NATIONAL RURAL ITS CONFERENCE

“Advancing Rural ITS....Southern Style”
Summer 2012
Biloxi, Mississippi

Hosted by:
Conference Ambassadors

- Acey Roberts, MDOT ITS Engineer
  Gulf Region ITS Treasurer
- Marshall Elizer, Gresham Smith and Partners
  Gulf Region ITS Board of Directors
- Mike Stokes, MDOT ITS Program Director
  Gulf Region ITS President

Supported by:

- The 2010 NRITS Conference Planning Committee
- Mississippi DOT Public Relations Office
Welcome to Biloxi, Mississippi

- 300 year old settlement on the Gulf of Mexico
- 6 Nations have laid claim to the Biloxi area
- The perfect mix of southern hospitality and modern amenities
- Population 50,000
- 12 Las Vegas style resort/casinos along the MS Gulf Coast
The Mississippi Gulf Coast

- 11 cities along the coast, each with a different personality
- Multicultural heritage - French, Spanish, Creole & Southern influences
- Enjoy the beauty of the coast by walking the beach, paddling up the bayous, and sailing the sound— or enjoying a drink overlooking the harbor
- Eateries to satisfy every taste, from Po’Boys and Cajun cooking to Japanese and Brazilian
Getting Here

Gulfport-Biloxi Intl. Airport (GPT) -- 15 minutes
- $250 RT from Denver, $300 from Seattle

Mobile Regional Airport (MOB) -- 50 minutes
- $250 RT from Baltimore, $330 from Kansas City

Louis Armstrong New Orleans Intl. Airport (MSY) -- 90 minutes
- $160 RT from Chicago O’Hare, $325 from Salt Lake City

All with major car rental, shuttles and taxis
Host Facility

MGM - Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
Biloxi, MS
Meeting Facilities

Magnolia Ballroom
17,000 sq ft – Meals and Vendors

Azalea Ballroom
4,400 Sq ft  Breakouts
Hotel Amenities
Many Other Nearby Accommodations

Hard Rock  The Grand  Imperial Palace  The Isle of Capri
New Palace  Treasure Bay

…and several major chains

Sheraton  Hampton Inn  Holiday Inn  Ramada  Econo Lodge
Many Area Activities/Attractions for Groups & Families
Area Activities/Attractions

- Museums, art galleries
- Concerts & performing arts
- Historic sites & mansions
- NASA’s Stennis Space Center
- Shopping, spas & nightlife
- Boat & sailing cruises
- Shrimping trips
- Charter boats/sport fishing
- Biking, hiking, horse riding
- Water & fun parks
- Golf
Golf Event – Fallen Oak

- Tom Fazio designed
- MS #1 course says Golfweek
- Named “2010 Best Course You Can Play”
- Many other area courses available
And the Food is Amazing Here!!
A Little Bit About GRITS

- Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama
- Newest ITSA chapter, incorporated 2009
- Diverse membership -- state DOTs, local agencies, MPOs, transit, universities, vendors
- 2008 ITS Forum - Philadelphia, MS
  - 161 attendees, 6 sponsors, 7 exhibitors
- 2009 GRITS Annual Mtg -- Biloxi
  - 214 attendees, 11 sponsors, 27 exhibitors
- 2010 GRITS Annual Mtg -- Baton Rouge, Nov. 16-18
Strong Local & Regional Support

- GRITS Chapter & MDOT leads the 2012 Conference Planning Committee
- Major support from LaDOTD & ALDOT
- Endorsement & support from other gulf chapters - ITS Florida, ITS Georgia, ITS Texas
- Past two GRITS meetings & SASHTO highly successful in attendees, sponsors, exhibits
- Broad government & industry participation
Academic/Research Involvement

- Auburn University
- The University of Alabama
- Jackson State University
- Louisiana State University
- Mississippi State University
- The University of Mississippi
- The University of Montevallo (AL)
- The University of Southern Mississippi
- ..and others
Conference Focus

Advancing Rural ITS.....Southern Style

- Incident Management
- Transit Operations
- Hurricane Preparations/ Evacuations
- Tourism & Traveler Information
- ITS Safety
- Rural Weather Systems
Proposed Agenda

Day One

 Registration
 Vendor Setup
 Golf Outing – Fallen Oak
 Welcome / Reception – Walter Anderson Art Museum or beach event
Proposed Agenda

Day Two

- Welcome Session
- Technical Sessions / Workshops
- Technical Tours – Hwy 90 Reconstruction – Coast Transit / Regional TMC
- Evening Reception – Beauvoir: Home of Jefferson Davis
Proposed Agenda

Day Three

- Welcome Session
- Technical Sessions / Workshops
- Technical Tours – ALDOT Tunnel – Mobile, AL / I-10 Smart Work Zone
- Evening Reception – Ship Island Sunset Cruise
Proposed Agenda

Day Four

- Welcome Session
- Technical Sessions / Workshops
- Rural SIG Meeting
Potential Keynote Speakers

- MDOT Executive Director & 2010 AASHTO President – Butch Brown
- MS Southern District Transportation Commissioner – Wayne Brown
- ITS America President – Scott Belcher
- FHWA – Jeff Paniati, Jeff Lindley
- USDOT JPO – Shelley Row, John Augustine
- ITS Program Managers
  - Mike Stokes, Mississippi DOT
  - Steve Glascock, Louisiana DOTD
  - Gary Moore, Alabama DOT
- Mayor of Biloxi – A.J. Holloway
Training Opportunities

- Many possibilities....select in late 2011
- Some courses available today:
  - Managing Traffic Incident and Roadway Emergencies
  - Using the Incident Command System at Highway Incidents
  - ITS Applications in Transit Management Operations
  - Principles and Tools for Road Weather Management
  - Integrated Transportation Management for Small- and Medium-Sized Communities
  - Managing High Technology Projects in Transportation
  - Rural ITS Toolbox
So Why Choose Biloxi, Mississippi?

- It’s rural
- It’s historical
- It has lots of friendly people
- It’s easy to get to and affordable
- It has tremendous gulf coast & southern food
- Accommodations are outstanding & affordable
- Activities are diverse & plentiful
- The entire region has a growing, diverse ITS program
- We really, really want you here !!!
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Biloxi, MS

See Ya’ll There!

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