



**ITS-CT Annual Meeting Recap: Real Time Travel Information, I-95 Vehicle Probe Project** by Ewa Zofka, WSA/

On September 17<sup>th</sup> ITS CT held its Annual Meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. This year we had a pleasure to host Mr. Scott Belcher ITS America President, during the Board of Directors Meeting as well as during the opening session.



Scott shared ITS America goals and objectives for the upcoming year and strategies ITS America wants to introduce to achieve these goals. Scott also provided update on the upcoming ITS World Congress in

New York City on November 16-20<sup>th</sup>.

ITS-CT also held officers elections during the Business Meeting session. Kristen Solloway of Fuss & O’Neill was elected the 2008-2009 president of the ITS CT Chapter and Joe Balskus of Tighe & Bond became an immediate past president. Karen Olson of CROG became a vice-president, and Koreen Bjorklund of Daktronics became a secretary. Sharat Kalluri of WSA remained our treasurer.

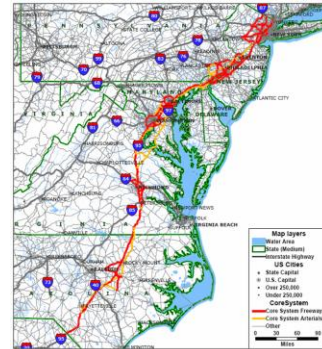
**Congratulations to the new 2008-2009 Board of Directors!!!**

This year we had two technical sessions devoted to I-95 Vehicle Probe Project. First presentation was made by Bill Stockert of I-95 Corridor Coalition.



Bill provided overview of what I-95 coalition stands for and what are the partnering benefits. I-95 coalition is the partnership of transportation agencies

from Maine to Florida with affiliates in Canada. Bill also talked about the Vehicle Probe Project. He mentioned that the GPS network coverage includes 1,500 freeway miles and 1,000 arterial miles located from New Jersey to North Carolina.



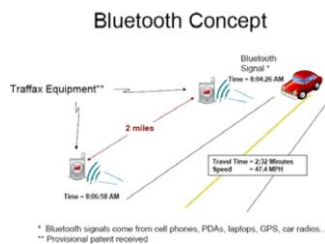
This project provides applications in the following areas of ITS: Regional Incident Management, Traveler Information Web Sites, Agency 511 Systems, Travel Time on Signs, Corridor Performance Measures, Project Monitoring Website, Support for ICAT & ISN. The main features of the Vehicle Probe Project program include: real-time speed, travel time, confidence level expected speed, free flow speed, and travel time updates every two minutes. This real time data is available to member agencies only. Bill also noted that the beginning of the data flowing started on July

1, 2008 in NY, NJ, MD, DE, VA, and NC. Another aspect of this project is privacy which is covered by the applicable state laws and data ownership (INRIX retains ownership of the data).

The second presentation was made by Rick Schuman of INRIX.



INRIX is the prime contractor on the I-95 Vehicle Probe Project. Rick talked about data format required and also its validation process. Locations for data collection are chosen in cooperation with agencies to identify high congestion areas. Ground truth data is collected from floating cars and Bluetooth anonymous probes.



Sample applications of this data include traveler information accessible via the websites, traffic alerts on 511 and emails,

travel time posted on DMS, situational awareness at TMCs (i.e. evacuations support), and performance monitoring. The most interesting part of Rick's presentation was the real life presentation of the probe data displayed on the map. Rick connected to the Internet and accessed the password protected traveler information portion of the project website ([http://www.i95coalition.org/travinfo\\_state.html](http://www.i95coalition.org/travinfo_state.html)). Once logged in he was able to browse real time traffic volumes currently expected in Connecticut as an example.



After the presentations we had a social hour gathering and dinner with keynote speakers being the past and the next presidents of the ITS-CT chapter.



The annual ITS-CT outstanding project and leadership awards were also distributed during

the dinner reception. City of Norwalk represented by Fred Eshraghi received the ITS Leadership Award for the ITS Strategic Plan Implementation for "Smart Travel".



Another award for the ITS Outstanding Project of the Year went to Conn/DOT for the Igor Sikorsky Memorial Bridge – Connecticut's "Smartest" Bridge. Jay Koolis of Parsons Brinkerhoff picked up the award on behalf of Conn/DOT.



Joe Balskus received the past president award handed by the new ITS-CT chapter president Kristen Solloway. Once again congratulations to all award recipients for 2007-2008!!!

