Upcoming Events

- TTI Support Staff Appreciation Lunch - May 1, 2006, Bryan TX
- ITS America 2006 Annual Meeting & Exposition - May 7-9, 2006; Philadelphia PA
- March of Dimes Walk America, May 6th at Wolf Creek Amphitheater, College Station, TX
- TxDOT RMC Meeting - June 5-7, 2006; Austin, TX
- 2006 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit - August 6-9, 2006; Milwaukee, WI

Inside this issue:

- Family News
- RMC June Meeting
- TOG Is Hiring
- WEBriefing
- Recent Travels
- Birthdays

Mobile Retroreflectometer Van

The FSM program has been working to modify its current sign mobile retroreflectometer van into a pavement marking mobile retroreflectometer van. TTI and Gamma Scientific have entered into a academic-private partnership allowing research to be conducted with the Laserlux equipment. TTI will be able to help TxDOT and other agencies with the use of this van by improving the technology while helping to develop new tools such as pavement marking database analysis programs that will enable greater efficiency in monitoring pavement marking performance to aid state agencies in implementing cost-effective pavement marking strategies. The Laserlux system provides real-time pavement marking retroreflectivity which can be supplemented with live video feeds as well as GPS location data logging. The data is conveniently logged onto a laptop computer, controlled by the user inside the van. The van is still being modified, but here is a link to some information that may be helpful (http://www.roadvista.com/products/laserluxcen30.shtml). We will provide additional updates on the van in the coming months. Please, contact Adam Pike or Todd Hausman for more details.
TOG Family News

KUDOS

The Managed Lanes Project was selected as a 2005 Top Research Innovations and Findings by TxDOT. Beverly Kuhn and Ginger Goodin were the co-research supervisors. Good job!

WELCOME

In February, the System Management Division hired student worker, Kathryn Love. She is a sophomore at Texas A & M University.

The Houston office is pleased to welcome Francisco Almazan, Justin Jackson, and David Stehlik to their staff! Francisco is a CE student at the University of Houston and joins the staff as a student technitian. Justin is a CE student at Prairie View A&M University and also joins the staff as a student technitian. David recently completed his military service and temporarily joins our staff as a traffic surveyor. Welcome!

The San Antonio Office welcomes three new faces! Ganesh Karkee will be an Assistant Research Scientist. Dr. Karkee has received his PhD from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He will transition to an Assistant Research Engineer as soon as PE license reciprocity for Nevada allows. Liang Ding joins the staff as Assistant Transportation Researcher. Liang received his MS in Civil Engineering from Utah State University. He is familiar with a range of traffic analysis and modeling tools, including PARAMICS. Also joining the SA-RIO is Mei Garcia, a graduate student in Industrial Mathematics at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Mei will be working as a Student Worker on database and web site issues.

CONGRATULATIONS

LuAnn and Chip Theiss are the proud owners of a new log home in the Spring/Klein area. LuAnn and Chip did a lot of the construction work themselves. Congratulations!

TxDOT RMC - June Meeting

The June Research Management Committee Meetings are scheduled for June 5-7, 2006. RMC meeting schedules are as follows:

RMC 1 - Monday June 5 - 10:00 - 5:00
Tuesday June 6 - 8:00 - 5:00

RMC 2 - Wednesday June 7 - 8:00 - 5:00

RMC 3 - Monday June 5 - 1:00 - 5:00

RMC 4 - Monday June 5 - 10:00 - 5:00
Tuesday June 6 - 8:00 - 5:00

RMC 5 - Wednesday June 7 - 8:00 - 5:00

Pre-register for all RMC meetings which you are currently expecting to attend, to Nina Kroeker by May 14, 2006. Pre-registration is NOT necessary for RMC members, TAP Chairs or Vice-Chairs.

Hotel Reservations at the Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin, should be made no later than May 14, 2006 by calling (512) 448-2222. To receive the contracted rate, please identify yourself as attending the Texas Department of Transportation RMC Meeting.
TOG Is Hiring

New positions and offers pending are listed below. Continue to share this information with your contacts. You can also forward potential names to the hiring supervisors so they can make personal contact. Applicants interested in applying for a position should go to https://tamujobs.tamu.edu/ choose "create an application" on the left side, and follow the instructions on the site to apply for the position.

**New Positions**

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Christopher Poe</td>
<td>060310</td>
<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td># Pending</td>
<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td># Pending</td>
<td>Software App. Developer II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
<td>060444</td>
<td>Asst. Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Mike Vickich</td>
<td>060218</td>
<td>Software App. Developer III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>060676</td>
<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</td>
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<td>Signs and Markings</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>060280</td>
<td>Asst. Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signs and Markings</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>060204</td>
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**Offers Pending**

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<tr>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>060390</td>
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**Positions Filled**

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<tr>
<td>System Monitoring</td>
<td>Dan Middleton</td>
<td>060937</td>
<td>Engineering Research Associate</td>
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**WEBriefings Hosted**

On March 23 and 28, the Center for Professional Development hosted its first two WEBriefings. The first, "Decision-Making Needs and Traffic Control Devices for Managed Lanes," was given by Beverly Kuhn and Sue Chrysler. Final attendance numbers were not available as of press time, but will likely exceed 120 participants from about 20 different locations around the country (and Canada, too). The second, "Planning Managed Lanes Facilities," was given by Beverly Kuhn and Ginger Goodin. It also saw a similar attendance level.

The Center hopes to put on numerous WEBriefings each month. Are you interested in taking part? Please contact Gary Thomas for more details. WEBriefings are a great way to reach a large audience without the hassle of traveling. They typically are about 60-90 minutes in length with some time for Q&A from the audience. Why, you may ask, should you be interested? Well, it's a great way to promote TTI and your research. And that may lead to other project opportunities. It also helps fulfill one of TTI's missions: to educate the transportation workforce.

Web conferencing can also be an effective meeting tool. The Center has hosted several web-based meetings with great success. It is especially beneficial if your meeting participants are scattered across a large geographic area. For more information, again, contact Gary Thomas.
Recent Travels

Paul Carlson and Melisa Finley went to Fort Lauderdale for the ATSSA Convention and Traffic Expo on March 3rd-7th.


The ITE Technical Conference and Exhibit in San Antonio was held March 19 - 22. Those who attended from TOG were: Andy Ballard, Gary Barricklow, Kwaku Obeng-Boampong and Steven Venglar from the San Antonio RIO, Melisa Finley, Beverly Kuhn, Gary Thomas, Brooke Ullman, Marcus Brewer, Kay Fitzpatrick, and Srini Sunkari from College Station, as well as, Jim Carvell and Ed Seymour from the Dallas Office.

As part of Beverly Kuhn’s responsibilities at the ITE event, she attended the ITE Traffic Engineering Council executive board meeting as the vice-chair and also attended the Standing Committee on Recommended Practices meeting as a rep from the traffic engineering council.

Beverly Kuhn traveled to Austin to attend a panel meeting for TxDOT project 0-5437 - Impact of Toll Roads on the Regional Economy. Linda Cherrington is the RS on that project and Beverly is a team member. She also was in Austin to attend the TxDOT RMC 4 TAP meeting in March.

Gary Thomas taught an ITS Standard Overview Course in Jacksonville, Florida on March 16th.

Debbie Jasek traveled to El Paso on March 1-2 to coordinate an El Paso Summer Institute at University of Texas EL Paso. Debbie was in Victoria, Robstown, and Kingsville, to make a presentation and recruit students for Kingsville and Weslaco Summer Institutes. She traveled to Austin and Lubbock, March 22-24 to make a presentation at the Aviation Conference regarding SWUTC outreach in Austin, and to coordinate Go Girl activities for the West Texas Go Girl in Lubbock. Debbie is in line for the Marco Polo Award, for sure!

Mike Vickich, attended the Government Technology Conference in Austin this spring.

Darrell Borchardt and Tony Voigt hosted meetings in Houston, LaGrange, and College Station to discuss contra-flow implementation with TxDOT and DPS officials.

Darrell Borchardt, Charles Stevens, LuAnn Theiss, and Tony Voigt traveled to Beaumont and within the Beaumont District to participate in hurricane evacuation meetings with TxDOT and assess evacuation routes.

Lei Yu from Texas Southern University visited with Darrell Borchardt, Darryl Puckett, Mike Vickich, and Tony Voigt to discuss the possibility of setting up a transportation lab at their campus.

Darrell Borchardt traveled to Galveston to attend the American Society of Civil Engineers Department Heads Council meeting and participate in panel on the civil engineering aspects of evacuation of large population areas.

Tony Voigt traveled the I-45 corridor from Houston to Dallas to assess roadways for contra-flow operations and service locations, while Darrell Borchardt traveled the US 290 corridor from Houston to Austin.

LuAnn Theiss participated in a meeting with Jeff Borowiec and Texas Southern University staff regarding potential projects and partnerships. She also attended the Texas Aviation Conference in Austin.

Andy Ballard attended the Hurricane Evacuation Contraflow Workshop in Orlando, Florida on February 14-15, 2006. DOTs from Texas to Virginia met to share experiences and ideas on contraflow.
Birthdays

Apr 07  Colleen Dau
Apr 08  Beverly Kuhn
Apr 10  Hassan Charara
Apr 16  Luis De La Torre
Apr 16  Praprut Songchitruxka
Apr 21  Kristopher Kneese
Apr 21  Robert Pina
Apr 22  Jonathan Wengler
Apr 25  Darrell Borchardt
Apr 26  Kevin Balke
Apr 26  Beth Neilson
May 01  Lindsay Armstrong
May 02  Mark Burris
May 08  Justin Jackson
May 10  Bob Brydia
May 15  James Carvell, Jr.
May 15  Sunil Patil
May 16  Steve Venglar
May 18  Brooke Ullman
May 19  Jerry Le
May 20  Robert DeRoche
May 26  Jeffrey Miles
May 28  Deborah Meroniuc
May 28  Jonathan Tydlacka
May 29  Kenneth Giusti, Jr.

TOG Mission Statement

To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations through leadership in research, education and technology transfer.

Reality Cartoons