Dear Members,

This year, at roughly the halfway point, ITS-CT has a number of accomplishments to celebrate - new officers and board members, increased membership and a very successful educational program with our Lunch & Learn series.

In 2016 ITS-CT board members decided it was time to rebrand and invigorate our organization. With a new chapter president and vice president along with a few new board of directors, ITS-CT created new goals and a new logo that brands our mission for connecting all modes of transportation in an intelligent way.

The first goal was to increase our membership through outreach and is well underway. ITS-CT has more than doubled its members and continues to grow. As I speak with you ITS CT is a partnership of more than 50 organizations from the public, private, and academic sectors.

The second goal was to provide education regarding new products, technology and innovations related to ITS. Our Lunch & Learn series have been a very successful educational program. We had over 250 participant at first series for our lunch and Learns.

The third goal is to bring the local and regional ITS community together. Part of this goal is to organize and host a power packed annual meeting that brings a wide range of ITS professionals together to network, share best practices, ideas and experiences. We are in the early stages of planning a day of technical sessions and vendor displays followed by an evening program.

ITS-CT members represent every corner of our transportation industry. They are transportation and technology professionals from state, regional, and local transportation agencies, private companies providing ITS products and services, research and academic institutions, and much more. Join us and be an active participant of this fast growing professional society. Let me know how ITS CT can enhance and contribute to your organization. Email me at feshraghi@norwalkct.org and let me know your questions, comments, and perspective on ITS.

Sincerely,

Fred Eshraghi
New ITS-CT Logo

Thanks to WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff, RHS Consulting, and the City of New Britain for designing the new organization logo!
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
Lunch and Learn Series

A typical training quandary suggests that you cannot spare people to go to training because there is so much work to be done at the office. There never seems to be enough time during the day to get everything done but we can't neglect training and professional development.

A lunch and learn session is, by definition, a training or professional development opportunity. It is designed to disseminate new technologies to the practitioners on a specific topic over a one hour period while enjoying a free lunch.

In the first quarter of 2016, ITS Connecticut Chapter in collaboration with NEITS Chapter and The Connecticut Department of Transportation, presented the first series of “Lunch and Learns” at CTDOT Headquarters in Newington, CT. The goal was to provide a forum for exchanging information on new technological advances to improve our transportation system. Our first series of Lunch and Learns focused on the following topics:

**Planning for Connected Vehicles**
Number of Participants: 49  
Presenter: Daniel Krechmer, Cambridge Systematics

**Making Work Zones Smarter through Technology**
Number of Participants: 110  
Presenter Todd Foster, Ver Mac

**Evolution of Traffic Signal Systems**
Number of Participants: 92  
Presenter: Joe Herr, VHB

ITS Connecticut would like to thank everyone for making our first lunch and learn event a success. New Lunch and Learns series will be announced after our annual meeting!
Winter Meeting

On Monday, February 1st, the members of ITS-CT partnered with ITE-CT for a joint winter meeting at the Villa Capri Restaurant in Wallingford.

Many excellent presentations were given, including:

Bob Blasi of Traffic Systems discussed the benefits of Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon for pedestrians.

Zac Cook of ENCOM presented on the advantages of using wireless radio products and technology.

Sal Tassone of EtherWAN delved into the many networks and advances in ITS communications.

Natasha Fatu, Colin Baummer, and Ryan Pothering of ConnDOT discussed many of the innovative ways our department of transportation is making our roadways safer for all modes of travel.
Since 1997, the Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut (ITS-CT) has promoted the use and deployment of the latest transportation technology in our state. Nine years ago, ITS-CT brought the first demonstration of connected vehicles to our state with a demonstration of the “State of the Art” Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Van, a predecessor to today’s Connected Vehicles, at our Annual Meeting at the then new Rentschler Field Stadium in East Hartford. Attendees were able to ride in the van and experience firsthand the amazing technology being developed at that time. It was a fascinating and exciting experience that few people outside our organization were able to enjoy.

This coming year, ITS-CT will continue that tradition by sponsoring an important training session for transportation professionals on the latest Connected Vehicle technology given by the Federal Highway Administration and ITS America. The 4-hour session entitled Understanding the Connected Vehicle Technical Environment, Preparing for the Future Connected Vehicle Deployment will give professionals a full understanding of the technology and the systems engineering activities required to support it while supporting the goal of accelerating the connected vehicle deployment.

In addition to this training, the 2016 ITS-CT Annual Meeting will also feature a separate day-long series of exciting and interesting technical sessions on a wide variety of topics including traffic signal timing and technology, communications, traffic management technologies and updates from public officials on the direction our state is going toward implementing the latest technologies.

The Casa Mia at Hawthorne
2421 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT 06037
For information please contact Jay Koolis:
860-296-4100 x 1147 or jkoolis@cmeengineering.com
CTfastrak is Connecticut’s first Bus Rapid Transit system. It is a system of bus routes that utilize a bus-only roadway for all or a portion of your trip.

CTfastrak routes are integrated with the CTtransit system, making it easy to connect, transfer and pay your fare.

There are different types of routes and services available. The basic “subway style” route travels between Hartford and New Britain and stops at each of the 10 stations.
Express routes exit the bus-only road at downtown New Britain station and travel beyond New Britain to Bristol, Southington, Cheshire, and Waterbury. Circulator routes use the bus-only roadway for a portion of the trip, exiting the bus-only roadway at certain locations to provide service to destinations in Central Connecticut like UConn Health, Westfarms Mall, and Manchester Community College.

CTfastrak uses an Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system that transmits the exact location of the vehicles via satellite Global Positioning Systems or radio signals, allowing riders to receive real-time information on the next bus arrival or next bus stop. This information can be linked through cellular and Internet technology to provide text alerts and travel information to your phone, as well as on the Web. A Computer Aided Dispatch system provides constant communication between CTfastrak vehicles and the Operations Center to monitor performance and keep vehicles running on schedule.

ITS elements are used in a variety of ways on the bus and at stations and include bus arrival/departure information, ticket vending machines and ticket validation equipment, audio/visual displays, security equipment, and pedestrian crossing signals. Traffic signal preference is also used at the five at-grade intersections along the CTfastrak roadway to improve travel time.

Plan your trip today!

CT Transit Website: http://www.cttransit.com/
Transit App: http://transitapp.com/
Meet the Officers

Fred Eshraghi
City of Norwalk
President

- Years with ITS-CT: 6
- Fun fact: Running, skiing, and traveling
- ITS Goal: Bring the local and regional ITS community together to create efficient transportation systems

Carl (CJ) Gandza
City of New Britain
Vice President

- Years with ITS-CT: 2
- Fun fact: I bike commute at least once per week
- ITS Goal: Push ITS technology in Connecticut to the next level

Sharat Kalluri
CDM Smith
Treasurer

- Years with ITS-CT: 10
- Fun fact: Love traveling and riding my bicycle
- ITS Goal: Gain support to build ITS community in CT

Bonnie Damato-Torres
VHB
Secretary

- Years with ITS-CT: 3
- Fun fact: The last of six children and a cruise enthusiast
- ITS Goal: To help promote and build the ITS organization and community in CT

Koreen Bjorklund
Daktronics
Immediate Past Pres.

- Years with ITS-CT: 13
- Fun fact: Grew up on a farm and graduated from a HS class of only 28! Now I’m a big city girl living in Arlington, VA
- ITS Goal:Congestion reduction, safety, and deployment of new technologies

Kristen E. Solloway
Fuss & O’Neill
Past President

- Years with ITS-CT: 10
- Fun fact: Golf enthusiast
- ITS Goal: Continue working toward a more efficient and sustainable transportation system
Connect with Us!

Website: www.its-ct.org

Newsletter: chris.chaffee@aecom.com

Board of Directors:
Jay Koolis – CME Associates
Kevin Burnham, PE – ConnDOT
Chris Chaffee, PE – AECOM
Robert Ramirez, PE – FHWA
Morteza Hayatgheybi – WSP/PB
Vahid Karimi, PE – WSP/PB
Veera Karukonda – City of Stamford
Bijan Notghi – City of New Haven
Rifat Saleh, PE – RHS Consulting
Claudio Vecchiarino – NE Traffic Solutions
Scott Westervelt – Coastal Traffic