

ITS Florida Honor Roll

Welcome Mike Akridge into the ITS Florida Honor Roll! The honor roll identifies a person who has retired from the transportation business and who has greatly contributed to ITS during their career.



L. A. Griffin, Mike Akridge, Dale Cody, Dr. Oloufa

Mike Akridge was inducted on June 23, 2009 into the ITS Florida Honor Roll. L. A. Griffin, ITS Florida's President, and Board Members Dale Cody and Dr. Amr Oloufa presented Mike with this prestigious award during a ceremony in Orlando.

Mike was presented with this honor in recognition of his service throughout his many years with the Florida Department of Transportation. He served from FDOT from 1992 until his retirement February 26, 2009. During these years he routinely demonstrated his passion and leadership in the deployment of ITS Technology and project initiatives. He also assisted ITS Florida with the Road Ranger project in 2008.

**Save These Dates!
Annual Retreat
August 11-12
Annual Meeting
December 8**

ITS Florida will hold its Annual Retreat in **Clearwater** on **August 11-12, 2009**. Lunch will be served on August 11th followed by the Board of Directors meeting and the retreat. On August 12, we will start with breakfast and continue the leadership retreat. Look for the details in the near future. Please RSVP [ITS Florida](http://ITSFlorida.com).

The ITS Florida Annual Meeting is still in the planning phase. The Board of Director's meeting will be held **December 8th** in the **Orlando** area. The Professional Development Committee (PCB) is planning an instructor led training course to coincide with the Board Meeting and Annual Awards Dinner.

**My ITSA 09 Experience
By Gregg Letts**

This year I was able to attend ITS America's 2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition at the Gaylord National Hotel & Resort in National Harbor, Maryland. During my short tenure in



ITS, I have been fortunate to attend numerous Annual Meetings; this being my 6th. It was an additional honor for me, this 2nd consecutive year, to be able to moderate two technical sessions that included highly knowledgeable speakers from around the country. Each one was more passionate than the next who brought thought provoking presentations to not only our audiences, but to me as well. They made my job extremely easy and I would recommend to anyone in the industry to volunteer as a Moderator at an upcoming event.

Each year, I am amazed at the cities and venues chosen to host and this year did not disappoint either. Though the attendees from my company, AECOM, chose to stay in Alexandria, VA (for some cost savings), everyone I spoke to about the host location had nothing but flattering remarks. I actually enjoyed the drive each day over the I-275 bridge seeing the gigantic convention center across the river - not to mention being able to see the Washington Monument on the north side of the bridge. It's very easy to get a huge sense of national pride in DC!



Once inside the venue, the event ran as smoothly as ever. From registration, to demonstrations, to plenum and individual sessions and the exhibition floor, all was well coordinated and organized. Other than the Opening Awards Session (we'll get 'em next year) and an extremely informative, standing room only Congressional Fact Finding Session on the Future of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)-Based User Fees, I spent most of my time in the Exhibition Hall. In our industry, and

especially as a consultant, it is imperative to stay up to date with new products and services as well as taking the time to meet with current (or old) contacts and vendors to learn about product updates of devices already in place for our customers.

Sporting my ITS Florida lapel pin with pride, I also used my time on the floor to our Society's advantage; passing out "Save the Date" cards for ITSA World Congress in Orlando 2011. This afforded me the opportunity to meet even more people while generating interest for the upcoming event...and I had a blast "representing".

Much kudos to the ITSA Staff for producing and facilitating another great event and I look forward to attending next year's Annual Meeting in Houston, TX as well as continuing to support ITS Florida in our task to "knock their socks off" in Orlando 2011!

ITS Florida Exhibit

Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) along with TEAMFL is holding a FBT/TEAMFL Transportation Summit July 16 & 17 at the TradeWinds Island Resort on beautiful St. Pete Beach.

ITS Florida will have a table at this event to display your company logos. The ITS Florida exhibit will also have the latest membership information, polo shirts, Transpo2010 and ITS World Congress 2011 information.



The IBTTA meeting held at the Grand Hyatt in Tampa on June 14-16 was well attended. ITS Florida had its exhibit strategically placed so that all attendees passed the table many times during the event.

If you have not updated your logo, please consider this so that we can display the appropriate logos. Don't miss out on this ITS Florida benefit.



Happy July 4th