The blood drive in February was the most successful yet. There were 60 donors and we had actual collections of 48 whole blood, and five double red blood cell, making a total of 58 blood products. Each donation can save up to three lives.

Mark your calendars for the next TTI blood drive which will be June 23, 2009.
Bomar Receives Leadership Award

Marsha Anderson Bomar, TTI TOG – Georgia Office, received the Jane F. Garvey/UMass ITE Transportation Leadership Award on April 2 at a banquet for the ITE University of Massachusetts Tech Day event.

The honor is in recognition of demonstrated leadership and outstanding skill in the field of transportation and contributions to the transportation profession.

Jane Garvey, former FAA Administrator and FHWA Director, was there to present the award.

Recovery Act at Texas A&M

According to the Texas A&M Research and Development Information Office of Proposal Developments, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is “an effort to jump-start our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.”

The Act will make it possible to see exactly where, when and how your tax dollars are being spent. The Act contains built-in measures to make sure there is no waste, inefficiency or unnecessary spending when it comes to tax money.

So how does this effect TTI and research at Texas A&M?

According to its website, The Office of Proposal Development at Texas A&M is “committed to meeting the standards that have been set by the ARRA” and is “dedicated to helping researchers on this campus who need assistance developing and writing proposals seeking ARRA funding.”

The web site is home to information regarding the allocation of ARRA funding within each agency, how the money will be awarded, and important information that PIs need to know when applying for funding under the ARRA program.

For more information on how to get ARRA funding and learn more about the Act, log on to the Office of Proposal Development (http://opd.tamu.edu/arra/american-recovery-and-reinvestment-act-texas-a-m-research-and-development-information).
**Recent Travel**

**Melisa Finley, Brooke Ullman, Jerry Ullman** and **LuAnn Theiss** went to the Traffic Management and Work Zone Safety Conference which was held in conjunction with the World of Asphalt Show and Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The Show was from March 10-12, 2009. All four made presentations at the conference.

**Marcus Brewer** traveled to Washington, D.C. on February 19-21 to attend a panel meeting on NCHRP 15-31A (“Design Guidance for Freeway Mainline Ramp Terminals”) with members of the research team from Midwest Research Institute. While he was there, he also got to take in a Washington Capitals hockey game at the Verizon Center.

**Gary Thomas** was in Phoenix, Arizona from March 18-25 to take part in the ITE Board of Directors meetings and attend the ITE Technical Conference. He also managed to take a little time off to visit family and friends while in town.

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**International Travel Policy**

The Texas Transportation Institute has tightened the belt when it comes to international travel.

In a letter addressing this issue, TTI Director Dennis Christiansen said, “the declining economy and the difficulties it is causing for the legislature to draft a budget for the state will necessitate that TTI greatly restrict our international travel.”

According to Dr. Christiansen’s letter, this is consistent with System policy.

Travel that is part of project activity, that is paid by the project, and all travel that is being paid by a third party will be approved.

All international travel will need to be approved by both Don Bugh and Dennis Christiansen.
New Arrival!
Avery “Ava” Bordeaux Ross was born at 5:33 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25.
She came into the world weighing 7 lbs 9 oz and was 20 inches long with a full head of brown hair and bluish/hazel eyes. Both Ava and new mom, Jen, are doing well and are back at home. Congratulations Jen!

TTI Day 2009
BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
TTI Day is on Wednesday, May 6. Go to https://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/ttiday09/registration.htm to register online.
Travel to and from College Station for TTI Day attendance for TOG staff is approved. However, we encourage carpooling from nearby locations such as Houston to help contain our costs.

Happy Birthday To You...

March 2 - Michele Breaux
March 3 - Rahul Goel
March 4 - Russell Henk
March 4 - Luca Quadrifoglio
March 9 - Karen Fierro
March 16 - Sofia Ramirez
March 20 - Minh Le
March 26 - Maria Ramos
March 28 - Helen Olivarez
March 29 - Kay Fitzpatrick
March 30 - James Robertson

April 3 - John Moore
April 6 - Larry Weil
April 7 - Colleen Dau
April 8 - Beverly Kuhn
April 8 - Blake Sills
April 10 - Hassan Charara
April 10 - Ryan Eurek
April 12 - Albertico Montes
April 16 - Ryan Longmire
April 16 - Praprut Songchitruksa
April 25 - Darrell Borchardt
April 26 - Kevin Balke
April 28 - Sam Madiri
April 30 - Yao Xing

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed. It is the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead