AUSTIN AREA-WIDE IVHS PLAN and IH-35 CORRIDOR DEPLOYMENT PLAN

Submitted to the

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Region 6 Texas Division

Prepared by the

Texas Department of Transportation
Austin District
Transportation Operations

In cooperation with the

City of Austin
Department of Public Works and Transportation

With the assistance of the

University of Texas at Austin
Center for Transportation Research
and
Wilbur Smith Associates

February 1998

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The principal investigators for the TxDOT Austin District included Ms. Imelda Barrett, P.E. and Mr. Brian D. Burk, P.E. Principal investigators from the City of Austin Department of Public Works and Transportation were Mr. James J. Dale and Mr. Alan Hughes. P.E. Additional assistance was provided by Mr. David G. Gerrard, P.E., Mr. Ali Modzbar, P.E., Ms. Samileh Mozafari, P.E., Mr. Enoch N Needham, P.E., and Mr. Denton Zebrowski.

The authors also wish to thank Mr. Jerry DeCamp, P.E., Ms. Karen Glynn, P.E., and Mr. John Roscher without whose initial enthusiasm and dedication this report would not have been possible.

DISCLAIMER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents a significant and largely in-house effort by the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of Austin to study and develop an intelligent transportation system (ITS) deployment plan for the Austin area. ITS issues, strategies, and technologies pertinent to the Austin area are discussed in relation to distinct tasks.

The objectives of this study are designed to support the future operational tests and implementation of ITS user services by various agencies on corridors in the Austin metropolitan area. Specific objectives for this study are:

- Develop organizational structure,
- Develop area wide ITS plan, and
- Deployment on IH 35 corridor.

Important milestones have been reached during this study that will enable a successfully integrated intelligent transportation system for the Austin area. These milestones form a strong and stable foundation for future integrated ITS initiatives.

An organizational structure was formed during the completion of Task I and Task II that created and cemented partnerships between transportation and emergency service agencies across treacherous jurisdictional boundaries. These partnerships have been strengthened throughout the rest of the study and support a strong foundation for future integrated ITS initiatives.

Private commodity freight transportation was also identified in Task I as a significant partner in future ITS deployment in the Austin area. The concerns of this important local ITS stakeholder have been included in the recommended local ITS deployment process developed in this study.

Results of Tasks III, IV, and VI reveal a clear direction in deployment of ITS techniques and technologies for the Austin area. Surveillance identified a cost effective technique with reliable and proven technology vital to support the operation and evaluation of future ITS deployment initiatives in the Austin area. Information available from surveillance techniques and technologies supports virtually every ITS user service making it the idea priority for deployment in the Austin area.

Issues needing resolution to successfully implement a strategic plan are discussed in Task V. A strategic plan identifying four areas for deploying ITS in the Austin area are presented. These four strategic areas are:

- Surveillance,
- Incident Management,
- Centralized and Multi-Agency Service Center, and
- Traveler Information.

Finally, Task VII identifies plans, specifications, and estimate (PS&E) for three specific projects designed to support study objectives and the strategic plan. These projects signify the genesis of integrated ITS deployment recommended in this study.

ORGANIZATION OF REPORT

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