

Strong and Engaging Chapter Governance

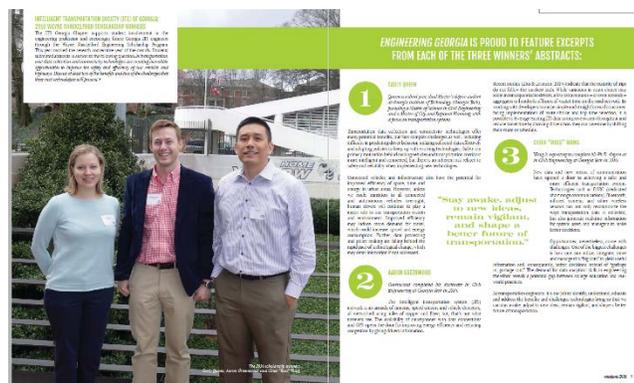
The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the deployment of Georgia's first intelligent transportation systems. The opening of the Transportation Management Center in Atlanta, in time for the 1996 Olympics, ushered in a new era of smarter, safer and more efficient transportation solutions for Georgia travelers.

In 2016, the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia marks 19 years as the leading advocate for the creation, deployment and operation of intelligent transportation solutions for the state of Georgia. Our [membership](#), [officers and directors](#) reflect the depth and diversity of the state's ITS community including city, county, regional, state and federal agencies, a leading ITS research institution, ITS consultants, system integrators, contractors, and vendors.

Our officers and directors serve two-year terms with staggered elections to allow new leadership opportunities each year. In the most recent election, 20 people competed for eight positions. Our chapter board meetings are open for members to attend and [minutes](#) are posted on our website along with our [charter](#) and [bylaws](#) which are reviewed annually.

To promote involvement in Chapter functions and activities, we have 12 [committees](#) that focus on areas of importance to members and the board. Our committees also include special purpose work groups focusing on single tasks. The committees are made up of directors, officers and general membership. Our committees are:

1. Annual Meeting
2. Activities
3. Awards
4. Communications
5. Elections
6. ITS Plan Review Training
7. Legislative
8. Membership
9. Networking/Social Activities
10. Public Official Education
11. Scholarships
12. Student Chapter (New)



ITS Georgia Scholarship winners. Click the picture to read the article on page 8.



ITS Georgia board meeting, March 30, 2016

Our members are heavily invested and give freely of their time. Our Board and Officers are comprised of 18 individuals, each of whom has a committee assignment. Additionally, many of our members chair or serve on one of our committees, which have Board member oversight. In addition to paying annual membership dues, a record 46 member organizations provided additional financial support through various sponsorship opportunities or by exhibiting at our 2015 annual meeting.

ITS Georgia is on sound financial footing which allows us to support a number of ITS-related activities, including a monthly stipend for a newly-formed student chapter and scholarships at the graduate level. For the seventh consecutive year, we endowed the Wayne Shackelford ITS Scholarship in honor of our chapter co-founder and ITS implementation pioneer. We co-sponsored the annual Engineer’s Week Gala, where our chapter Treasurer was recognized as an outstanding volunteer. We are also the founding sponsor of the [Traffic Incident Management Enhancement \(TIME\) Task Force](#).

ITS America’s Sr. Vice President for Government and External Affairs, Paul Feenstra, was our keynote speaker at the 2015 annual meeting. We actively support ITS America and fellow state chapters by promoting their events as requested on our web site, Facebook and Twitter. The ITS Georgia bylaws require that at least half of all officers of the organization be members of ITS America. Keith Parker, CEO of MARTA, an ITS Georgia member organization, serves on the Board of Directors of ITS America. Ten ITS Georgia member organizations were sponsors of the 2015 ITS America Annual meeting in Pittsburgh. Several representatives from ITS Georgia attended the annual meeting, as well as other state chapters’ annual meetings. Our chapter also holds two seats on the board of the Georgia Engineering Alliance.

Significant Impact via Networking, Outreach, and Advocacy

Providing opportunities for our members to network is one of the chapter’s highest priorities. We offer a more structured format for networking at our monthly chapter meetings and annual conference, plus we’ve now added monthly, informal social gatherings. These popular social gatherings range from brewery tours, to Major League Baseball games to trivia, bingo and Top Golf.

We use a combination of traditional, digital and social media to help spread the word about the benefits of ITS. In every edition of the [Engineering Georgia](#) magazine, the ITS Georgia president promotes the chapter and its activities. This regular column is devoted to chapter news and ITS innovations that benefit the community. The magazine is published six times a year by the Georgia Engineering Alliance and has a

circulation of over 10,000 including professionals in public and private sector engineering, government and universities. With a seat on the editorial board, the chapter is able to drive content of the magazine toward ITS and its benefits such as a recent article on [connected vehicles](#) (see page 32).



Our email and social media following continues to grow to more than 1,300 friends, followers and subscribers. Our web site, www.itsga.org routinely draws 2,000 visitors per month. One of the more popular places to visit on the site in the Knowledgebase. The current number one download is a presentation on ramp meters by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Effective Organizational and Professional Development

ITS Georgia provided its members with 37 Professional Development Hour credits since June 2015 through monthly meetings, workshops and our annual meeting. [Reference Rule 180-11-03(4)(d), Georgia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors]. The topics covered a wide range designed to give our members better understanding of our rapidly evolving industry.

Month	Topic	Attendees
June	Vehicle detection	70
July	Linking passengers and vehicles	65
August	Transportation funding outlook	70
August	Workshop – Signal timing (limited seating- sold out)	15
September	Annual meeting	137
October	Student Chapter kick off	70
December	Workshop – Connected vehicles 102 (sold out)	50
January	TMC renovation tour (sold out)	63
February	Scholarship winners’ presentations (Joint meeting with student chapter)	87
March	Performance-based design	75
April	ITS and large urban event management	85

Recognizing excellence is a way for ITS professionals to get their work noticed in a positive way by policy makers and system owners. Our project of significance in 2015 was the Perimeter Traffic Operations Program, a multi-agency, public/private effort to improve congestion and mobility within the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (CIDs), a high density commercial, retail and residential area along I-285 north of Atlanta. The three-year, \$3 million project involves the state, two counties, three cities and two CIDs.



2015 ITS Georgia President Tom Sever presents GDOT’s Matt Glasser (L) and Keith Murphy (R) the Innovation Award for winter storm preparation.

After a disastrous winter storm gridlocked much of North Georgia in 2014, Georgia DOT’s Winter Weather Response Plan and preparedness program was recognized as our Outside the Box award. This program included enhanced data collection through Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS), traffic monitoring through additional CCTV cameras and communication networking with GDOT’s NaviGator Advanced Traffic Management System.

Other awards presented by the chapter were Outstanding Public Member: Gwinnett DOT, Outstanding Volunteer: Xuewen Le, P.E. and The Larry R. Dreihaupt award for outstanding leadership: Tom Sever, P.E.



ITS Georgia President Mike Holt (L) at the Building Georgia Day event February 10, 2016.

Through our active participation in the Georgia Engineering Alliance (GEA), the chapter is part of an annual meeting with members of the Georgia legislature, called Building Georgia day. This provides an opportunity for our members to meet with state-level policy makers to “press the flesh” and spread the word about the benefits of ITS solutions. Our President attended to support transportation and technology legislation. This event was attended by many legislators, and panel discussion included Automated and Connected Vehicles legislation.

A major accomplishment for ITS Georgia in the fall of 2015 was the formation of a student chapter based at Georgia Tech which held its first stand-alone meeting in January 2016. The chapter serves the Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Public Policy, Business Administration, and Industrial Engineer majors. ITSA@GT meets monthly during the school term with support from ITS Georgia. We also have put in place a mentoring program to match ITS Georgia members with students. Additionally, we provide free access to students at our chapter meetings.

Lastly, it’s not all work. Our monthly social gathering provides our members with a chance to get to know each other on a more personal basis and have some fun. The most popular social event is the annual Atlanta Braves outing. We hosted this event with Georgia Section ITE. In September 2015, nearly 70 joined in for tailgating and socializing.

