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Acronyms in this issue

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials	ISU	Iowa State University
CTRE	Center for Transportation Research and Education	LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration	Iowa DOT	Iowa Department of Transportation
		MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Enhancing Iowa transit with technology

CTRE IS SUPPORTING the Iowa DOT's Office of Public Transit in developing a statewide plan for implementing intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technologies in public transit. In Iowa, public transit consists primarily of buses that provide either fixed-schedule or on-request services.

Dennis Kroeger, research specialist at CTRE, says, "Transit ITS technologies have the capability of reducing travel times and improving the overall operation of the transportation network. For example, automatic vehicle location systems can increase schedule adherence and reduce passenger waiting time."

A step at a time

As one step toward developing a statewide transit ITS plan, in November 2001 the Iowa DOT held an expo of transit ITS technologies. Transit personnel from across Iowa met vendors of systems for automatic vehicle location, electronic fare collection using pre-paid cards, automatic passenger counts, and computer-aided dispatch and scheduling.

Next steps involve

1. Hiring a contractor to determine transit ITS technology needs and develop a business plan.
2. Developing a comprehensive record of available technologies and a plan for implementing needed and/or new technologies.
3. Implementing the plan.

The Iowa DOT is currently interviewing potential contractors. A contractor will be selected and the project will begin early in 2002.

For more information

For more information about the Iowa transit ITS plan, contact Dennis Kroeger, 515-294-8103, kroeger@iastate.edu, or Kay Thede, Iowa DOT's public transit policy specialist, 515-239-1048, kay.thede@dot.state.ia.us.

For information about other ITS projects in Iowa, visit the Iowa DOT's *OnTrack* website, www.iowaontrack.com. See page 10 of this issue for information about Transit Cooperative Research Program publications for loan from CTRE's library. •

Iowa will host Heartland chapter of ITS America

ITS America, Heartland Chapter Conference
University Park Holiday Inn
West Des Moines
March 26-28, 2002

IN MARCH Iowa will host the third annual conference of the Heartland chapter of ITS America. The chapter includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. ITS policy makers, technicians, and academicians are invited to attend. The event will feature sessions concerning I-235 reconstruction, transit, 511 traveler information successes, incident management strategies, and multimodal information issues.

Watch ITS America's website for registration information: www.itshearland.org. •