**Jason Tao**

Biography

Mr. Jason Tao, a pioneering figure in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and the founder of the Intelligent Transportation Society of the District of Columbia (ITS DC), currently serves as the ITS Program Manager at the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). His extensive career and contributions have significantly advanced transportation technology and infrastructure in the District of Columbia and beyond.

Jason Tao's academic journey began with a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland. This strong academic foundation set the stage for his impactful career in traffic management and transportation systems.

Starting his professional path as a traffic engineer at a consulting firm, Jason worked on various U.S. Department of Transportation projects. Notably, he was the lead developer of the first version of the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), a critical nationwide census that provides the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Congress, and the public with annual data on fatal motor vehicle crashes.

In 2006, Jason Tao joined DDOT as an ITS System Engineer. His leadership was instrumental in developing DDOT’s ITS Master Plan. During his tenure, he initiated and implemented several major ITS projects, including the design and construction of dynamic message signs, the implementation of DDOT’s Advanced Transportation Management, the deployment of the Freeway Traffic Management System, the design of adaptive signal control systems, and the upgrade of DDOT’s CCTV network.

As the leader of DDOT’s ITS team, Jason has driven the development of digital infrastructure in the District of Columbia. He supervised the communication upgrade project and initiated the construction of a fiber network along freeways, which is now being expanded to downtown and other areas. His responsibilities also include overseeing data collection, processing, and distribution, and exploring new generation ITS systems such as connected vehicle technologies and digital twins.

One of Jason Tao's most notable achievements is the founding of the Intelligent Transportation Society of the District of Columbia (ITS DC). Recognizing the need for a dedicated professional society in the national capital area, Jason established ITS DC and served as its President from 2020 to 2022. Under his visionary leadership, ITS DC has grown into a well-recognized organization within the ITS industry. Additionally, Jason served as a board member of ITS Maryland from 2015 to 2018, further demonstrating his commitment to advancing ITS.

In his role at DDOT, Jason represents the department in the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) subcommittees and The Eastern Transportation Coalition. His active involvement extends to professional organizations such as the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). He has served on multiple National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) panels, contributing to the refinement of research project statements and the review of proposals and results. Currently, he is part of an ITE committee for the Advanced Transportation Controller.

Jason Tao is also a prolific transportation researcher, having published about 30 research papers in academic journals and conferences. He frequently presents at ITS America and TRB annual meetings and is invited annually to lecture on ITS topics to college students.

Jason Tao’s career exemplifies dedication to advancing transportation systems through innovative solutions and leadership. His founding of ITS DC highlights his commitment to fostering a collaborative and progressive ITS community in the District of Columbia and beyond.