

Welcome to the 2010 Arctic Ice and Snow Roads Conference. I'm Dr. Jeffrey Miller, the president of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Alaska and a professor of Computer Systems Engineering at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Although "transportation systems" is not considered a core area of computer engineering, my research is concerned with developing intelligent infrastructure for ITS applications. Coming originally from Los Angeles and tackling how to route vehicles along freeways that minimize the overall delay of their commutes, Alaska has required much adaptation and modification to my previous research in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems.

The Arctic Ice and Snow Roads Conference identifies and provides a forum for discussing challenges in the field of transportation that require unique solutions that are typically not even considered outside of cold-weather regions. Before the History Channel began broadcasting the show Ice Road Truckers, many people probably did not even realize the difficulty in transporting goods and people hundreds or thousands of miles through the Arctic so that many industries can survive. I don't think I need to enumerate all of the industries that rely on oil and gas to survive, but how many of those industries realize the dependence they have on Arctic ice roads?

Making these roads safer, more efficient, environmentally and ecologically friendly, identifying the future issues related to them, and studying the impact ice roads have locally and globally in numerous contexts provide a tremendous amount of material to cover in a single conference. Although this conference is only a single day as well, the knowledge and contacts made today will hopefully aid in improving Arctic ice roads in many ways.

On behalf of ITS Alaska, thank you for attending. I hope that you find this conference useful, exciting, and above all, educational.