DMS & Traveler Information Systems
By Adison Zoretic

This lunchtime event (from 12 noon to 1 PM) is free to all ITS Maryland Members. The event will feature a panel discussion on the future of traveler information systems. Real-time traveler information systems provide travelers of all modes of transportation with detailed information about current travel conditions to assist users in choosing the most effective mode and route to their destination. Data is collected and delivered to users utilizing a variety of ITS devices and technologies to improve travel time predictability, allow users to make better choices, and reduce delays. Topics to be discussed in this panel discussion will include Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) usage concerns, and the future of traveler information systems. With advancements in both vehicle and ITS technology, how will traveler information systems change, and what information will they provide to users? Speakers include Tom Hicks, Director of Business Development, Century Engineering and Thomas H. Jacobs, Director, Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) Lab.

Lunch & Learn September 19th at SHA CHART Offices

Register online here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/its-maryland-fall-lunch-and-learn-traveler-information-panel-discussion-registration-12939992867

Are you an ITS Maryland member?

Chances are that you are a member! ITS Maryland is an "organization of organizations," and membership is by firm, agency, University, etc. It is not an individual membership. So, if your employer is a member… so are you!

To see if you are a member, check out our list of member organizations here: http://itsmd.org/about-us/its-maryland-members/

From the President's Desk
By Keith Riniker

At the core, ITS Maryland is an organization created, built, organized, and held together by our members. We have been busy re-branding, re-imaging and re-establishing what it is to be ITS Maryland. Our re-imaging (what I'm most excited about) is our roll-out of an updated website with more up-to-date resources; and a new logo for ITS Maryland (see the next article for details). Our re-establishing includes adopting new bylaws (http://itsmd.org/about-us/bylaws/) and developing a draft Strategic Plan (http://itsmd.org/about-us/strategic-plan/). In addition, we have held a number of successful events, both informative and social, to learn, relax and network together. Here's a summary of our work this year:

We grew! We have 44 member agencies in 2014. Want to join? Check out our Membership page (http://itsmd.org/membership/benefits-of-membership/).

In February, we hosted a Lunch & Learn hosted by the University of Maryland CATT Lab attended by over 30 persons. The CATT Lab demonstrated applications of their highly interactive big data visual analytics used by federal, state, and local agencies in real-time congestion monitoring, performance measurement and management, and planning efforts.

In March, we held our annual transportation technology fair in Annapolis geared toward legislative education and outreach. This year focused on the theme, "Technology to Cost-Effectively Transport People and Freight using All Modes." Our attendance nearly doubled from previous years with approximately 200 attendees, including 27 delegates and 11 senators.

In April, we co-hosted a Technical Session with the Institute of Transportation Engineers on Transit at Morgan State University. The meeting was well-attended by our student members.

In June, we hosted our annual Spring Event which included the US DOT Professional Capacity Building Course Improving Highway Safety with ITS attended by 40-persons.

In July, we took a break from our hard work and had a cookout at the Babe Ruth museum and walk over to Camden Yards to watch the Orioles beat the Yankees 3-2 in ten innings!

In August we awarded $2,000 in scholarships to two University of Maryland at College Park students: Ms. Mersedeh TariVerdi, a PhD candidate and President of the ITS MD student chapter, and Ms. Marissa Sileo and undergraduate student majoring in Math & Computer Science, working part-time at the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Lab.

Last week, in September, we issued a draft of our ITS Maryland Strategic Plan. The draft plan is located here http://itsmd.org/about-us/strategic-plan/

In November, we will hold our Annual Meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the Traffic Signal Forum. Last year, our annual meeting drew over 150 attendees. With the combined event, we expect nearly 250 attendees this year – don't miss it! Registration information is coming soon. For now, save the date of November 6th on your calendar.

The year is only half over, and there is still plenty more to come. I look forward to seeing you at our events and outings, hearing your ideas and comments and working together to make ITS Maryland. It is the members that keep us going, so together, let us put our best foot forward, and make 2014 another great year for ITS Maryland.

After months of discussion, planning and hard work on the part of the ITS Maryland officers and board members, we are pleased to announce our new look for ITS Maryland with the grand opening of the updated website and a new logo. The new logo represents Maryland by incorporating the silhouette of the state, as well as the yellow color reminiscent of our state flag and state flower, the black-eyed Susan. The emblem includes a roadway coming in / going out of the state, showing our association with transportation; with the specific symbols on the logo representing all modes: transit, freight, vehicular and non-motorized traffic (symbolized by the pedestrian). The website is now mobile compatible, and has been updated with current information about our members, events and more. A few of the highlights include:

Upcoming events are now readily listed, with dates and information, on the right hand side of each page.

Easier control of our mailing list. There is now an easy to fill out form on the main page to subscribe to our mailings, and changing your mailing subscription is simple with a link at the bottom of every e-mail.

The Events page links to the ITS Maryland Eventbrite page, where you can register and pay for upcoming events. Events can now by paid online by credit card or check, or at the door with credit card, check or cash.

The Resources page includes archived newsletters, presentations, as well as:

- Website sponsorship information is now available. Your company logo and website will be featured on every page of the ITS Maryland website. The cost is $500 per year. **Website sponsorship for the remaining part of the calendar year is only $150.**

- The ITS Maryland Architecture is still hosted at ITSMD.org and as is located in the Resources (http://itsmd.org/resources/) page.

- Job Postings (http://itsmd.org/resources/jobs/) are up to date and available to all member firms. Member firms will also be able to have their job openings posted on the ITSMD.org website. To request a job posting, please send Yu-Ling Wang an email at YWang@sabra-wang.com.

The About Us (http://itsmd.org/about-us/) page includes current listings of officers, board members, subcommittee members, bylaws, a current draft of our ITS Maryland strategic plan, as well as a listing of all ITS Maryland member firms with each firm's key contact person and firm website.

Many of these updates have been suggested in the past by our members, and we are happy to be able to unveil these changes. We want ITSMD.org to be a resource to keep our members updated and informed, and while the previous incarnation of the website was good, it was a difficult to keep it relevant and up to date. We hope that the updated website provides easier and better access to events, benefits, networking and information for our members.