Time moves along so quickly we hardly notice that only one more month remains for completion of TxDOT RMC projects that are terminating this fiscal year. Even though the due date for deliverables typically says October 31, we can only charge work time this month. Those next two months (September and October) are for editorial processing, packaging and delivery to TxDOT.

This year there are 131 TOG deliverables in the pipeline. Twenty-nine have already been submitted to RTI, twenty-six are pending modifications and seventy-six require processing by October 31. The last three years we’ve submitted between 65% and 70% products to TTI Communications by August 31. But our on-time submission to TxDOT by October 31 has slipped from 100% in fiscal year 2002 to 95% in fiscal year 2004. I’d encourage everyone to accelerate their work plans so that we can bring our on-time delivery back to 100% while increasing our total October 31 deliverables from 63 products in fiscal year 2002 to 76 this year.

I know TOG and TTI have the capability to deliver as promised. Thanks for all your thoughtful, conscientious work.

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Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.

*Albert Einstein*
Professional Development Courses

Geometric Design Symposium - by Jeffrey Miles

Kay Fitzpatrick, Jeff Miles, and Bill Schneider took part in the workshop, “Geometric Design and Pedestrian Accessibility.” The moderator was Scott Windley from the U.S. Access Board, and the panelists were Janet Barlow, David Guth, William Hecker, Jr., and Paul Ponchilla. Some of the key points from the workshop were:

- Wayfinding is the use of cues in pedestrian travel to maintain positive guidance. Examples of non-visual cues include the general environment, such as the orientation of a curb ramp, audible pedestrian signals (APSs), audible or tactile pedestrian push buttons, tactile signals from canes, and guide dogs.

- Approximately 33 percent of the population does not drive because they are children, elderly, or have a physical disability, and they use walkways and mass transit for travel.

- Vision impairment may be rated as completely blind (15 percent), contrast sensitive vision (25 percent), poor vision (60 percent), and approximately 75 percent of vision impaired individuals travel beyond their homes using either canes or guide dogs, or in the rare case and least safe case, wandering.

- New technology is being developed to benefit the vision impaired:
  - Electronic vest that uses global positioning satellite (GPS) technology and intersection information to assist pedestrians in traversing city streets; and
  - APSs.

- Current geometric design specific problems and possible design solutions were presented from the article by Edward Stollof in the April 2005 ITE Journal.

- Per Scott Windley, the U.S. Access Board plans to vote on whether to release the next set of draft rules on rights-of-way guidelines in July. If positive, the draft rules will be released in August with a purpose of requesting cost information. If the costs are less than what would require a senate review, then the rules may be posted in August 2006.

The workshop was very informative between the content, discussions, and materials provided to the audience. Some of the materials included: (1) copies of the April 2005 ITE Journal articles, (2) educational DVD-ROM, (3) Accessible Rights-of-Way: Sidewalks, Street Crossings, Other Pedestrian Facilities: A Design Guide by the U.S. Access Board, November 1999, and (4) a list of web links and literature related to pedestrian access. Please, contact any of the attendees if you would like to review any of the materials from the workshop.
Recent Travels

**Kevin Balke** and **Bob Brydia** attended the Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) Workshop in Philadelphia, PA. ICM is one of the nine new USDOT "high-risk" initiatives. The goal is to utilize ITS technologies to manage the movement of people and goods in major transportation corridors by integrating operations across all the transportation facilities (rail, bus, freeway, arterial, etc). This meeting was the first public participation session and helped provide concept and program plan refinement to FHWA.

**Beverly Kuhn** traveled to Boston, MA to host a small Managed Lanes Traffic Control & Signing Expert Workshop, along with Sue Chrysler, in support of her FHWA Managed Lanes project. They were in Boston July 11 - 13th.

**Rajat Rajbhandari**, San Antonio Office, had an opportunity to organize one day training on introduction to Geographic Information System at the TxDOT Laredo District on July 13, 2005. There were 5 participants from Laredo district and three from Pharr district. The first part of the training was basic theory on GIS with plenty of slides. The second part of the training was hands on exercise on using ArcView.

**Jim Bonneson, Bill Schneider,** and **Kay Fitzpatrick** attended the TRB Highway Safety Manual Task Force in June in Chicago.

**Jim Bonneson, Jeff Miles,** and **Chris Poe**, attended the 3rd Geometric Design Symposium this June in Chicago. There were approximately 150 representatives from at least 27 countries consisting of public, private, academic professionals.

Jeff Miles presented a poster on *Findings and Implications from Daytime High-Speed Passing Maneuvers Observed on a Rural Two-Lane, Two-Way Highway.*

TOG Family News

**Goodbye**

With regrets, the Roadway Design Program says farewell to **Denise Robledo**. Denise has the opportunity for full-time employment and her last day was on August 1. We will miss her knowledge of TxDOT templates and her ability to earn free desserts! In addition to working on numerous research reports and paper presentations, Denise filled a number of roles for FRD, including video data reduction, computer archiving, and a wide variety of office tasks. Thanks, Denise, and best wishes!

**Montasir Abbas** has accepted an Assistant Professor position with Virginia Tech. His last day in the office will be August 5. Best wishes to Monti on this new position!
Professional Development

(Continued from page 2)

Essential Microstation Workshop - by Gary Barricklow

Gary Barricklow, Traffic Surveyor in the San Antonio Office, participated in a four day Microstation class in July entitled Essential Microstation. It is a good class for beginners and for people with limited knowledge of Microstation. The instructor shows one how to use Microstation examples with the participant then doing it on their own. The instructor checks to see how you are doing, to make sure you understand the exercise.

The student learned what the different buttons mean and how they work. The instructor demonstrated how to add, change, copy, and cut and paste text and how to add backgrounds to a file. He also demonstrated how to draw, copy and change lines which are used in Microstation.

The class was not based on transportation, but the majority of the tools TTI staff use are those used for Microstation drawings and projects. Most of the drawings that TTI receive from TxDOT are in Microstation, so knowing how to use it is a good benefit to us.

New Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>475670</td>
<td>Jerry Ullman</td>
<td>Nat’l Academy of Science</td>
<td>Traffic Enforcement Strategies for Work Zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>475650-00001</td>
<td>Karl Zimmerman</td>
<td>Nat’l Academy of Science</td>
<td>Development of a Second Generation Control System for Safer Operation of High Speed Signalized Intersections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>403571</td>
<td>Puckett/Ruback</td>
<td>Metropolitan Transit Authority</td>
<td>METRORail Video Wayside (Short Title)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Next month - look for a complete listing for the Fiscal Year 2006 TxDOT Program

RMC 4 Long Range Research Plan - Update

The Long Range Research Plan for RMC 4 has been updated. Sections have been added for the focus areas of Managed Lanes under Management, Illumination under Devices, and to the Technical Area Road Users. The entire plan is located on the TOGShare drive at:

File://\Tti-bcs\tog\TOGshare\RMC4\LRP05.doc.

Visit the TxDOT RTI website for all the RMC’s and general information, and go to the Feature Articles and Newsletters section to read the July 2005 “Eye On Research” at:

http://www.dot.state.tx.us/rti/
August 2005

Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  

ITE Annual Meeting - Melbourne Australia
Texas Transportation Summit, Irving, TX

14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  

14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  

21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  

28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

FY05 End

TOG is Hiring

TOG is actively looking for additional staff. Please spread the word to 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/](https://tamujobs.tamu.edu/) choose "create an application" on the left side, and follow the instructions on the site to apply for the position. You can also view position details at this same site.

**Program**

- Signs and Markings
- Houston Office
- San Antonio Office
- San Antonio Office

**Contact**

- Paul Carlson
- Tony Voigt
- Steve Venglar
- Steve Venglar

**NOV**

- 050648
- 050796
- [ACCEPTED]
- 050837

**Position**

- Assistant Transportation Researcher
- Assistant Transportation Researcher
- Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer
- Assistant Transportation Researcher

TOG Mission Statement

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