Welcome to the new and improved version of the SPP&E Newsletter! After 12 years, the newsletter is getting a bit of a facelift. After all, even Betty Crocker gets a periodic makeover.

The SPD (for System Planning Division) Newsletter debuted in February, 1995. It was the first division or group newsletter, with the TOG newsletter following in May, 1995.

While the format has been updated, the purpose of the newsletter remains the same as it was 12 years ago — to enhance communication and cooperation within the SPP&E, as well as with other parts of TTI. The SPP&E has grown since 1995, making ongoing communication and coordination even more important.

Wonder what the news was in the first issue? Well, Bill Eisele had just joined TTI, fresh out of the frozen north and the M.S. program at Michigan State University. Darryl Puckett was also joining TTI, after 11 years at Houston METRO.

This issue highlights SPP&Eer’s activities at the 2007 TRB Annual meeting and the TxDOT RMC proposal process. As noted on page 2, SPP&Eer’s were very active at TRB, presenting papers, presiding at sessions, and chairing meetings. I continue to be amazed by how much is packed into the TRB Annual Meeting. While you leave the Annual Meeting exhausted, you also leave invigorated and energized.

The TxDOT RMC proposal process is underway. As outlined on page 3, please contact the Research Supervisor if you have indicated an interest in a project. Participate in the brainstorming session and volunteer to help with the proposal.

The number of researchers interested in supporting projects is typically much more than can be accommodated on a project. Research Supervisors must select the best team within the scope and realistic budget of a project. So, volunteer, but do not be offended if you are not selected on a project.

Finally, SPP&E Day is just around the corner. Please register and plan to join us for a fun, informative, and enlightening day February 21st at the Carleen Bright Arboretum in Woodway/Waco.

As I noted in the first newsletter in 1995, we have an outstanding group in the SPP&E. This newsletter will continue to highlight your accomplishments and activities, share information on programs and projects, and foster coordination and cooperation.

Thanks!
Katie

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Of Interest:
- Summary of SPP&E staff activities at the TRB Annual Meeting.
- Process and schedule developing FY 2008 TxDOT RMC proposals.
- SPP&E Day
The following SPP&Eer’s presented papers, gave presentations, presided at sessions, and chaired meetings at the 2007 TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 21-25.


Jeff Borowiec – Presiding Officer, Impact of Advanced Navigation Technologies on Airport System Planning and Investment.


Tim Lomax – Presentation, Themes from Information Needs Expressed by TRB Committees.

Ginger Goodin – Presented paper, HOV Occupancy Verification Technologies, presented poster, TxDOT Austin Loop 1 Corridor (with Karen Jones Savage, DMJM Harris), Presiding Officer at Poster Session, HOV and Managed Lanes and Tolling, and co-author on paper in Poster Session, Examining Incentives and Preferential Treatments of Carpools in Managed Lanes Facilities: State-of-the-Practice Review (David Ungemah, Mark Burris, and Casey Dusza, co-authors), chaired Managed Lanes Joint Subcommittee meeting, and co-chaired HOV Systems Committee meeting.

David Ungemah – Presented paper, I’ll Tell You What I Think! National Review of How the Public Perceives Pricing (Tina Collier, co-author), presented papers in Poster Sessions, This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land: Addressing Equity and Fairness in Tolls and Pricing and Examining Incentives and Preferential Treatments of Carpools in Managed Lanes Facilities: State-of-the-Practice Review (Mark Burris, Ginger Goodin, and Casey Dusza, co-authors).

Beverly Storey – Presented paper, Effects of Seeding Compost Filter Berms: Water Quality and Structural Performance Study (Aditya Desa and Ming-Han Li, co-authors).

Ming-Han Li – Presented paper, Revisiting Highway Pollutant Build-up and Removal Process (Michael Barrett, UT Austin, co-author); presented paper in committee meeting, Erosion Control Performance of Crimped Straw Mulch Simulated Highway Roadside (Jett McFalls, Derrold Foster, Aditya Desa, co-authors).


Bill Stockton – Chaired the meeting of the Multi-modal Pricing Implementation Subcommittee.


Bill Frawley – Presented paper, La Entrada Al Pacifico: Viability and Potential Impacts of Odessa-Midland, Texas and Other Small Communities.

Katie Turnbull – Presented papers, HOV Lanes and Hybrid Vehicles and Multi-State MPOs, Presiding Officer, Transportation Agencies: Meeting New Challenges and Missions, and chaired the Transportation System Policy, Planning, and Process Section Executive Board meeting.
Congratulations!

Beverly Storey has been promoted to Program Manager of the Environmental Management Program. Beverly replaces Harlow Landphair, who retired in 2006. Beverly started with TTI as a graduate research assistant in 1993 and joined the staff as a full-time researcher in 1995. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a Masters in Landscape Architecture, both from Texas A&M University. Beverly is a registered landscape architect in Texas.

Please welcome Beverly as the newest SPP&E Program Manager!

Ginger Goodin has been appointed Chair of the TRB HOV Systems Committee, effective April 15, 2007.

Jim Schutt has been appointed as a member of the TRB Committee on Roadside Maintenance Operations, effective April 15, 2007.

Congratulations Ginger and Jim!

RMC Proposal Process

The following process and schedule is being followed in the development of TxDOT RMC proposals with SPP&E researchers acting as the Research Supervisor (RS). Please contact the Research Supervisor if you are interested in being considered for a support role on a project.

- Research Supervisors hold brainstorming sessions with interested researchers to discuss ideas and approaches (see RFP list for researchers who have expressed an interest in support roles on projects) — By February 14.
- Research Supervisors attend pre-proposal meeting, if scheduled (note – there are some pre-proposal meetings that are scheduled for the first week of March, which is late for the proposal development process. We will accommodate this situation) — Date noted in RFPs.
- Research Supervisors develop concept and approach and submit to Katie — February 16, 2007.
- Review comments back to Research Supervisor — March 7.
- Research Supervisor submit final proposal to RDO — March 9.
- Research Supervisors submit draft proposal to Katie for review to at least two SPP&E senior staff — March 5, 2007.
Calendar of Events

**FEBRUARY 1-2 — TexITE Winter Meeting, Houston**

**FEBRUARY 21 — All SPP&E Meeting, Waco**

**MARCH 14-16 — Spring Break**

BIRTHDAYS

**February**
Jeff Arndt  2/2
Tammy Pietrucha  2/16
Susan Adams  2/28
Nick Vierus  2/28

**March**
Steve Farnsworth  3/10
David Schrank  3/13
Mary Levien  3/13
Lauren Geng  3/23
David Ungemah  3/23

SPP&E Day

The SPP&E Day Planning Committee has a fun and exciting day set for you!

**Registration:**  https://tticc.tamu.edu/conferences/sppe07/registration.stm

**Where:** The Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd., Woodway, Tx.

**When:** February 21, 2007, 9:00 am. to 3:00 p.m.

**Why:** Fun/Prizes/Education all packed into one day

**Theme:** Patriotic/President’s Day

**Charities:** Support our Troops and Mission Waco

**Donation Items Requested:**
- **Support Our Troops** — clothing, food, toiletries, recreation, office supplies, medical/first aid supplies, daily living, and items for kids and adults in the Mideast.
- **Mission Waco** — health/toiletry items

SPP&E Day Planning Committee
Jason Crawford, Chair
Zach Graham
Casey Dusza
Suzie Edrington
Pam Rowe
Lisa Nimocks
Cynthia Lowery
Bonnie Duke