"Many fish bite if you got good bait" is a line from an American folk song (Fishing Blues). Returning from TRB you may have found that adage true about good research project ideas – plenty of interest. Fortunately TTI has some "gear" to help you connect with sponsors. TTI is on a number of IDIQ (Indefinite Deliverables / Indefinite Quantities) teams that have been selected through competitive procurement to perform work for FHWA and other sponsors. In this arrangement TTI is part of a team headed by another group, such as Battelle, SAIC, and Cambridge Systematics, Inc. While some projects may be directed to TTI through this method, other projects may still be procured competitively within a pool of IDIQ contractors, but the complexity, paperwork, and time associated with the solicitation should be reduced. In addition, it is important to remember that TTI is just one member of a team – so we have to both be selected by the lead firm to participate in their proposal and be selected by the sponsor to perform the work. Some of the IDIQ contract gear TTI has in place are listed on page 2.

So with "good bait" ideas you might find an IDIQ a useful piece of gear to hook up with a sponsor. Just remember that in addition to having good bait research ideas, you must be the "good fish" for the sponsor.
### New Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>459696</td>
<td>Robert Brydia</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Wireline ITS Communications Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407068</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Disaster Preparedness for Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407069</td>
<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Utility Accommodation Optimization Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>401721</td>
<td>Jodi Carson</td>
<td>DOT(FMCSA)</td>
<td>Review of Canadian and Mexican Motor Vehicle Compliance with FMVSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent Travels

TOG was well represented at the recent 85th Annual TRB meeting in Washington. Some were in town for technical committee meetings, as were the numerous “presiders” and “presenters: including: Robert Benz, Jim Bonneson, Marcus Brewer, Bob Brydia, Mark Burris, Paul Carlson, Nadeem Chaudhary, Kay Fitzpatrick, Melissa Finley, Gene Hawkins, Russell Henk, Andrew Holick, Beverly Kuhn, Dan Middleton, Jeff Miles, Geza Pesti, Chris Poe, Mike Pratt, Cesar Quiroga, Bill Schneider, Steve Schrock, Praprut Songchitrkas, Charles Stevens, Srini Sunkari, Gary Thomas, Brooke Ullman, Jerry Ullman, Yunlong Zhang, and Karl Zimmerman

Darrell Borchardt, Charles Stevens, LuAnn Theiss, and Tony Voigt have been road warriors this month, traveling to the Beaumont and Lufkin District area and surrounding areas collecting roadway inventory on January 6, 9, 11, 12, 20, 23, and 26 for the hurricane evacuation preparedness project. Combined, they traveled well over 3,300 miles.

Tony Voigt and Christopher Poe traveled to College Station, Texas to attend a Tolling Analysis Meeting on January 9.

(Continued on page 5)

TOG Family News

KUDOS

As announced in November, Paul Carlson and Andrew Holick received TRB’s Fred Burggraf Award for best paper in transportation research by researchers 35 years and younger.

TOG also congratulates our colleague, Roger Bligh of the Roadside Safety Program, on being honored with the prestigious TRB K.B. Woods Award for the best paper in the area of design and construction. This is Roger’s third “best paper award” from TRB.

The paper "Motorist Yielding to Pedestrians at Unsignalized Intersections: Findings from a National Study on Improving Pedestrian Safety" won an Outstanding Paper Award from TRB Committee ANF10 (Committee on Pedestrians). Authors were Shawn Turner, Kay Fitzpatrick, Marcus Brewer, and Eun Sug Park. This paper was presented at a poster session at the TRB Annual Meeting and was one of three presentations made by the team based on work performed on NCHRP Project 3-71: “Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Roadway Crossings”.

Kay Fitzpatrick, Marcus Brewer, and Sue Chrysler led an International Roundtable Discussion on Very High Design Speeds at the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The roundtable was held in conjunction with the meeting for TRB Committee AHB65 (Operational Effects of Geometrics) and was conducted as part of activities on TxDOT Research Project 0-5544: Development of High Speed Roadway Design Criteria and Evaluation of Roadside Safety Features.

Russell Henk made a presentation on "Teens in the Driver Seat" at TRB in D.C. As a result, interested parties in the project now include NHTSA, AAA and CDC. Henk (and co-authors Bernie Fette and Andy Ballard) also learned that this project has been accepted for presentation (and publication in the ITE Technical Compendium) at the upcoming Spring ITE Meeting in San Antonio.

Andrew Holick and Edgar Kraus, each became licensed professional engineers in the state of Texas recently. Both have been promoted to Assistant Research Engineer. Congratulations!

A big “thank you” to all the TOG staff who participated in the Annual TTI Day. Kudos to Beth Neilson, Brenda Manak and Lisa Patke for serving on the TTI Day Committee! Brenda served as chair of the TTI Day Decorations subcommittee, and Lisa served on both the Prize subcommittee and Registration subcommittee. Beth was busy preparing the great food (at least serving on the committee)!

(Continued on page 4)
TOG Family News - continued

(Continued from page 3)

WELCOME

TTI Dallas is pleased to welcome Jack Antebi to its office. Jack will serve as Mobility Coordinator for the reconstruction of IH 635 (LBJ Freeway), a role Cliff Franklin filled for US 75 and the High Five Interchange. Jack was employed in the City of Dallas Transportation and Public Works Department for 28 years where he was serving as Assistant Director at the time of his retirement.

Nick Koncz joined TTI in the San Antonio TransGuide office as an Assistant Research Scientist. Nick comes from the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technology. His Ph.D. is in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin.

Rajat Rajbhandari, an Assistant Research Scientist formerly with the San Antonio Research and Implementation Office, is TTI's first employee in the new TTI El Paso office as of January 2006. Rajat continues to be involved in research from the SA RIO but is spending most of his time developing opportunities in El Paso and partnering in new initiatives with the TxDOT El Paso District. Rajat is temporarily officing in TxDOT El Paso District offices until TTI's office space opened, and he can be reached at TxDOT at (915) 790-4336.

New students from UTSA have joined the TTI San Antonio Office; they include Bria Whitmire, Carlos Benavides, Luis De La Torre, Kevin Denson, Shauna Bustamante and Krizia Martinez. TTI San Antonio TransGuide office welcomes Ryan Brown, James Dowd, and Joshua Schindler. Ryan is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science at UTSA, James is pursuing a Master's degree in Computer Science at UTSA, and Joshua is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Science at Texas State.

Val Pezoldt of the TTI Safety Center is now time sharing offices in College Station and San Antonio. Val is working to expand young driver research in South Texas and continues his activities with the Safety Center.

GOOD-BYE

Orinthia Thomas is leaving the Houston office to join the City of Houston. Best wishes Orinthia!

Weldon C. “Cliff” Franklin retired from TTI on December 31, 2005. During his 15 years with TTI in Dallas, Cliff served as Mobility Coordinator for the reconstruction of US 75 and the High Five Interchange. The success of these two major transportation projects was due in large part to Cliff’s efforts. Cliff was honored at a retirement reception in Dallas on December 19 with many of his friends, family, colleagues, and prominent persons from the Dallas transportation community in attendance. Also in attendance were the TTI Director, Deputy Director, and three Associate Directors, a full house in poker parlance. In retirement, Cliff plans to be involved in a variety of church and other volunteer activities.

Dazhi Sun, Assistant Research Scientist with the San Antonio Office, left TTI in mid-January to accept a faculty opening at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

The San Antonio Office said good-bye to student employees. Claudiu Ghigiu, a computer science graduate student from UTSA, received a local job offer from USAA upon graduation and has joined the professional workforce. Jessica Vehemier completed her BS in Civil Engineering from UTSA, relocated her family to the east coast, and is pursuing a full-time job.

CRASH TESTED

TOG was sorry to learn of Holly Crenshaw's unfortunate accident and we are glad to know she is on the road to recovery. The urban offices are especially appreciative of Holly’s work in keeping us in good office space. Even during her recovery and rehabilitation at home, she has been on the phone negotiating with the Dallas Office landlord to expedite the office expansion. Get well, Holly, but don’t try to do too much.
The team of **Nada Trout**, Sandra Schoeneman, **Brooke Ullman** and **Jeff Miles** traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii for data collection on Research Project 405060 from January 3-14, 2006.

**Andrew Holick** and **Jeff Miles** traveled to Washington, D.C. on January 21 and attended a Human Factors workshop titled, "New Frontiers in Visibility Technology". The workshop explored recent developments in signing, markings, lighting, and vision-enhancing systems for drivers. They would like to let you know there are CD-ROMs of the information discussed in the workshop.

**Jodi Carson** traveled to Laredo, Texas on January 11-13, 2006 to attend the NHI Incident Management Workshop.

**Gary Thomas** traveled to Denver, Colorado on Jan. 10-12 to teach the NHI Course: Designing and Operating Intersections for Safety.

**Tony Voigt** traveled to Austin, Texas to attend the Disaster Preparedness Study Team Meeting on January 19.

**Debbie Jasek** traveled to Kingsville in January with Beverly Storey to meet with Dr. Kim Jones and Soumya Mohan about our joint TxDOT project on Sustainable Landscape. Debbie traveled to Dallas and Lubbock to coordinate GO Girl activities and set dates for West Texas Section on January 18-19, 2006. The first Go Girl! will be held in Houston on February 11th at the Challenger Learning Center in the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Go Girl! is a one day program for girls to encourage their interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and to show them the opportunities for women in transportation.

**Gary Barricklow** and **Ken Giusti** both with the San Antonio Office have been on several trips in South Texas. They visited the TxDOT Pharr District on several occasions and in several locations to collect data for ongoing research implementation activities. **Andy Ballard** made several trips, including Houston, Beaumont and Corpus Christi as destinations, to participate in a Governor's Task Force regarding hurricane evacuation. These efforts are in support of a state-wide initiative to improve hurricane preparedness and response in the State of Texas. Overall leadership of this effort for TTI is provided by **Russell Henk**, who serves as an official member of the Governor's Task Force on Evacuation, Transportation and Logistics.

**Russell Henk** (alias Gulliver) traveled in the past few weeks to: Austin (twice), Corpus, Houston, El Paso (twice), Louise (where the heck is that?), and Washington D.C. (twice). Between planning for hurricanes (and all other disasters), trying to save the lives of teens, and starting the El Paso Office. Russell is showing increasing interest in the "cloning program" at Texas A&M.

**Dan Middleton** presented a paper entitled “Safety and Operational Aspects of Exclusive Truck Facilities” at the 2005 International Truck and Bus Safety and Security Symposium in Alexandria, Virginia in November. Dan also traveled to Salt Lake City in November to participated in the third meeting of the Initiative Coordinating Committee of Clarus, a national surface weather initiative related to transportation.
TOG Is Hiring

Word is spreading and TOG is hiring! New positions and offers pending are listed below. Please 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. You can also view position details at this same site.

New Positions

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<th>NOV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Jim Carvell</td>
<td>060310</td>
<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>060173</td>
<td>Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
<td>060444</td>
<td>Assistant Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Mike Vickich</td>
<td>060218</td>
<td>Software Applications Developer III</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Steve Venglar</td>
<td>060372</td>
<td>Assistant Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Steve Venglar</td>
<td>060540</td>
<td>Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Steve Venglar</td>
<td>060676</td>
<td>Lead Office Assistant (part-time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office 2</td>
<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
<td>060071</td>
<td>Software Applications Developer II</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office 2</td>
<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
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<td>Software Applications Developer I</td>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>060280</td>
<td>Assistant Transportation Researcher</td>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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Offers Pending

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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>060172</td>
<td>Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Development

A VISSIM training course was held last December in San Antonio, Texas. The four-day training program was offered by PTV America, Inc., the US distributors of the popular traffic simulation software VISSIM.

The topics covered VISSIM introduction, including the basics of simulation, VISSIM network development, data outputs, programming of fixed time and actuated controllers and introduction to VAP. VISSIM Advanced I & II include NEMA virtual controller, RR preemption, VAP programming, introduction to VisVAP, VISSIM 3D Modeler, roundabouts, and advanced freeway modeling techniques (e.g., dynamic speed control, ramp metering, HOV lanes, etc.).

Andy Ballard was exposed to the fundamental aspects of the program in the Introductory course, Dazhi Sun participated in the Advanced Signals course, Rajat Rajbhandari learned the details of transit simulation in the Advanced Transit course and Kwaku Obeng-Boampong rounded out his knowledge of VISSIM's freeway features in the Freeway Simulation course. Praprut Songchitrucks, from TransLink was also able to attend and participate in the course. If anyone is interested in viewing the material, please contact anyone of the five who attended.
Reporting from Pecos

Edward Brackin traveled to the new Pecos Test Track Facility in January. He took detailed photographs of the numerous test tracks and evaluated the surface conditions for a pavement overlay project. In addition to the photos he carried a GPS unit to the Pecos facility and took extensive ground plots (tracks) of all the test tracks.

TTI has a Share Point Server for various projects to use. The Pecos Share Point address is https://ttiresearcher.tamu.edu/pecos. The login should be: Username: tti-servers\J-doe Password: (your network password)

Once there look in the Photo Directory. The easiest way to use the site is in photo album view. By default the site only displays 40 photos at a time; be sure and click the “MORE” button at the bottom right of the screen. All of the photos are downloadable for use. The current root directories in the photos menu are:

- Aerial of Test Facility (Birds eye view)
- Photographers (Copies of what is spread to other “formatted directories”)
- Tracks (Sub-directories detailing all the tracks)
- Facilities (The actual building and structures. NOT test tracks)
- Other (Sub-directories not of the Facilities or Test Tracks)

Edward has many tips for would be visitors to the Pecos facility such as where to eat, which hotels have internet access, where to get a flat fixed (those are thorns, not sticks in the road), and how to contact the facility manager.

This aerial photo shows the following: the main building facilities, the small 4 circle tracks, the 9 mile high speed track (bottom), part of the serpentine track (far right), part of the city block track (top), and start of the gravel tracks (far left).
Birthdays
Feb 02  Liz Perez
Feb 04  Zhirui Ye
Feb 06  Michael Pratt
Feb 06  Stephanie Vanelli
Feb 09  Nadeem Chaudhary
Feb 09  Lisa Patke
Feb 12  Kathy Tran
Feb 15  Jerry Ullman
Feb 22  Nada Trout
Feb 23  Paul Adamson
Feb 26  Bryan Miller
Feb 29  Khaled Hamad
Mar 02  Jose Salcedo, Jr.
Mar 04  Russell Henk
Mar 06  Steve Schrock
Mar 21  Jeremy Clark
Mar 26  William Christie
Mar 28  Helen Olivarez
Mar 29  Kay Fitzpatrick
Mar 30  Andrew Ballard

Team Award 2005
For the first time in TTI Day history, a Team Award category was instituted. The winning team, led by Beverly Kuhn and Ginger Goodin, worked on a five-year TxDOT project titled ‘Operating Freeways with Managed Lanes’. The result was more than 150 research projects, including a comprehensive handbook and a popular website. TxDOT used the research to help draft state legislation, and project data have been used to develop managed lanes projects across the country. Team members were (in no particular order) Debbie Jasek, Carol Lewis, Michelle Hoelscher, David Fenno, Samir Goel, Paul Schrader, Grant Fisher, Michael Martello, Boris Palchik, John Wikander, Tina Collier, Bernie Fette, Kay Fitzpatrick, Ivan Lorenz, Doug Skowronek, Scott Cothron, Marcus Brewer, Bill Eisele, Jerry Ullman, Susan Chrysler, Steve Schrock, Alicia Williams, Andrew Ballard, Michael Perez, Robert Brydia, Bradley Hoover, Stephen Song, Kevin Balke, Gary Thomas, Brooke Ullman, Jodi Carson and Casey Toycen. Way to go Team!

TII Service Pins Awarded
Service pins have recently been sent to the following TOG staff. Congratulations!

5 – 10 Years of Service
Gary Barricklow  Edward Brackin
Marcus Brewer  Bob Brydia
Melisa Finley  Kenneth Giusti
Andrew Holick  Jeremy Johnson
Helen Olivarez  Lisa Palmer
Ricky Parker  Robert Pina
Cesar Quiroga  Steve Schrock
Sangita Sunkari  Kathy Tran
Brooke Ullman  Karl Zimmerman

10 Years of Service
Jim Bonneson  Paul Carlson
Omar Mata  Maria Medrano
Bryan Miller  Beth Neilson
Leonard Ruback  Tony Voigt

15 Years of Service
Cliff Franklin  Debbie Jasek

20 Years of Service
Lisa Patke

25 Years of Service
James Carvell  Nada Trout

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