IMSA Members Can Now Take Advantage of the New “NTOC Talks” Internet Resource

Welcome to NTOC Talks, a national resource on Transportation Management and Operations (M&O) and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This site is intended to provide information and resources to transportation practitioners, coalition members, and the general public on current news, upcoming meetings, and available products and documents.

IMSA is a member of the National Transportation Operations Coalition, or “NTOC.” The new NTOC Talks website (accessible from the www.IMSAsafety.org of IMSA’s website, or directly at www.ntoctalks.com/imsa/) highlights the activities and products of the National Transportation Operations Coalition and its members, and links to supporting resources from other sources, as well. The website has multiple complementary objectives, including:

- Alerting transportation professionals about valuable upcoming events and resources, including the free NTOC-sponsored “Talking Operations” web casts.
- Providing links to a wide range of valuable Transportation Management and Operations (M&O) and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) resources.
- Helping get the word out about NTOC member organizations’ new M&O/ITS products (reports, white papers, training sessions, conferences and workshops).

The NTOC Talks website is organized for easy access to a wide variety of resources. From the left-side menu you can access the list of NTOC member organizations, discussion forums, Web Casts, ITS and M&O resources, calendars of events and training opportunities, and the web version of the popular ICDN Newsletter. Here’s a snapshot of key elements of the NTOC website:

Discussion Forums (click on “Forums” from the left-side menu)

NTOC Talks features two web-based discussion forums: the ITS Technology Forum and Talking Operations Forum. The ITS Technology Forum supports a two-way dialog among those transportation professionals involved in planning, researching, deploying, and operating ITS technologies. It is a place where practitioners can share “lessons learned” related to understanding, evaluating, and deploying ITS technologies.

The new Talking Operations Forum has a dual role: 1) To complement and support the new Talking Operations Web Casts, and 2) To enable managers and practitioners to share their own ideas, thoughts and insight on how we can collectively operate and manage our surface transportation system better. Important issues raised at each Talking Operations Web Cast are posted on the Talking Operations Forum, to foster a broader dialogue on possible solutions to these challenges.

Talking Operations Web Casts (click on “Web Casts” from the left-side menu)

This section lists upcoming Talking Operations web casts (including topics and speakers) and links to the web cast registration website (http://talkingoperations.webex.com). A complete archive is also provided for past web casts, including transcripts and audio and close-caption recordings.

ITS/M&O Resources (click on “Resources” from the left-side menu)

The Resources area of the NTOC Talks website lets users easily “drill down” to find valuable resources (web sites, white papers, directories, “lessons-learned” reports, and more). The site is organized into two different hierarchies:

1. ITS Resources by Type, and
2. Transportation Operations Resources by Objective

Since the resources area is database-driven, many resources are linked to the appropriate area in each hierarchy, making it easy for users to find the information they need coming through either the ITS or M&O “side of the house.” To find information, users can simply scroll down either menu to the appropriate category. Alternatively, they can link on the “View all resources” link to display the entire set of categories and subcategories.

Calendars (click on “Calendars” from the left-side menu)

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The Calendars area of NTOC Talks links to two different web-based calendars:

1. NTOC General Calendar, which lists conferences, workshops, and seminars (including Talking Operations web casts) that focus on ITS and M&O topics, and
2. ITS and Operations Training Calendar, which lists useful upcoming training opportunities, including both on-site and web-based training classes.

ICDN Newsletter (click on “Newsletter” from the left-side menu)

The ICDN Newsletter helps transportation professionals, companies, and agencies keep abreast of the latest developments in both ITS and M&O by alerting its readers about important news, opportunities, and emerging resources. The searchable web version of the newsletter always contains the most up-to-date information, and a popular twice-monthly email version is also available to those who prefer email delivery. Each month, the ICDN Newsletter includes exclusive articles highlighting “lessons-learned” and late-breaking initiatives related to ITS and M&O.

On the Talking Operation Seminars

The members of the National Transportation Operations Coalition (NTOC), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Office of Operations, is sponsoring “Talking Operations,” a series of monthly seminars via the telephone and Internet designed to introduce and educate stakeholders on current trends, tools, and noteworthy practices in Transportation Management and Operations (M&O) and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This series is part of a larger outreach initiative by the NTOC aimed at providing technical assistance, training, tools, and information that will help transportation practitioners, decision makers, and the general public meet the transportation challenges of tomorrow by understanding the benefits M&O and ITS can provide for transportation systems today!

The “Talking Operations” seminars will be held on a monthly basis throughout the year and are open to both the public and private sectors. The schedule of seminars and registration information can be found on the reverse or by visiting http://talkingoperations.webex.com. If you have questions, please call or email Jennifer Seplow, SAIC, at 703-676-6849, Jennifer.E.Seplow@saic.com.

Why dial in?
With limited travel budgets and busy work schedules, it has become increasingly more difficult for practitioners and decision makers to obtain the information needed to understand the current state-of-practice and continue to provide services that are efficient and effective. These seminars provide a convenient way for practitioners to broaden their knowledgebase and develop new skills to help them do their jobs better and make more informed decisions, all at no cost to participate.

How it works
The seminars are interactive and participants need only have a telephone and a 55K Internet connection. Each seminar will last 90 minutes, with 60 minutes allocated for presentations, and 30 minutes for participant question and answer. Through the use of web conferencing, participants will be able to view the speaker’s presentation on their personal computer while listening to the audio portion of the presentation by dialing into the assigned teleconference number.

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2005 Seminar Schedule

April 27, 2005
12:45 pm- 2:30 pm EST

Planned Special Events, the Challenges of Managing Traffic

IMSA

WIRELESS TRAFFIC SYSTEM SOLUTIONS

Solar-powered flashing beacons for school zones, pedestrian crosswalks, road hazards, stop signs, radar speed displays and specialty systems for EMS, ITS & HAR

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