First Things First Workshop

Sangita Sunkari, Bob De Roche, Nada Trout, Jeff Miles, Adam Pike, and Bob Brydia attended the Franklin Covey First Things First® Time Management Workshop on Friday, June 29th, 2006. Bob Brydia has provided a short summary of the seminar.

In light of the continuing needs of projects, proposals, impending deadlines and daily fires, perhaps one of the critical goals we all achieved was to actually take the time out of our schedules to attend this workshop.

The main principle behind time management, Covey style, is the statement of focusing on what’s important, rather than what’s urgent. In the class, you learn about the four quadrants of time management—and where we typically work, vs. where we should spend our time.

In order to move people to the right quadrant, Covey teaches people to define and understand the roles they play in life. Beyond being an employee of TTI, we’re also spouses, children, parents, siblings, community members and more. In essence, we all have a mission in life that encompasses these many roles. Unless we define and prioritize those roles and the goals associated with each role, we can lose focus, misuse our time, and suffer from emotional and physical stress which limits our effective-

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TxDOT RMC Deliverables

Look at the time! It’s the middle of August! Do you know where your deliverables are?

The TOG goal is 100% submission to Communications by August 31. This year TOG staff has 74 deliverables in the pipeline. Ten have already been submitted to RTI, and 64 require processing by October 31.

As a reminder, the due date typically states October 31, but we can only charge time through the end of August. September and October are for editorial processing, packaging and delivery to TxDOT. PIs can check their current project deliverable status at My Stuff or contact Nancy Stratta.
TOG Family News

GOOD BYE

The Roadway Design Program wishes a fond farewell to Bill Schneider, who is moving back to his native Ohio. After two years with TTI, Bill just couldn't get accustomed to the summer heat and humidity and decided to take a position with the University of Akron. In all seriousness, we appreciate Bill's hard work (and humor) during his time at TTI. We wish him and wife Alison the best at Akron, and we look forward to hearing stories about "living the dream" in higher education.

WELCOME

Keith Knapp has joined the Operations and Design Division effective August 1. Prior to joining TTI, Keith was an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin and is a recognized national authority on Animal-Vehicle Collisions (AVCs). Keith completed his PhD at Texas A&M University several years ago, and has finally seen the light and decided to return. He will be located in the Work Zone and Dynamic Message Sign program. Welcome Keith!

CONGRATULATIONS

Srinivasa Sunkari will be going to the 2006 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Milwaukee to receive the ITE's Traffic Engineering Council Project Award for heading up the Committee that developed “Benefits of Retiming Traffic Signals: An ITE Informational Report.” Congrats!

The Fall/Winter 2006 - Safety Grant Award Announcements were made in July, Jodi Carson’s proposal was selected by committee to begin September 1, 2006. The proposal titled “Large Truck Safety: A Comparative Investigation of U.S. Fleets, Mexican Fleets, and Mexican Fleets Intending to Operate Beyond the U.S. Commercial Zones with a Focus on Vehicle Condition” is one of the larger task category.

Along with SAIC, TTI was awarded a contract for the FHWA's Office of Highway Safety to develop guide sheets of intersection safety countermeasures, develop workshop materials for a one-day seminar on intersection safety, provide technical assistance to FHWA on safety action plans, and develop presentations on various safety issues. Gary Thomas will lead the effort with assistance from Keith Knapp, Brian Bochner (SPP&E), and TTI Communications Group.

Focus Groups Complete A Successful Run

The last couple of months, Nada Trout and Brooke Ullman were busy traveling conducting focus groups for three different projects. One on hurricane evacuation, one on dynamic message sign messages, and the final one was on pedestrians in work zones. They conducted one or more focus groups in Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio. Nada and Brooke would like to express their appreciation to the Research and Implementation Offices in Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio. The use of these offices made the setting-up and recruiting process much more cost-effective. Their staff all showed “good southern hospitality” in screening and setting-up potential participants, posting notices, and recruiting. These offices all demonstrated the win-win concept and definitely confirmed that they are team players. While the entire staff in the Research Implementation Offices was helpful, Nada and Brooke would like to give a special thanks to the following people: Lisa Patke of Houston; Lisa Palmer of Dallas; Kandis Salazar of San Antonio; and Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez of El Paso.
Recent Travels

Paul Carlson and Melissa Finely traveled to Charleston, South Carolina for the 11th Annual AASHTO/TRB Maintenance Conference, in July.

Chris Poe attended the TRB 2006 Summer Conference in La Jolla, California, July 9-11.

Debbie Jasek wrote in the newsletter from El Paso ... “I am conducting the last of the summer institutes with UTEP. The long drive out was uneventful, although I saw lots of deer including some with some pretty nice sets of antlers. After I finish this institute I plan on traveling to Espanola, New Mexico for a quick weekend RR (That’s rest and relaxation for you nonmilitary types) before heading home.”

Darrell Borchardt attended the Federal Advisory Committee for the Gulf Coast Study Meeting in Houston on July 18-19.

Charles Stevens traveled to Austin to attend the TxDOT 0-5475 panel meeting on July 18.

Robert Benz traveled to College Station to attend the retroreflective training course on July 18.

LuAnn Theiss and Tony Voigt traveled to Beaumont to meet with the Texas Department of Transportation on July 20.

Jerry Ullman traveled to Jackson, CA during the week of July 23rd to participate in a workshop on Positive Protection in Work Zones sponsored by the TRB Roadside Safety Design and Work Zone Traffic Control Committees. He made presentations on Non-Positive Protection Strategies to Reduce Work Zone Intrusion Crashes and on In-Service Performance Data Needs for Work Zone Positive Protection.

First Things First Workshop - continued

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ness across all aspects of our lives. Covey emphasizes long term planning horizons for your goals, such as 1-year, 5-years, etc.

Following from the identification of these roles and long-term goals, a weekly planning session identifies the progress that can be made that week to further a particular goal. From that, you can identify task items that go on a to-do list or in Outlook.

Like any process, the key to being successful is consistency. Covey recommends setting aside a consistent time and location to plan the coming week’s activities. However, these weekly planning sessions (estimated to take between 5 and 30 minutes) should not be onerous. This planning activity should help identify the required commitments and fluid tasks that are vital to keeping on track with goals—and to work in the right quadrant.

The course is definitely recommended for anyone trying to master the demands of multiple roles against the constraint of limited time. The instructor, Jan Richards from Distance Education, was dynamic, funny, and kept the class moving at a spirited pace with plenty of interaction. This course, as well as, two more Franklin Covey courses will be offered in the coming months. Feel free to ask any of the participants about the class and what they learned.
TOG Is Hiring

New positions and positions filled 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>NOV</th>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061101</td>
<td>Software Applications Developer II</td>
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<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061408</td>
<td>Software Applications Developer I</td>
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<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
<td>061188</td>
<td>Asst. Research Engineer</td>
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<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
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<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>061279</td>
<td>Asst. Transportation Researcher</td>
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<td>Signs and Markings</td>
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<td>Work Zone and DMS</td>
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Pending

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<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>060676</td>
<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</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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Birthdays

Aug 03 Yunlong Zhang
Aug 14 Paul Wernli, Jr.
Aug 19 Ryan Brown
Aug 24 Dan Middleton
Aug 25 Maria Medrano
Aug 26 Sarah Navarro
Aug 26 Cesar Quiroga
Sept. 2 Arthur Richards
Sept. 4 Chris Poe
Sept. 4 Penelope Weinberger
Sept. 8 Nancy Stratta
Sept. 14 Rafael Aldrete
Sept. 14 Kenneth Brown
Sept. 18 Naveen Mokkapati
Sept. 19 Robert Benz
Sept. 20 Stacey Alejandro
Sept. 20 Sarah Benavides
Sept. 21 John Balog
Sept. 21 Sonia Chapa
Sept. 22 Conrad Dudek
Sept. 22 Diane Fisher
Sept. 22 Jiaxin Tong
Sept. 28 Michael Davis
Sept. 30 Chi-Leung Chu
Sept. 30 Leonard Ruback

TOG Mission Statement

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