1. TransLink® at Center of Partnership

The growing problem of traffic congestion in the Bryan/College Station area received some attention from Congress Nov. 18 as the Transportation Appropriations Committee dedicated $400,000 to the issue as part of a $5.2 million transportation package for Brazos County.

When approved, the funds will be used by a unique collaboration involving the Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M University, the Texas Department of Transportation, Brazos County and the cities of Bryan and College Station, as well as the B-CS Metropolitan Planning Organization. The partnership will capitalize on TransLink®, an extensive traffic operations research laboratory. The partnership will be able to develop, test and deploy advanced traffic management concepts and systems to address the problem of congestion and plan for future growth in communities similar in size to Bryan/College Station.

Read entire TransLink® news release:
2. TTI Move Planned

Part of the TTI family will soon be closer together thanks to the construction of a new transportation research facility, scheduled for occupancy in about three years. The future project will be located adjacent to the Gibb Gilchrist Building in Texas A&M’s Research Park and will provide additional and much needed research space. Although construction won’t be completed until at least 2008, some TTI staff will move into a temporary location next year to make room for an expanding College of Engineering.

The four-to-five story, 40,000-square-foot building will be about three-quarters the size of Gilchrist. “The new building will provide TTI growth space for quite some time,” says Executive Associate Director Don Bugh. “It will get us a long way down the road.” Texas A&M University and The Texas A&M University System will assist TTI in funding the project.

Read Herb Richardson’s building announcement:
http://ttinet.tamu.edu/news/#news3629

3. Safety Is First at Rail Conference

There were more than 3,000 accidents at railroad crossings last year in the U.S., resulting in 1,081 deaths. Texas leads the nation in both the number of accidents and fatalities, so it’s no surprise that making crossings safer is a primary goal for TTI researchers. It’s also the goal of the TTI-sponsored National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Training Conference, held every other year. This year’s conference, held Nov. 6-9 in Austin, brought together 240 attendees throughout the U.S. and as far away as Norway. Topics included the latest information on collision avoidance systems, quiet zone standards training and updates on federal rulings.

Two TTI researchers were speakers at the conference. Steve Roop, Multimodal Freight Transportation assistant agency director, spoke about a low-cost warning system project. And TransLink Research Scientist Leonard Ruback detailed research designed to increase warning time of approaching trains at rail crossings.

Multimodal Freight Transportation Administrative Assistant Jessica Franklin organized the conference.
4. TTI Shines at RMC

Of the 44 presentations at the November Research Management Committee Meetings, research scientists with TTI were represented at the podium a total of 24 times. The RMC meetings are designed to present current TxDOT research and the status of those projects.

Committee chairs were RMC 1, Lynn Passmore (Brownwood); RMC 2, Charles Berry (El Paso); RMC 3, Mark Tomlinson (Amarillo); RMC 4, Lauren Garduno (Odessa); and RMC 5, Mario Jorge (Pharr).

Review research topics and presenters: http://ttinet.tamu.edu/project_administration/rdo/mc_news/newsold.asp (and click on November 2005 RMC Meetings)

5. Record-Breaking Giving for SECC

TTI employees gave in heartfelt numbers for this year’s State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) donating a total of $19,226.10, substantially beating the goal of $17,000. “Together We Care” was the motto for this year’s campaign. Employees donated to their choice of hundreds of charities either through payroll deduction or a one-time gift. Administrative Assistant Margarette Goss was TTI’s area coordinator and Staff Assistant Barbara Hein assisted.

The SECC has announced that tickets to a Women’s Texas A&M basketball game will be sent to anyone who donated this year. The tickets will be good for any home game in the month of December.

The amount raised by The Texas A&M University System was $566,647.38. The total beat the 2004 campaign by more than $40,000. The SECC began in 1993, giving employees of state agencies and universities the chance to donate to charities of their choice through an annual workplace campaign. Last year, the statewide donations exceeded $8 million.
6. TTI Anniversaries

5 Years

Linda Chatham, Assistant Research Specialist (CDV), 10/09/2000  
Julie Goss, Senior Communications Specialist (KPA), 10/09/2000  
David Martin, Audio Visual Specialist (KAC), 10/16/2000

10 Years

Aruna Nathu, Technician 1 (HSO), 09/01/2001*  
Leonard Ruback, Research Scientist (DTL), 11/01/1995  
Brian Long, Lead LAN/WAN Administrator (NET), 10/16/1995  
Toni Monroe, Lead Office Assistant (FWZ), 08/31/1995

15 Years

Don Bugh, Executive Associate Agency Director (BUS), 10/15/1990

25 Years

Jim Carvell, Senior Research Engineer (GTS), 04/01/1992*  
Ray James, Associate Research Engineer (CMH), 09/01/1980  
Nada Trout, Assistant Research Scientist (FWZ), 06/01/1992*

*Combined with previous TTI experience

7. ITS Conference

More than 150 people, including about 15 TTI employees, attended this year’s ITS Texas Annual Meeting held in College Station Nov. 16-18. The speakers from TTI were Gary Thomas, the director of the Center for Professional Development, and Beverly Kuhn, the System Management division head. Thomas’ presentation was entitled “Workforce Development: Where Do We Go From Here?” Kuhn’s topic was “Guidance and Tools for Managed Lanes: Where to Go for Help.”

Visit ITS Texas website:
http://www.itstexas.org/default.htm
8. Who Are You?: Updating Info on TTINet

Because CenterLine and other internal and external publications rely on the TTI intranet site for information about you, it’s important that the information is correct and up to date. To find out, simply go to http://ttinet.tamu.edu/ttipeople/startup.asp and type in your name. Please review the information. If a correction needs to be made, you have two options. If it’s an error about your job title, phone number or department, please contact Human Resources by e-mailing Wally Simpson. If a change needs to be made on your resume, each department’s contact is listed on TTINet at http://ttinet.tamu.edu/ttipeople/resumes.asp.

Thanks for helping us get it right!

9. New TTI Overview Brochure Available

TTI has recently published an updated overview brochure. This comprehensive document covers topics such as workforce development, research projects, facilities and the legacy of TTI research over the years. The brochure can be used in meetings and mailings with sponsors, potential sponsors, policy makers and others interested in TTI capabilities.

To obtain copies of the brochure, please email Beth Mathis or call her at (979) 845-1734. The brochure is also available online in three languages: English, Spanish and Chinese. To view a PDF, please visit http://tti.tamu.edu/inside/factsheet/brochure.stm.
10. Kingsville MOA

TTI Director Herbert Richardson and Rumaldo Juarez, president of Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK), have renegotiated a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between their institutions. This agreement provides for the continuance of a regional research, service and technology transfer division of TTI at Texas A&M University-Kingsville headed by Dean of Engineering John Heenan or his designee.

This regional division will continue to enhance the ability of TTI to carry out its responsibilities as a state agency affiliated with higher education focused on transportation issues.

Read more: http://ttinet.tamu.edu/library/trt/taxonomy/news_details.asp?news_id=3556&p_link=no

11. TTI Day Reminder: Wednesday, Dec. 7

TTI Day is less than one week away, and if you haven’t made plans to attend, you are going to miss out on lots of fun, information and great door prizes! The TTI Day website at http://ttinet.tamu.edu/mgmt_org/ttiday/ has been updated with a list of donors and the types of door prizes along with the TTI Day schedule. And, it’s not too late to send a donation for the TTI Day charitable project! You can read more about that on the TTI Day site as well. Don’t miss out! All Roads Lead to TTI on TTI Day 2005!

CenterLine is a production of TTI Communications. We encourage your comments and suggestions. Please send email to news@ttimail.tamu.edu or call Rick Davenport at (979) 862-3763.