MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The TxDOT Metro District Engineers (DEs) and Deputy District Engineers (DDEs) met at TTI on May 23 and 24. The TTI Council meeting was also held in College Station on May 30-31. Both groups provided ideas on research needs and possible research opportunities for TTI.

The Metro DE/DDE meeting started with a working lunch. The DEs/DDEs highlighted some of the key issues in their Districts. The TTI Council meeting ended with members providing their thoughts and ideas on transportation research needs.

Examples of issues raised by the Metro DEs and DDEs included performance-based contracting for maintenance, railroad relations, and institutional relationships among TxDOT, MPOs, and RMAs. Other issues included specifications for cable barriers, managing daytime construction activities, the role of TxDOT and regional toll authorities, and transportation issues in rural areas experiencing rapid growth.

Research topics suggested by TTI Council members included public/private partnerships for construction and operation of various elements of the transportation system, intermodal facilities, and border transportation needs. A number of topics related to toll facilities were identified, including documenting benefits to different groups, examining institutional arrangements, and exploring ownership and operating alternatives.

A more detailed summary of the topics identified at both meetings will be available soon. Please let me know if you have any questions on these suggestions or ideas or follow-up activities.

Thanks!

Katie

The Economics and Policy Program and the SPP&E welcomes two new researchers.

Manuel Solari-Terra is a new Assistant Transportation Researcher. Manuel completed his Masters of Engineering Degree from TAMU in May. He also holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Montevideo in Uruguay. Manuel worked as a Graduate Research Assistant in TTI’s Multimodal Freight Program. He also has previous experience in the construction industry in Uruguay.

Chris Rothe is a new Research Associate. Chris has a B.S. in Economics from Texas A&M University. Chris has experience working for an investment and financial services firm and as a volunteer missionary in Suriname in South America.

Welcome Manuel and Chris!
Staff Activities

Tim Lomax and Linda Cherrington, along with other TTI researchers, gave short presentations at the TxDOT Metro District Engineers/Deputy District Engineers meeting in College Station on May 23. Tim discussed mobility and congestion research projects, including the Texas Mobility Monitoring Program. Linda highlighted the development of “What’s Beyond the Headlights,” a workshop on demographic and other trends.

Tim Lomax, Brian Bochner, Bill Stockton, and other TTI researchers provided updates on research projects at the TTI Council meeting in College Station on May 31. Tim’s presentation was on the use of TTI mobility information in urban funding decisions. Brian described current air quality research. Bill highlighted recent research related to international trade and border issues.

Joe Zietsman hosted a meeting of representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 6 on May 31. Brian Bochner and Dennis Perkinson joined Joe in providing overviews of TTI’s air quality research activities and discussing EPA activities.

Jett McFalls provided a tour of the Erosion and Sediment Control Laboratory to staff from Meyers & Associates on June 1. Jett also highlighted research projects underway at the facility.

Juan Carlos Villa presented a paper, Effects of Freight Border-Crossing Process in the Competitiveness of U.S.-Mexico Border Trade, at the 41st Annual Conference of the Canadian Transportation Research Forum held May 28-31 in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 5-7 – SPRING RMC MEETINGS, AUSTIN
JUNE 8-9 – TRANSPORTATION FORUM, AUSTIN
JULY 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
OCTOBER 10-11, TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, COLLEGE STATION
NOVEMBER 6-9, FALL RMC MEETINGS, ARLINGTON

Birthdays

June
Beverly Storey  6/5
Derrold Foster  6/7
Darryl Puckett 6/16
Zack Graham 6/17
Mark Ojah 6/20
Manuel Solari  6/27
Ed Pultorak  6/30
Larry White 6/30

July
Melissa Marrero  7/1
Shawn Turner  7/15
Cynthia Lowery 7/20
Casey Toycen  7/22
Tim Lomax  7/25
Gary Lobaugh  7/26
Teresa Qu  7/30