



Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum

New Location

June 16-18, 2026

Gold Miners Inn
Grass Valley, California



www.westernstatesforum.org

WHAT IS IT?



The Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum is a two-day meeting where professionals involved with implementing transportation technology solutions exchange detailed technical information about how solutions are engineered and implemented. It is a time for dynamic discussion of practical and technical issues associated with rural ITS, to promote transferability of solutions and knowledge across the ITS community.

The Forum places high importance on the following:

Technical content.

Presenters delve into how solutions were developed, focusing on applications that have been deployed in the field and are being used in live traffic situations. Technical presentations are planned for one to two hours each, ensuring that this level of detail may be presented and understood.

Discussion.

Attendance is limited and extended time is allocated to facilitate and encourage detailed technical discussions.

Transparency and trust.

Presenters will discuss not only successes, but also failed and problematic deployments, so participants can learn about what does and doesn't work and why.

Who should attend?

ITS technology practitioners at the state and local level:

- Field engineers and maintenance staff
- Systems integration/networking engineers
- Wireless/communications technicians

When and where is it?

- June 16-18, 2026
- **Gold Miners Inn, Grass Valley, California**

For over 20 years, we and many of our peers have met annually for a peer exchange event called the Western States Rural Transportation Technology Implementers Forum. The Forum has provided ITS implementers and engineers with a valuable opportunity to engage in a detailed level of discussion about innovative ITS engineering projects designed to support the rural transportation system. We have found the Forum valuable, not only for the detailed and knowledgeable presentations, but also for the times outside of sessions where we can network with our peers from several western states.

The 21st annual Western States Forum will take place June 16-18, 2026, in scenic Grass Valley, California, through the Western States Rural Transportation Consortium (WSRTC). The standard of excellence in technical content will continue with a range of new technical topics and engaging demonstrations. Attendees are encouraged to bring equipment to demonstrate to their peers.

The Western States Forum is not like other meetings. You will see that we provide extended time for each presentation, allowing speakers to get into a far greater level of detail about the projects, whether it relates to equations, source code or component-level discussion — basically the nuts and bolts of how a project works. Being a technically focused event with a cap on the number of attendees, the Forum has a more informal atmosphere, allowing for an open exchange of ideas and a better chance to network with peers. Through WSRTC sponsorship, we are able to keep the event quite affordable. Lodging at the Gold Miners Inn is available at the state government rate and the cost of all meals is covered. There is no registration fee.

With networking opportunities, in-depth and relevant technical program, excellent location, low cost, and quality facilities, this will be an event you won't want to miss.

We hope you will join us June 16-18 in Grass Valley!

Andres Chavez, P.E.

*Chief, Rural ITS and Special Projects Research Branch
Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation, and System Information*

Jeremiah Pearce, P.E.

*Chief, Office of ITS Engineering and Support
Caltrans District 2*

Please register online:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2bubuu>

Registration deadline:

May 15th, 2026



2026 AGENDA



Tuesday, June 16, 2026

4:00 - 7:00 pm Registration

5:00 - 6:30 pm *No-Host Social*

6:30 - 9:00 pm *Dinner Reception*

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 am *Breakfast*

8:00 - 8:15 am Welcome and Introductions

8:15 am - 12:00 pm Technical Presentations/Demonstrations

12:00 - 1:00 pm *Lunch*

1:00 - 5:00 pm Technical Presentations/Demonstrations

5:00 - 5:15 pm Comments, Evaluations

6:00 pm *Evening Dinner/Social*

Thursday, June 18, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 am *Breakfast*

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Technical Presentations/Demonstrations

12:00 - 1:00 pm *Lunch*

12:45 - 1:00 pm Concluding Remarks, Evaluations

2026 INVITED PRESENTATIONS/DEMONSTRATIONS



- Arizona Dust System (Arizona DOT)
- Chain-Up Delay Tracking and Estimation (Caltrans District 2, Montana Tech)
- Design and Deployment of WSDOT Truck Parking Information Management System (Washington State DOT)
- Nevada's Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) Pilot Project (Nevada DOT)
- Powering ITS Devices in Challenging Environments (Utah DOT)
- Remote Monitoring and Control of Rural Warning Signs (Nevada DOT)
- Safepath Wrong Way Systems by WSDOT Southwest Region (Washington State DOT)

PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS



The following partial list of presentations from previous Forums will give you a sense of diversity and depth of topics covered at this meeting.

- 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

Go to www.westernstatesforum.org/PastForums/ for a complete list of presentations from previous Forums.



ONLINE EVENT REGISTRATION

Please register online:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc2bubuu>

Registration deadline:

May 15th, 2026



- Attendance is limited. Registration will close when the maximum number is reached or on May 15th, whichever comes first. Registration after the deadline will be dependent on space and lodging availability.

- To make your **lodging reservations**, please contact the **Gold Miners Inn by May 15th**.

Additional information:

Please contact Leann Koon

- Phone: (406) 994-7643
- Email: leann.koon@montana.edu



LODGING RESERVATIONS



Gold Miners Inn | Grass Valley, Ca

<https://www.goldminersinngrassvalley.com/>

- Please **call the Gold Miners Inn** directly to make a lodging reservation.

Phone: (530) 477-1700 Extn. 1

Address: Gold Miners Inn
121 Bank Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945

- Group reservation name: **"Western States Forum."**
- A credit card will be required to hold your room reservation and at check-in. Room charges will be made upon check-out.
- **Please make reservations by May 15th**.
- Reservations received after May 15th will be based on availability and the group rate may not be available.

Lodging Options*

- **Standard Single King or Standard Double Queen**
- \$173.00 / night + tax = \$191.04 / night (Government Rate).
- **A two-night minimum is required.**
- The lodging block is available for individual reservations to be guaranteed with a major credit card at the time of booking.
- Parking, Wi-Fi, Manager's Reception, and breakfast are included.

**Availability of each accommodation type within the block is limited and reservations will be filled on a first come first served basis.*

Cancellation Policy:

In the event of cancellation, each individual will be responsible for the cancellation charges for his or her own reservation with the credit card on file. No charges will be incurred if the cancellation notice is received more than 24 hours prior to the date of check-in. If the reservation is cancelled less than 24 hours before the scheduled arrival date, the individual will be responsible for the full room charge.

DIRECTIONS

- From CA 49 N, take exit 182A toward Colfax/ Grass Valley onto CA-174 E. Continue on Hansen Way and turn left onto Bank Street. Turn left into the hotel parking lot.
- From CA 49 S / CA 20 W, take exit 182A toward CA-174 / Colfax. Continue straight onto Tinloy Street and turn right onto Bank Street. Turn left into the hotel parking lot.

Closest Airports:

- Sacramento (SMF): 64 miles to the southwest
- Reno-Tahoe (RNO): 92 miles to the east

Map available online www.westernstatesforum.org

