



# Newsletter

## 20 Years of ITS in Connecticut



**ITS-CT**

**Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut**

**Summer 2018 Newsletter**

# Message from the President



Fred Eshraghi  
City of Norwalk  
ITS-CT President

Dear Fellow ITS-CT Members and Friends,

As we leave the colder months behind and head into spring and summer I would like to share a few items with you.

The ITS-Connecticut Board of Directors is so proud of our Chapter for receiving 2017 Outstanding State Chapter Division III Award at the ITS World Conference in Montreal. I was truly a pleasure to receive this prestigious award on behalf of the ITS Connecticut Chapter. This Award reflects the success for our chapter in recent years and in years to come.

In 2018, we started the Year with our traditional ITS-ITE annual winter meeting. The 2018 ITS-ITE joint winter meeting was one of the best ever with over 130 members in attendance. The support and participation by our members played a key role in making this event so informative and successful. We had a roundtable discussion about the use of RRFB (RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASH BEACON) system. Also we had the pleasure of inviting 3 key note speakers:  
JAMES REDEKER, COMMISSIONER OF THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
SHAILEN BATT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ITS AMERICA  
RAY MURPHY, ITS SPECIALIST WITH THE FHWA

This event was a great start to our upcoming programs. We also had two well attended Lunch & Learns programs about the Innovative Interchange Design, and Advantage and Challenges of all Electronic Tolling.

This year ITS-CT joined with the CTITE and CSCE for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf outing to be held on July 13, 2018 at Timberlin Golf Club in Berlin. The proceeds from this event will benefit the three organization's scholarship programs.

To broaden our Chapter Board of Directors, we also added three new members. On behalf of our Board, I am delighted to welcome John E. DiBiasi from CTDOT, Charles J. Baker from VHB and Tess Schwartz from Tessera Engineering to our Board of Directors.

As we prepare for our 21st annual meeting, I am delighted to inform you that our organization is well represented by the current Board of Directors. **SAVE THE DATE - September 26.** I look forward to working with you for another successful annual meeting.

We are living in such an exciting time – the Internet of Things is offering transportation benefits we could only imagine a decade ago. Enhanced mobility, improved safety, and better accessibility through new technology is here and we are committed to working to accelerate its development and implementation of “Future Cities” in Connecticut. Please Join us to celebrate and be a part of this fast growing and exciting movement.

Let me conclude by saying “thank you” for the privilege of leading our Chapter. If you have any thoughts to share, please email me at [feshraghi@norwalkct.org](mailto:feshraghi@norwalkct.org). I'll pass them to the Board so that we can continue to strengthen and improve our chapter.

Please visit ITS CT website and utilize available resources including education, professional networking, and new career opportunities. I wish everyone a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,  
Fred Eshraghi  
President

# Outstanding State Chapter Award!

ITS Connecticut won  
the Division III  
Outstanding State  
Chapter Award for 2017



**Congratulations and thank you to our President, our Board of Directors and all of our wonderful members who have worked to build the chapter into what it is today!**

ITS  AMERICA

# Membership

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut (ITS-CT) is welcoming organizations to participate in this partnership between consultants, vendors, municipalities, academics, and other agencies and institutions. Together we form a community of professionals with the interest of advancing and improving transportation mobility and technology within Connecticut.

Sign up today: <http://www.its-ct.org/#!/membership/cadz>

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# Membership

## Public Members



## Private Members





# Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut

## 2018 Membership Application / Renewal

**Please Select an ITS Connecticut 2018 Membership Option:**

- ITS-CT Partner Organization -- \$800
- Gold Sponsor -- \$400
- Silver Sponsor -- \$200
- Member Organization (Private Sector) -- \$100
- Member Organization (Public Sector) -- *fee waived*
- Affiliate Member -- \$10
- Student Member -- *fee waived*

See attached sheet for  
Membership Benefits

I hereby apply for or renew membership in ITS Connecticut. I understand that membership, once approved by the board of directors, is payable annually.

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Payment by:  Check/Money Order  Purchase Order  PayPal (*Available at ITS-CT.org*)

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the names and email address of other members of your organization who would like to receive ITS-CT announcements.

*Please attach additional sheets as necessary.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with check payable to "ITS-CT" to:**

**Carl J. Gandza, ITS-CT Membership Committee Chairperson  
c/o City of New Britain, Engineering Division  
27 West Main Street  
New Britain, CT 06051  
or email to [Carl.Gandza@NewBritainCT.gov](mailto:Carl.Gandza@NewBritainCT.gov)**

Online application and  
payment is also available  
at [ITS-CT.org](http://ITS-CT.org)

# Annual Meeting 2017

The 2017 annual meeting was held September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin. Over 120 professionals and 14 vendors celebrated 20 years of ITS Connecticut at the well-attended event sponsored by LiveTrafficData, SESA and WSP.

The event featured five technical sessions presented by 13 ITS professionals. The sessions included information on Radar and Video Detection, ITS Devices, Traffic Signal Data Sharing and Performance Measures, Alternative Travel and Connected Vehicles, and an Autonomous Vehicle Discussion Panel. Jason Goldman, ITS America Vice President, spoke at the luncheon with an update of ITS America's advocacy efforts in Washington DC.

The meeting concluded with Connecticut Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner Anna Barry delivering the keynote for the dinner program.



# Lunch and Learn Series



Meetings held at CT DOT

Lunch 12:00 - 12:30

Presentation 12:30 - 1:30

For more information visit:

<https://www.its-ct.org/lunch-n-learns>

## Advantages and Challenges of All Electronic Tolling

Chris Body, Kapsch TrafficCom USA

## Innovative Interchange Design

Janet Keiser & Glenn Stevens, Gannett Fleming



# Winter Meeting with ITE

On January 31st ITS-CT held its annual Joint Winter Meeting with the Connecticut Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE-CT).

The Joint Winter Meeting was held at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven and was attended by more than 100 people. The event included a special roundtable discussion on Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's). Speakers included Shailen Bhatt, CEO of ITS America who provided an update on national ITS efforts, Ray Murphy who discussed the USDOT Smart City Challenge, and Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner James Redeker who discussed the mission and future of the Department.



Commissioner Redeker with longtime colleague Shailen Bhatt, CEO of ITS America

# Stately Perspective: Autonomous Vehicles on the horizon

by John E. Dibiasi, PE



[Norbert Aepli](#) / Creative Commons

On April 17, 2018 Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced the launch of Connecticut's Fully Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program (FAVTPP). FAVTPP permits up to 4 municipalities, each partnered with an autonomous vehicle tester, to establish controlled testing areas within their respective municipality that would safely allow and foster the development of innovative technology related to connected autonomous vehicles (CAV) by leveraging the unique characteristics found along the public roads and neighborhoods within those communities.

As you may recall, this was precipitated by Public Act 17-69 "An Act Concerning Autonomous Vehicles" from Connecticut's 2017 legislative session which was put forth with the objective of (statutorily) defining terms related to autonomous vehicles and legislation, establishing a pilot program (which ultimately became FAVTPP), the establishment of a State Executive/Legislative task force to study autonomous vehicles (Task Force will ultimately make recommendations on how Connecticut should regulate CAV), and to lay additional groundwork to bring testing to Connecticut. It is expected that the Task Force will select a chairperson and convene sometime this summer!

The legislation brought together an inter-agency effort lead by the State's Office of Policy & Management (OPM) with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), and the Connecticut Insurance Department (CID). Working together over a period of time in the interim leading to the Governor's recent announcement, the inter-agency working group (and their respective working groups within each agency) discussed, debated,

# Stately Perspective (cont'd)

and helped craft the two documents that resulted from the Public Act: the Application for the Fully Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program and the Required Minimum Framework for Agreements between Municipalities and Autonomous Vehicle Testers. Careful consideration was given during this process to the discussion of policies, regulations, and laws Connecticut might initially need or need to have revised prior to the start of testing and development of CAV

In short some of the highlights:

- Under the pilot program a municipality partners with an autonomous vehicle tester and applies to the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management (OPM) for consideration.
- The application asks basic questions such as the proposed route/testing area and law enforcement/emergency response capabilities but also ask questions about insight into things such as planned community engagement, education, and involvement.
- The required minimum framework for agreements between municipalities and autonomous vehicle testers has the minimum information/language to be included in any agreement between a municipality and their partner. These requirements help to establish the foundation for safe testing in Connecticut and ensures that State requirements (such as insurance minimums) are stated up front.

The framework also includes/requires such information as: how vehicles are identified, training of those involved, the details of the testing area, the approach to testing, crash reporting, etc.

It is the hope of many involved that once testing begins, that focus areas will come to light which will help point the state in the direction of what laws will need to be revised, what technologies may need to be invested in, and to identify what comes next in the pursuit of safety. For those interested, see OPM's website for the application and required minimum framework for agreements at: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2990&q=601204>.

*John E. DiBiasi, P.E. is a Transportation Engineer in the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Office of the State Traffic Administration. The views and opinions expressed are solely his own and do not necessarily reflect official views and/or opinions of the State/Department.*

# New Board Members

## Charles Baker

**Organization:** VHB

**Hobbies:** Basketball, travel, music, reading

**Fun fact:** I enjoy building furniture and other home improvements even though I don't really know what I'm doing.

**ITS Goal:** Keep up with innovative technologies in our rapidly evolving industry to better serve the traveling public.



## John Dibiasi

**Organization:** CT DOT

**Hobbies:** Hiking, disc golf, and most things automotive.

**Fun fact:** Recently returned from a trip to Malaysia, Singapore, and Bangkok Thailand -- traffic in the States isn't all that bad.

**ITS Goal:** Help spread the good word on new ITS applications inside and outside the agency



## Theresa Schwartz

**Organization:** Tessera Engineering

**Hobbies:** Reading, yoga, swimming, hiking, gardening.

**Fun fact:** I'm a huge Disney fan. My husband and I have characters hidden throughout our home and even had Mickey and Minnie on our wedding cake.

**ITS Goal:** Promote the use of ITS technologies in CT to improve public safety.



# Upcoming Events

## 2018 ITS-CT Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on September 26, 2018 at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, Connecticut. Details on the event are currently being developed so keep an eye open for more information and notices in the near future. Hope to see you there!

## Connected Vehicle 201 Training

The purpose of this course is to help transportation agencies that are beginning to plan implementation of a connected vehicle (CV) environment. The overall goal of the course is to teach participants how to develop an action plan in collaboration with regional partners to improve readiness for CV development. Participants will learn more about the safety, mobility and applications and will gain an overview of three CV pilot sites in Wyoming, New York City, and Tampa. They will also learn how to identify funding sources for a CV project. Lastly, they will be made aware of recent activities supported by the ITS Joint Program Office and resources available from the CV research program sponsored by the U.S. DOT. The program will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at the Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin, CT. Registration for the training is free. Lunch may be purchased for \$10.

For more information or to register for the training, please contact Jay Koolis at 860 290 4100 x1147 or [jkoolis@cmeengineering.com](mailto:jkoolis@cmeengineering.com).

# Connect with Us!

## **Officers**

Fred Eshraghi - City of Norwalk (President)

CJ Gandza - City of New Britain (Vice President)

Sharat Kalluri, PE - CDM Smith (Treasurer)

Noemi Vazquez – Urban Engineers (Acting Secretary)

Koreen Bjorklund - Daktronics (Immediate Past Pres.)

Kristen Solloway, PE – Fuss&O'Neill (Past President)

## **Board of Directors**

Jay Koolis – CME Associates (Programs)

Chris Chaffee, PE – AECOM (Communications)

Robert Ramirez, PE – FHWA (Training)

Morteza Hayatgheybi – WSP (Awards)

Vahid Karimi, PE – WSP

Veera Karukonda – City of Stamford

Bijan Notghi – City of New Haven

Claudio Vecchiarino – NE Traffic Solutions

Scott Westervelt – Coastal Traffic

Pramod Pandey – CRCOG

James Mayer – Town of Manchester

Tess Schwartz – Tessera Engineering

Charles Baker – VHB

John DiBiasi - CT DOT

**Website:** [www.its-ct.org](http://www.its-ct.org)

**Newsletter:** [tschwartz@tesseraengineering.com](mailto:tschwartz@tesseraengineering.com)

