ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MESSAGE

The Transportation System Division is updating its Strategic Plan under the leadership of Dr. Fambro. The Mission covers leadership, research, technical transfer, and education and training. Objectives are being developed for these four areas from which specific strategies will be generated. If you have comments on what should be included in our strategic plan, please contact either your program manager, Dr. Fambro, or myself. The plan will be updated annually and your input is always welcome.

The RMC 9 strategic plan is being updated by an RMC 9 subcommittee. Chris Poe, Bill Stockton, and Lewis Nowlin will be leading our effort to provide input to TxDOT. If you have suggestions, your ideas are needed immediately.

The Transportation System Division Meeting is May 16. The planning committee— including Larry Rilett, Chairman— is working on the program. Suggestions and new ideas are always welcome. Please send your ideas to the committee.

The issues concerning Internet and intranet appear to be confusing to some of us. From a practical standpoint, the Internet provides an avenue for providing information to people outside TTI. The primary point of entry is http://tti.tamu.edu. Take time to look at this page, if you have not done so already. Also, if you have suggestions for improvement, Joan Tatge would appreciate hearing from you. The intranet, http://cyclone.tamu.edu is for internal information and is NOT intended for public access. The page can only be accessed from Texas A&M. Cyclone is the place which we can use to keep each other informed. If you have suggestions for the intranet or content to add, contact Kay Fitzpatrick who is heading up our intranet initiative.

Tom Urbanik

TxDOT NOTES

Research Program Proposal Process — The TxDOT proposal process for FY 98 research projects has begun. Requests for proposals (RFPs) have begun to come out and are scheduled to be sent to universities in early to mid-February. The RFP’s will be for RMC and DDO projects, these were previously called SPR and SFR projects.

RFP’s will be distributed to researchers as soon as they are received. Staff members be asked to identify the projects that they are interested in and indicate whether they want to be considered for Research Supervisor (RS) or as a research team member for a project. The selection of the RS and team members for proposals will be coordinated at Program, Division, and Assistant Director level.

Semi-Annual Reports — Remember that Semi-Annual reports are due to TxDOT in the early part of March. If you have modifications or continuations for your project these will be due in May.

RMC Meetings — The next round of RMC meetings have been scheduled. The meetings, which will be held in Arlington, are June 2-6. TxDOT has provided the following tentative schedule:

- June 2-3 RMC 4, 5, 8
- June 4-5 RMC 1, 3, 7
- June 5-6 RMC 2, 6, 9

CALENDAR MARKS

Feb 1 - Apr 1 Pre-proposal meetings with TxDOT
Mar 22-26 ITE Spring Meeting, Tampa
Apr 1 Proposals due to TxDOT on RMC and DDO projects
Apr 1-2 TTI Council, College Station
May 16 Transportation Systems Division Meeting
Jun 2-6 RMC Spring Meeting, Arlington
Jun 2-5 ITS America, 7th Annual Meeting Washington
June ROC finalizes project selection

CAMP ROWAN

Dr. Neil Rowan, who recently retired from the Transportation Systems Division, was honored this month by having a Fish Camp named Camp Rowan. Fish Camp is an optional four day orientation program for freshmen that is held prior to each fall semester.

Dr. Rowan was nominated to have a Fish Camp named for him by a group of former students. The nomination was reviewed and selections were made by the Board of Directors for Fish Camp. Camp Rowan will be held in Palestine on August 20-23. The camp will be hosted by co-chairs Jasmine Wilder and Brandon Elam.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Design and Operations welcomes Clay Barnett, Rachel Donovan, and Lizette Laguna as new student workers. They are all senior Civil Engineering majors.

The Systems Applications Program welcomes Juan Contrera as a new student worker and Julia Willie as an Assistant Research Engineer.

TransLinkTM Research Center welcomes Byeongki Yoo and Shallini Rubbi as graduate assistants.

(Continued next page See Welcome)
The Texas A&M Board of Regents met in January. During the session on Route Guidance Selection and Arterial Streets, Jerry Ullman and Nada Trout presented a paper on Legibility of Fiber-Optic Freeway Lane Control Signals.

The session on Signalized Intersection Delay included the Validation of Generalized Model for Vehicle Actuated Traffic Signals by N. M. Rouphail, Mohammad Anwar, Dan Fambro, P. Sloup and C. E. Perez; Generalized Delay Model for Signalized Intersections and Arterial Streets by Dan Fambro and N. M. Rouphail; and Validation of a Generalized Delay Model for Oversaturated Conditions by Roelof Engelbrecht and Dan Fambro.

Feasibility of Priority Lane Pricing on the Katy HOV Lane in Houston: Preliminary Findings was presented by Bill Stockton, Cynthia Hill, Frank McFarland, and Mike Ogden in the Innovative Approaches and Applications in Transportation Demand Management session.

Gene Hawkins made a presentation on Research in the Minimum Retroreflectivity Implementation Guidelines.

The New Developments in Stopping Sight Distance Design Part 1: Stopping Sight Distance session featured presentations by Kay Fitzpatrick, Dan Fambro, and Angela Stoddard, Safety Effects of Limited Stopping Sight Distance; Dan Fambro, Rodger Koppa, Dale Picha, and Kay Fitzpatrick, Driver Braking Performance in Stopping Sight Distance Situations; and Dan Fambro, Kay Fitzpatrick, and Rodger Koppa, New Stopping Sight Distance Model for Use in Highway Geometric Design.

Dan Fambro made a presentation on Recent Sight Distance Research in the New Developments in Stopping Sight Distance Part 3: Passing Sight Distance session.

During the session on Development of New Advanced Traffic Management Systems Controller, Ed Seymour made a presentation on ATC Hardware.

Chris Poe presided over the session entitled Moving Toward Automated Highway Systems.

Gene Hawkins co-chaired a session entitled Traffic Control Devices: Past Successes and Future Challenges.

Dan Fambro was also sworn in as ITE International Director for District 9 and as the Chair of TRB Committee A2A02, Committee on Geometric Design.
TRANSPORTATION TRIVIA
Here are the answers to last months trivia:
The first place the sun rises each morning in the U.S. is Mt. Katahdin, Maine.
True or False? In 1903, Wilbur Wright made the first sustained, controlled, powered flight of a heavier than air machine near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. False. Orville Wright, Wilbur’s brother made the first flight.
New York was the first capital of the U.S.

This months trivia questions:
What is the one spot in the U.S. where you can stand in 4 states at one time?
What city was called “The Paris of the Colonies”?
What state in the U.S. farms more land than any other state?
What state had the first written constitution in the United States?

Look for the answers in next month’s interchange.

SOFTWARE INTERCHANGE
Visit the Software Interchange at http://herman.tamu.edu/~josephk/softint.html. This is a central site which facilitates the transfer of legal software within TTI. Consider contributing to this software pool if you have any unused programs. Checking in and Checking out software is free, subject to the conditions mentioned at the site. Remember, software is expensive, and duplicate expenditures cost money to TTI.

TIP OF THE MONTH
When preparing documents using WordPerfect or Microsoft Word, try to use styles to make your formatting and structure simpler. Documents often consist of normal style text, marked into sections by headings. Instead of attempting to format the headings by yourself, marking the desired text as headings (Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3 styles, etc.) will aid you in consistently formatting all of your documents. To do this, while the cursor is on the line that you want to designate as a heading, pull-down the Styles pull-down box. If you want to change the format of a specific heading, edit the style characteristics. The whole document will reflect the new style attributes immediately. For example, if you would like all lines marked as Heading 1 to be in italics instead of bold, simply edit the style. The change will be immediately reflected in the whole document.

If you use Microsoft Word: Using styles allows you to manage the outline of your document and lets you generate the table of contents automatically. Hence if you are not using styles, you may be ignoring the true potential of Microsoft Word.

If you use WordPerfect: The individual headings may need to be marked as separate levels to automatically generate the table of contents.

In either case, if you are generating table of contents by hand, you are only as effective as someone using a plain typewriter.

INTERESTING WEB-SITES
www.nasdaq.com: To track the stock prices and learn more about the companies in NASDAQ. You can also let the graphing features to track the performance of a company in the last 60 months.
www.netscape.com: Browser war is not the point (It is a silly way to look at it, since browsers are not complex programs). Idea war is the point. Netscape Constellation may change the way we work and think about our "personal computer". Preview it at http://www.netscape.com/comprod/tech_preview/index.html.
www.forbes.com: Check out the richest 400 people at this site.

QUIZ-TIME
This month’s questions:
1. What does BASIC stand for?
2. What was the contribution of J. P. Eckert and J. Mauchly to the field Computer Engineering?
3. Who first coined the idea of an “Analytical Engine”?

Last month’s question(s):
1. Who wrote the MS-DOS operating system? Tim Paterson is considered the father of MS-DOS. It was modified from some earlier work a Seattle company (where Tim used to work) did.
2. What does the term MODEM mean? Modulator-Demodulator.

(Send questions, comments, and answers to Deborah.Jasek@TRI@TTI.)

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