & Automation
- Signal Processing
- Systems, Man & Cybernetics
- Vehicular Technology
Each member society appoints two representatives to the Council. The society representatives bring a broad spectrum of backgrounds from large corporations, consulting firms, academia, and trade associations.

Conferences

The Council continues a series of IEEE ITS conferences that was launched with ITSC’97. Held November 1997 in Boston, the first conference drew close to 500 engineers from corporations and governments around the world. The focus of this and future ITSC conferences is on cutting-edge electronics technologies and their applications for ITS. Tokyo is the site of the next ITSC conference in October 1999. Plans for ITSC 2000 in Detroit are also well along.

The ITS Council will be governed by a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer elected annually by the society representatives. In the transitional year (1999), the officers are:

- President: Dr. Umit Ozguner, Ohio State University
- Vice President: Dr. Ichiro Masaki, MIT
- Secretary: Ms. Emily Sopensky, The Iris Company
- Treasurer: Dr. Richard Klafter, Temple University

Publications

The first issue of the ITS Council’s quarterly journal, IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems, is scheduled for March 2000. Dr. Chelsea C. White, III, Director of the ITS Research Center of Excellence at the University of Michigan, is slated to become Editor of the Transactions. White was the first chair of the predecessor IEEE ITS Ad Hoc Committee when it was organized in 1993. A call for papers will be posted at the Council’s website: http://www.ieee.org/its.

An electronic newsletter for the TAB ITS Council is planned to start soon with Dr. Alberto Broggi (University of Pavia, Italy) as editor.

New ITS Council Provides Creative Support to Member Society

Presentation by the ITS Council at the IEDM Conference
by Emily Sopensky

To support one of its key society members, Electron Devices Society (EDS), Emily Sopensky represented the new IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Council by presenting at the EDS Meetings Best Practices Workshop held annually in December.

This innovative workshop begun five years ago by EDS President Bruce Griffing is intended to provide EDS meeting organizers with assistance in putting on conferences. Passing on the "know-how" in such highly involved volunteer efforts has helped EDS, a 12,000-member IEEE organization, provide members with cutting edge meetings and information to its members. Its primary meeting, the annual International Electron Devices Meeting, is regarded by the semiconductor industry, for example, as the prognosticator for the subsequent year.
While the official record of any conference is its proceedings, the Workshop lacked a presentation on Proceedings. Ms. Sopensky offered to provide her experiences and insights gained as Publications Chair for the first IEEE ITS conference, ITSC’97, held November 1997. EDS was a major sponsor of the conference. She noted that since IEEE is a major worldwide publisher of technical material, it behooves any EDS Publications Chair to inquire about the possibility of having the conference proceedings included in the IEEE Book Broker Program. This program provides several key services, such as indexing and catalog number assignments. In addition, it offers the opportunity to be included in several subscription packages, as well as other worldwide sales channels.

Providing IEEE key contact information including downloadable guides from the website, Sopensky gave the following nuggets of advice:

- Build a realistic time schedule,
- Always expect the exception from authors,
- Give realistic and detailed guidelines to authors,
- Find an experienced Pubs Chair or professional organization to support him or her,
- Do not depend entirely on volunteers.

Other presenters provided information on location strategies, registration, technical program, budgeting, publicity, and lessons learned.

For further information about the EDS Best Practices Workshop, contact Bill Van der Vort, EDS Executive Director, at 732-562-3926 or w.vandervort@ieee.org.

Calendar of Council Events

Council Meetings:

The last meeting of the IEEE TAB ITS Committee was held on Saturday, November 14, 1998 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ with the IEEE TAB meeting. Next Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Council Meetings:

June 26, 1999, 1pm-6pm ........... Seaport Hotel & Convention Center, Boston, MA
during the TAB Board series

November 13, 1999, 1pm-6pm ........... Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT
during the TAB Board series

ITSC Officers Meetings:

February 13, 1999, 8pm-midnight .......... Westin Hilton Head, Hilton Head, SC
during the TAB Board series

October 8, 1999 ......................... Waseda University Tokyo, Japan
during the ITSC99 Conference
ITSC Committee Meetings:

None announced at this time

Other Meetings:

October 5-8, 1999 ............. Waseda University, Conference Center, Tokyo, Japan

November 8-12, 1999 ............. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada
ITS World Congress, www.itsworldcongress.org

New IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems

Announcement and Call for Papers
by Chip White

The IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Council (ITSC) announces a new transactions journal, the IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems. Contingent on formal IEEE approval, the ITSC plans to publish the first quarterly issue March 2000. Improved planning, design, management, and the control of future transportation systems requires conducting both basic and applied research to expand the knowledge base on transportation. The new IEEE Transactions will focus on the design, analysis, and control of information technology as it is applied to transportation systems. Topics to be considered will include, but will not be limited to:

- Sensors (infrastructure & vehicle-based)
- Communications (wide area & vehicle-to-roadside)
- Man-Machine Interfaces (displays, artificial speech)
- Decision Systems (expert systems, intelligent agents)
- Simulation (continuous, discrete, real-time)
- Reliability & Quality Assurance
- Imaging and Image Analysis
- Information Systems (databases, data fusion, security)
- Computers (hardware, software)
- Control (adaptive, fuzzy, cooperative, neuro, large systems)
- Technology Forecasting & Transfer
- Systems (engineering, architecture, evaluation)
- Signal Processing
- Standards
Transportation systems are usually large-scale in nature and are invariably geographically distributed. The complexity of transportation systems arises from many sources. Transportation systems can involve humans, vehicles, shipments, information technology, and the physical infrastructure—all interacting in complex ways. Many aspects of transportation systems are uncertain, dynamic and nonlinear, and such systems may be highly sensitive to perturbations. Controls can involve multiple agents that are distributed and hierarchical. Personnel who invariably play critical roles in a transportation system have a diversity of objectives and a wide range of skills and education.

Despite such complexity, the emergence of new technologies—such as sensors, communications, low-cost, faster computation, and new control and optimization algorithms—provides new opportunities to substantially improve efficiency, safety and environmental impact. With the use of these technologies, new and faster measurements are possible and more data can be managed and processed. Additionally, new strategies for management and control will be developed to deal with both the static and the dynamic nature of transportation systems. So, while most of the classical transportation problems raised in the past continue to exist, there now are new approaches to deal with many of them.

The intent of the IEEE Transactions on ITS will be to serve as a forum for the technological aspects of applications of information technology to transportation, thus providing researchers with an outlet for publication for these new approaches.

Please send five (5) copies of your manuscript for possible publication to:

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Department of Industrial and Operations Engineering
College of Engineering
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2117, USA

For further publication guidelines, contact the editor at cviii@umich.edu or by call 734-764-5723.

Announcement for next ITSC’99 Conference

by Yoichi Sato

IEEE/IEEJ/JSAI Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC99)

Tokyo, Japan
October 5-8, 1999
http://www.cvl.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/itsc99/

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), The Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEJ), Japanese Society of Artificial Intelligence (JSAI), and an alliance of Japanese governmental organizations are jointly sponsoring a professional-level conference on basic research and present and future application of leading-edge advances in communications, computers, control and related electronics-based technologies to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Program Topics

- Sensors (infrastructure & vehicle-based)
- Communications (wide area & vehicle-to-roadside)
• Man-machine Interfaces (displays, artificial speech,...)
• Decision Systems (expert systems, intelligent agents,...)
• Simulation (continuous, discrete, real-time)
• Reliability & Quality Assurance
• Imaging and Image Analysis
• Information Systems (databases, data fusion, security)
• Computers (hardware, software)
• Control (adaptive, fuzzy, cooperative, neuro, large systems)
• Technology Forecasting & Transfer
• Systems (engineering, architecture, evaluation)
• Signal Processing
• Standards

To submit a paper

Five (5) copies of complete, anonymous manuscripts must be submitted by January 15, 1999 at the following address:

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Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics
Institute of Industrial Science
The University of Tokyo
7-22-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku
Tokyo 106, Japan
e-mail: ki@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp
tel/fax: +81-33401-1433

Submitted papers must be no longer than 6 pages in IEEE two-column format, including figures and references. Papers exceeding this length limit may be rejected without review. Complete instructions and a \LaTeX{} macro can be received from here. The paper should exclude any information which compromises the anonymity of the authors. The cover sheet should include (1) the title of the paper, (2) the names of the authors, (3) the technical categories, and (4) the name, mailing address, telephone and fax number, and e-mail address of the contact author. Notification of Acceptance is scheduled for May 1, 1999.

Important Dates

Paper submission deadline ............... January 15, 1999
Notification of acceptance ................. May 1, 1999
Camera-ready copy for proceedings due ...... July 1, 1999

Supporting Organizations

• Advanced Cruise-Assist Highway System Research Association
• Express Highway Research Foundation of Japan
• Information Processing Society of Japan
• The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers
• International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences
● Japan Society of Civil Engineers
● The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers
● Japan Society of Traffic Engineers
● Japanese Traffic Management Technology Association
● The Robotics Society of Japan
● Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan
● The Society of Instrument and Control Engineers
● Universal Traffic Management Society of Japan
● Vehicle, Road and Traffic Intelligence Society

Conference Organizing Committee

● Organizing Chair: Fumio Harashima, E. Ryerson Case, Toshio Fukuda
● General Chair: Shigeo Wako, Ichiro Masaki, Yasuhiko Yasuda
● Program Chair: Masao Sakauchi, Chuck Thorpe, Ernst D. Dickmanns
● Financial Chair: Masayoshi Aoki, Richard Klafter
● Local Arrangement Chair: Katsushi Ikeuchi
● Conference Secretary: Yoichi Sato

Further publication

Authors of selected papers will be invited to submit extended versions of their manuscripts to a special issue on "Vision Applications and Technologies for Intelligent Vehicles" of the upcoming IEEE Transactions on ITS. The special issue will be coordinated by Masao Sakauchi, Katsushi Ikeuchi, Chuck E. Thorpe and Alberto Broggi.

Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards - Beneficial or Barrier

by Robert Gottschalk

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) initiative to develop global interoperability through a common reference architecture and communications protocols is supported by the International Organizations for Standards (ISO) Technical Committee 204 and the Committee for European Standards (CEN) Technical Committee 278.

The IEEE Standards Department established the Standards Coordinating Committee 32 (SCC32) to be the sponsor of the ITS standards development effort. Since January 1999, the SCC32, is also operating the Standards Committee for the ITS Council. The SCC32 Chair is Robert Gottschalk, Communications Engineer, Florida Department of Transportation (r.1.gottschalk@ieee.org).

You can find SCC32 on the Internet at:

http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/scc32/index.html
The SCC32 is sponsoring a number of draft standards which are listed on the SCC32 web site under Approved Projects. In addition, you will find a "Contacts" page for your convenience as well as Teleconference and Meeting Minutes pages to let you know when and how to participate in teleconferences and keep you informed on SCC32 meetings through the Minutes page. Some of the ITS standards activities sponsored by SCC32 are:

- Standard Interface for Heavy Vehicle Interface Between Dedicated Short-Range Radio (DSRC) Transponder and Other Pieces of On-Board Equipment
- DSRC Security and Privacy protection methods including interfaces to smart-card technology
- DSRC Back Office Interface, including operational procedures and message sets to support the transmission of data from roadside devices to central offices
- Incident Management Message Sets and Data Dictionary for use by traffic management, emergency management, public safety, hazardous materials, and emergency medical dispatch centers
- Lightning Protection Practices and Procedures

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

Interested participants should contact Robert Gottschalk by email at r.1.gottschalk@ieee.org.
The Seattle Smart Trek Project

Interview with Daniel Dailey

The Seattle Smart Trek Project, perhaps more than any other Model Deployment Initiative (MDI) project, includes the participation of a wide range of private-sector firms as so-called “Information Service Providers,” or “ISPs.” These ISPs often take raw data about traffic conditions (typically from loop or video detectors) and then “add value” by post-processing that data and communicating it to travelers through a variety of channels and devices. A key question in that scenario: how best to acquire that data while requiring a minimum of hand-holding on the part of its source (in this case, the Washington State Department of Transportation)? Many of the Smart Trek projects have found the answer in so-called “self-describing data,” in which the data stream itself contains not only raw traffic data but information about where the data comes from and what it means. ICDN Editor Jerry Werner recently discussed the background and potential national applicability of SDD with its developer and foremost proponent, Professor Dan Dailey of the University of Washington. Dailey, the director of UW’s Intelligent Transportation Systems program, is a research track Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering who also holds adjunct appointments in the departments of Civil Engineering and Technical Communication in the College of Engineering.

The full text can be found at: http://www.navgits.com/sdd_dd.html