

The Grand Central Terminal Reception

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The World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems is the preeminent intelligent transportation professional conference in the world. In November 2008, the 15th annual event was held in New York City and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut (ITS-CT) was a key part of what was the largest World Congress ever held.

Attended by more than 8,000 people from more than 45 different countries, the World Congress featured over 350,000 square feet of exhibitor space with more than 250 organizations and vendors displaying a dazzling array of transportation technology. It included over 200 educational, technical and policy sessions along with active displays of the latest in traffic management and vehicle infrastructure integration (VII) technology. Also part of the event were a series of dinners, tours, ceremonies and receptions that provided attendees with a wide range of activities throughout the five-day event.

On Tuesday, November 18th ITS-CT hosted a grand reception at the Metrazur Restaurant on the east balcony overlooking the fabulous Main Concourse in Grand Central Terminal as part of the World Congress events. The reception was attended by more than 100 people including representatives from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and ITS-America. In addition to a number of ITS-CT Directors and members, the event was also attended by guests from Canada, Australia, Sweden, Germany, United Kingdom, Japan, Denmark, Netherlands, Italy, Kazakhstan and Brazil.

Guests were treated to a wide array of drinks and hors d'oeuvres as they watched some of the terminal's 100,000 plus daily commuters crossing the 95 year old concourse's marble floor on route to and from their trains below. The guests were also able to gaze up at the wonderful cerulean blue oil and gold leaf astronomical mural by French Artist Paul Helleu that depicts 2,500 stars and the constellations in a Mediterranean sky. The event provided exposure for ITS-CT at the World Congress and increased the organization's reputation nationally and internationally.

Sponsors for the reception were Parsons Brinckerhoff, Fuss & O'Neill and VHB. Jay Koolis of Parsons Brinckerhoff and Matt Edelman of TRANSCOM served as Co-Chairs of the committee which began planning for the reception nearly two years prior to the event. Matt and Jay also served on the Local Arrangements Committee for the World Congress. Morteza Hayatghey of VHB served as the reception's Sponsorship Coordinator.