DIVISION HEAD MESSAGE

The TransLink program has officially begun with funding from TxDOT. Federal legislation has also been approved which includes $600,000 for TransLink. Agreements with Rockwell International and Houston METRO are being finalized. This program, under the leadership of Chris Poe will be an important part of our research program, as we move towards a more integrated approach to management of the surface transportation system.

We had a great turnout, good food, and a wonderful day for our Thanksgiving get-together. I hope to see you all at our Division Christmas Party on December 18. In lieu of exchanging gifts, we will be collecting for Phoebe’s home.

Tom Urbanik

CALENDAR MARKS

Dec 7 TTI Day
Dec 18 Division Holiday Party,
Dec 22 Holiday starts
Jan 2 Back to work
Jan 7-11 TRB, Washington, D.C.
Jan 15 Holiday
May 17 Division Retreat 1996

WHAT A WAY TO SPEND A WORKDAY!

TTI day will be held Thursday, December 7, from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm at Rudder Tower & the MSC.

This is your chance to find out what is happening at TTI, enjoy some time with you co-workers, attend interesting workshops, have fun in the process, enjoy lunch while meeting new people, and best of all it’s all free. At the meeting, there will be an update on TTI and current issues, and an awards ceremony to recognize outstanding contributions to TTI. You’ll even have an opportunity to voice your opinion about Institute policies and procedures, during an open forum question and answer session. Workshops and a display area will provide information on what divisions in TTI are working on, how to make successful presentations, “surfing” the net, understanding personalities, and how to best utilize library research resources and databases. Last, but certainly not least, the day will end with a Holiday Party complete with lots of food, and fun. TTI Day--What a way to spend a Work Day!!

HOLIDAY PARTY

There will be a Transportation Systems Division holiday get-together on December 18, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the College Station Conference Center. Family, friends, and children are welcome. Snacks and desserts will be served. Mark your calendars and watch your for details.

TexITE NEWSLETTER

In an effort to meet editing deadlines for the Winter publication of the TexITE Newsletter, please submit to Dale Picha any new member/project news that has occurred since August 31, 1995. This can include items such as: promotions, degrees awarded, professional registrations, committee news (i.e., ITE, TRB, AASHTO, etc.), conferences/seminars attended/taught, awards received and/or presentations. Changes in family status, and project news that would be appropriate for the TexITE Newsletter.

Membership news from Area 4 (College Station) is usually well represented in the TexITE Newsletter. Please send Dale Picha an e-mail or call him with the information to be included by Monday, December 11.

WELCOME!

Tom Stout has joined Transport Operations as a Research Specialist. Tom, who has 26 years of experience in traffic control systems, was previously with JHK and Associates. He will be working on the TransLink program as well as other projects involving advanced transportation control systems. Tom will be working out of Corpus Christi.
Shirley Kalinec joined the Design and Operations Program as a Technical Writer. Shirley previously worked for the System Internal Audits Office in the State Headquarters Building, where rumor has there is convenient parking for all employees.

DIVISIONAL WANDERERS

As the holidays approach we find that members of the Division are still traveling, however, trips were shorter and many were within Texas.

Dan Walker and Jerry Ullman made a trip to the Valley. Dan also traveled to Del Rio twice this month.

Ray Krammes hosted the ITS Research Center of Excellence Advisory Committee in San Antonio, prior to attending the ITS TEXAS Conference.

Dan Fambro traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to speak on “Transportation Education Activities and Trends for the Future” at the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference.

Hassan Charara attended the Advanced Traffic Controller (ATC) 2070 software meeting in Irvine, California.

The Marco Polo award this month goes to Russell Henk. Russell traveled to McAllen/Brownsville twice, Laredo twice, College Station four times, Austin, and El Paso.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

Jim Bonneson, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and former Division employee, was in College Station November 20 and 21 to work with Carroll Messer on their joint NCHRP project.

Fourteen tours of the TransLink were conducted in November. Congressman Tom DeLay, Texas BEST 100 high school students, Texas A&M Galveston, University in Mexico City, and Dr. Leigh Boske from the LBJ School in Austin were among the individuals and groups that toured our facilities.

Many of us took time out on November 21 to enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon at Hensel Park. The weather was wonderful, the food was great, and a good time was had by all.

Even though it's still several months away the planning committee for Division Retreat '96 wants to remind you to mark your calendars for Friday, May 17, 1996. It is an event that you will not want to miss! If you have any ideas for the retreat that you would like the committee to consider, please contact Dale Picha.

BITS AND PIECES

Kay Fitzpatrick and her husband, Mark, welcomed a new addition to their family. Their new daughter, Claire Norma, was born November 2.

Ramanan Nageswara, is going home to India for vacation in December for about a month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| Dec 2 | Brian Gage |
| Dec 3 | Mariano Molina |
| Dec 6 | Kandis Salazar |
| Dec 6 | Steve Liu |
| Dec 7 | Debbie Jasek |
| Dec 9 | Dale Picha |
| Dec 11 | Jake Vaughn |
| Dec 18 | Darren Hromas |
| Dec 25 | Shweta Jain |
| Dec 27 | Eiji Nakamura |
| Dec 29 | Dave Berry |

Have a very Happy and Safe Holidays!