

## REMARKS

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West Virginia Department of Transportation  
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Good morning, everyone. It is my pleasure to welcome you to West Virginia for this 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual GIS Symposium.

GIS technology has been a major tool in improving our Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Standard Sample Management program.

Gone are the days of manually plotting the standard samples on a copy of a crowded county map and guessing at the mile point locations and having to completely redo the map manually if many changes were made.

With our current capability, it is now a simple matter of changing the database and printing a new map.

In addition, we can selectively query the data in many different ways such as ADT volume groups, pavement types or functional classifications and display it on a map with color coding in a fraction of the time it would have taken without the GIS capability.

We started our Geospatial Transportation Information System (GTIS) with a single mission and only one person. With its success, driven by the hard work and dedication of Hussein Elkhansa, I'm proud to say that it has grown it into its own section with more than 20 employees.

Thanks to the support and cooperation of Bob Plymale and the entire Rahall Transportation Institute, the Federal Highway Administration and AASHTO, in just a few short years our program has become an award-winning one –

giving transportation engineers, planners, and designer a better picture of what is really happening on our ever-changing and complex road network today.

In addition, with the many web functions GIS offers, taxpayers and motorists now have unparalleled access and transparency into the workings of their state road system.

With every road on the state highway system - more than 36,000 miles - digitally mapped, GTI has truly opening up mountains of opportunity for the future of our collective transportation systems.

Thank you to AASHTO for allowing West Virginia to host this annual symposium and thank you to everyone in attendance here today.

I hope that these next days will be filled with learning, innovation, and productive interaction

Ladies and gentlemen it is now my honor to welcome you to the state on behalf of Governor Joe Manchin. Due to the tragic events of last Monday where we sadly lost 29 miners, he is unable to join us today.

For those of you unfamiliar with West Virginia, the strength and leadership Governor Manchin has shown recently is the strength and leadership I have the opportunity to witness every day.

His resolve to improving West Virginia for her future generations is only amplified in his second term.

Infrastructure improvement is and has always been at the heart of his efforts because he understands that infrastructure is critical to economic development and the future prosperity of West Virginia.

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the 34<sup>th</sup> governor of the great state of West Virginia, Governor Joe Manchin

Good morning.

As Governor of West Virginia, it is my honor to welcome you to our Capitol City of Charleston, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual GIS for Transportation Symposium.

I regret that I cannot join you in person, but am confident that everyone attending will leave with valuable information to help enhance GIS technologies in government and private businesses everywhere.

I understand that there are at least 39 states and 5 countries represented here today, and encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity,

as you are surrounded by the most state-of-the-art technologies in geographic information systems, and among the field's leading professionals.

I applaud the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for sponsoring this event each year, and bringing so many individuals together to help move this technology forward.

I also want to recognize the diligent efforts of the West Virginia Department of Transportation for their commitment to our GIS program.

Despite the fact that we were one of the last states to utilize this technology, our program currently ranks higher than those of at least 25 other states.

West Virginia truly is an amazing place to do business, and we are continuing to build a diverse economy with a range of technological and research based opportunities.

make the most of this experience.

With warmest regards,  
Joe Manchin III  
Governor