



Western States

Rural Transportation Technology Implementers

Forum

June 16-18, 2026

Grass Valley, California

You are cordially invited to submit an abstract for the 21st Annual Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum in 2026.

About the Forum

The Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum is an annual event where implementers of ITS technologies have the opportunity to share technical information on best practices and field deployment experiences with fellow practitioners from across the western United States. Forum attendees include professionals with hands-on involvement in ITS design and engineering, communications system development, systems integration, and field maintenance. The Forum consists of five to six highly interactive technical presentations, ranging in length from 1 to 2 hours each, in-depth equipment demonstrations, and numerous opportunities for networking with peers. The goal of the Forum is to provide for a high-quality exchange of technical information that can help to support better ITS deployment in rural areas.

The Western States Forum is sponsored by the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium. With this support, registration and participation costs have been subsidized to make it easier for people to attend.

Topic Areas

We are looking for speakers who will give presentations or demonstrations regarding actual projects and applications (not research or proposed projects), with a highly technical level of content and transparency regarding what works and what does not. Participation is highly encouraged from speakers who can discuss and/or demonstrate a project implemented or improved because of participation in a past Forum. Speakers are asked to prepare PowerPoint slides to guide their presentation and are encouraged to bring system components for attendees to examine, or use live demonstrations to provide a more interactive presentation. Demonstrations should have equipment on site and be fully functional with enough documentation to clearly explain what is being shown.

We welcome presentations or demonstrations on a variety of topic areas related to ITS design and engineering in rural areas, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Design, engineering and installation of rural ITS field applications, such as warning and safety systems
- Design, installation, calibration and evaluation of roadside traffic detection equipment (loop or non-intrusive)
- Applications of microwave, radio, cellular, and/or 802.11 WiFi communications
- Custom ITS application development
- Innovative applications of commercial ITS applications
- Lessons learned with application and development of standards and specifications (e.g., NTCIP, DOT specifications)

Advancing Rural Transportation Through Research and Education

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Partial list of presentations from previous Forums

- A Tale of Two RWISs (RWIS Trials and Tribulations)
- ASWSC Phase 3: Migration of the Automated Safety Warning System Controller to the Caltrans Advanced Transportation Controller Platform
- Fiber Optic Systems in Rural Areas: Building and Leveraging Fiber Systems
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Backup Power Systems for ITS Applications
- Idaho's Winter Performance Measures
- Innovative Uses of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Technology
- Multnomah Falls Parking Management System
- Organic vs. Purchased Data for Travel Time Predictions
- Pikalert: NSF-NCAR's Road Weather Hazard Prediction System
- PPPoE Security on Networks Utilizing Ethernet Interfaces
- Technical Development of the Western States One Stop Shop for Rural Traveler Information
- Traffic Monitoring Using Fiber Optic Sensing
- UDOT Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures
- UDOT's Statewide Wrong-Way Detection Project
- Washington State DOT LED Adaptive Roadway Lighting and Illumination Reform
- Weather Warning Systems in Oregon and Region 5 Interstate Access Gates

Review a complete list of presentations from previous Forums on the Forum website at:

www.westernstatesforum.org/PastForums/

Submission Instructions

If you have a topic that you would like to present at the Forum, please e-mail the following information to leann.koon@montana.edu by **Friday, January 16, 2026**:

- Presenter's Name, Title and Organizational Affiliation
- Presenter's Contact Information (mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number)
- Presentation Title
- Abstract (150-200 words about what your presentation or demonstration would cover)

If your abstract is selected for presentation, your travel and lodging costs to attend the Forum will be covered.

Deadlines

Once the abstract is received, it will be reviewed by the Forum steering committee. If your abstract is accepted for presentation at the Forum, the following deadlines have been established to ensure that there is adequate time for presentation preparation and review. Presenters are not required to submit a paper.

- **January 16, 2026:** Deadline for receipt of abstracts
- **January 30, 2026:** Notification regarding acceptance of abstracts
- **March 13, 2026:** Deadline for receipt of first draft of technical presentation or demonstration
- **April 17, 2026:** Deadline for receipt of second draft of technical presentation or demonstration
- **May 15, 2026:** Deadline for receipt of final presentation/demonstration
- **June 16-18, 2026:** Western States Forum (**Grass Valley, California**)



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**Rural Transportation
Technology Implementers**
Forum

For more information, please contact
Leann Koon at WTI
leann.koon@montana.edu or go to
www.westernstatesforum.org



*The Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum
is sponsored by the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium.*