Development of Mexico’s national Intelligent Transportation (ITS) Strategic Plan
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Like many other countries, Mexico is striving to build, operate and maintain a modern transportation network that can support sustained economic growth and the personal mobility needs of its growing population. One of the manners in which Mexico’s federal government plans to expand and optimize the capacity of its transportation network, improve its competitiveness in the global market, and provide a sustainable, safe and efficient transportation network to the traveling public, is through the implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). In 2005, Mexico completed its National ITS Architecture. Since that time, several ITS projects have been implemented around the country. In 2010, Mexico’s federal-level Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) developed a comprehensive, multimodal National ITS Strategic Plan to provide a formal path forward as Mexico initiates the development of its nationwide ITS program. The focus of the Plan is on Mexico’s federal level, intercity highway system, similar to the US Interstate system. While some of this roadway network includes major metropolitan areas, the majority of the network operates in rural and often mountainous settings, which present unique challenges to highway operators and other stakeholders. This presentation will provide a focus on the aspects of the plan that would be of interest to a rural ITS audience. Key aspects of the Mexican National ITS Strategic Plan that will be discussed in the presentation: 1. Traceability all the way from the National ITS Vision down to the individual performance measures to be used on ITS projects nationwide. 2. Stakeholder outreach effort that included more than 240 stakeholders from public sector transportation agencies, highway departments, transit agencies, public sector toll road operators, private highway concessionaires, federal level police, equipment manufacturers, system integrators and engineering consultants. 3. International benchmarking effort, including a review of ITS programs, lessons learned and best practices from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Spain, Germany, South Korea, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. 4. Additional traceability flow chart, from needs all the way through services, concepts of operation, functional requirements and individual technologies/devices. This detailed information will allow transportation agencies to identify specific technologies and ITS devices to meet the needs that they have identified within their transportation network. 5. Identification of 74 strategic ITS projects throughout 7 operations/ITS regions nationwide. The strategic ITS projects were determined through an in-depth, multi-criteria analysis that included factors such as: key regional and national corridors, the 100 strategic projects identified in Mexico’s National Infrastructure Plan, strengthening of trade and tourism, integration of major population centers, and multimodal considerations. 6. A modified version of the US DOT’s standard systems engineering approach for ITS project development was developed for use throughout Mexico. 7. Information on the SCT’s work plan for ITS project design and deployment over the next several years. This will likely be of great interest to private sector participants at the NRITS conference who have potential business interests in Mexico.