ED’S CORNER

It was another notable year for TTI and TOG at TRB. Although we limit the number of attendees to this conference, the official TRB agenda shows TTI staff involved in 54 sessions. Many people were busy giving multiple presentations and participating in poster sessions. And of course there were the innumerable committee meetings and project meetings that were held during this event. Congratulations to all the TOG participants!

One activity that has been evolving the last few years is the poster session. Large crowds (hundreds of people in some cases) and the opportunity for individual contact make this session format highly effective. TOG had seven people prepare posters and give personalized accounts of their work. The quality and style of these posters was a real showstopper. I heard lots of positive comments on our exhibits. We really stood apart from the crowd.

As you’ve heard the State of Texas, like most other public agencies, is facing budget shortfalls. While TTI will proactively take actions to help resolve State budget problems, we should remember the important role of TTI funding from sources other than State general revenue. Project and funding diversity makes us a more agile and effective organization.

Our State shortfall is likely to extend through the current legislative budgeting cycle. So we should be vigilant in seeking a diverse funding base for future work. Please read national RFPs; build winning teams; submit proposals; and proactively seek new funding opportunities.

Ed Seymour

TOG TRAVELS

Bob Brydia presented a paper entitled "Gigabit Ethernet Solutions for Traffic Network Needs" at the Eighth Annual Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference, held in December at the Pennsylvania State University. Bob also presented a paper entitled "Feasibility of Utility Corridors in TxDOT Right-of-Way" at the recent Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington DC.

Kay Fitzpatrick attended several TRB and ITE meetings during TRB and presented her findings from an NCHRP project in two posters. During her trip to DC, Kay made a side trip to North Carolina to talk to NC State about their research into school design issues.

Gene Hawkins and Paul Carlson participated in the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices semi-annual meeting the week before TRB this year in Arlington, Virginia. Gene has been named as the new chair of the Markings Technical Committee and Paul Carlson will be the new secretary of the Regulatory/Warning Sign Technical Committee. Congratulations on these appointments.

Beverly Kuhn attended TRB and presented the following papers, “Managed Lanes in Freeway Operations”, and “State Legislative Issues for Managed Lanes in Texas.” Beverly also sat on a panel during the Eisenhower Fellowship Program Research Showcase discussing homeland security and education at Texas A&M University.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 01    Edward Seymour
January 02    KyuOk Kim
January 03    Nishant Kumar
January 17    Edward Brackin
January 19    Melisa Finley
January 20    Michael Vickich
February 02   Liz Perez
February 09   Nadeem Chaudhary
February 09   Lisa Patke
February 12   Kathy Tran
February 13   Jeffrey Ekdahl
February 15   Jerry Ullman
February 22   Nada Trout
February 23   Paul Adamson
February 24   Elisabeth Rose
February 26   Bryan Miller

DEVELOP THE LEADER WITHIN YOU
Beth Neilson attended TTI Day Session 1, “Developing the Leader Within You” presented by Susan Fiechtner. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Every improvement is the result of change but not every change is an improvement.
- Work should be your passion, not your prison.
- Take your job seriously but take yourself lightly.
- Find a job you like and you will never have to work.
- Never make the mistake that you work for someone else. You work for yourself.
- The purpose of performance evaluations is to motivate.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Bob Brydia was invited to present the results of TxDOT project 0-4149 to AASHTO at an upcoming meeting.
Kay Fitzpatrick and Paul Carlson were honored with the 2002 Outstanding Paper in the Field of Geometric Design for their paper: "Selection of Design Speed Values."
Edgar Kraus traveled to Germany over the Christmas break to visit his family and also took the opportunity to get engaged to his long-time girlfriend Katie Mook. Congratulations Edgar and Katie!
Cara Garcia, Jeff Miles, Jonathan Tydlacka, and Tim Wolff recently completed their bachelor's degrees at Texas A&M University.
Jeff Miles was also elected President of the ITE Student Chapter succeeding Grant Shultz.
Robert Pina completed his bachelor's degree in computer science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.
Rene Arredondo completed his master's degree in civil engineering from UTSA.
Congratulations to Melissa Finley and Garry Ford for becoming licensed engineers.
Ed Seymour was honored with an award from ITS Texas at the November meeting. The award cited Ed’s “contributions in the development of National ITS Standards and their Application in Texas to Center-to-Center Communications.” The award was “In recognition of outstanding leadership in planning, design, and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems.”
Congratulations on all of your achievements. You all make TOG look great!

Edward Brackin has been called up to active duty for an engagement expected to last at least a year. He will be going overseas. Let’s all keep Edward and his safety and his family in our thoughts during this time.
## NEW PROJECTS

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<td>474790</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>FHWA</td>
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## HELLO AND GOODBYE

The Research and Implementation Dallas Office would like to welcome back Lisa Palmer. Lisa is the new Office Associate for the Dallas Office. Lisa is a former TTI employee having spent over five years on campus in RDO and on the 8th Floor as Manager of Administrative Services. She returns to TTI after working for HNTB for the past year.

The Roadway Design Program would like to welcome Cara Garcia, Charles Stevens, Ty Thompson, and Tim Wolff. Cara will be working as a part-time Office Software Assistant. Charles is returning as a Student Worker after spending time out of the country as a study-abroad student. Ty received his BS at Ohio University and moved to Texas in order to work at TTI and pursue his interest in Geometric Design. Since May 2001, Tim has worked with TTI as an undergraduate student for Dr. Dudek. He is currently working towards his ME in Civil Engineering with an interest in Land Development. Ty and Tim have both started the masters program and will be working as Graduate Research Assistants for Kay Fitzpatrick.

The Signal Operations Program would like to welcome Anuj Sharma. Anuj has started working as a Graduate Research Assistant for Montasir Abbas.

The Signs and Markings Program would like to welcome Kit Black and Jeff Miles as new graduate research assistants. Kit’s hometown is Amarillo, Texas. His past work experience includes interning with TxDOT during the summer of 2001 in the Amarillo Area Office, and assisting with research projects at TTI since May 2002 in the Transportation Planning Group. Jeff Miles hails from Dallas, Texas. Jeff served in the U.S. Navy before coming to Texas A&M to complete his Bachelors in Civil Engineering. As an undergraduate, Jeff worked with FTO on various projects and participated in the Summer Fellows Program working with Bill Eisele. His areas of interest include ITS, geometric design, access management, and traffic control devices. Jeff and Kit are both beginning the master's program and will be working for Paul Carlson.

The System Management Division would like to welcome Robert Pina as a new Graduate Research Assistant. Robert has started the master's program in computer science at St. Mary's University. He is working under the supervision of Cesar Quiroga.

The Traffic Operations Program in Houston would like to welcome Nadine Stevens and Allison Hardy. Nadine is a computer science major at the University of Houston. Nadine is currently developing a web site for students interested in careers in transportation. Allison is a student at Houston Community College and is working on GIS mapping and data collection projects. Nadine and Allison will be working under the supervision of Robert Benz.

TransLink would like to welcome Jonathan Tydlacka and Adam Chodkiewicz. Jonathan has started the master's program and will continue to work for Larry Rilett. Adam is also a new masters student and will be working under the supervision of Kevin Balke.

The FSM Program would like to say farewell and best wishes to Norman Hogue. Norman has wrapped up his Masters of Engineering degree and will be leaving TTI to begin work as a Traffic Engineering Assistant with the City of Waco. Norman has worked with Tim Gates and Andrew Holick as both an undergraduate and graduate research assistant on a number of research projects. Norman's data collection efforts have been critical in keeping the projects on track. Best wishes on your new endeavors!
TTI Purchasing Guidelines

Purchases over $5,000
- A purchase requisition must be processed through the TTI Business Office and the TAMU Department of Purchasing Services for goods or services if the cost will be over $5,000, including shipping.
- A requisition must be processed even if the goods or services are available from only one source.
- Large purchases may not be divided into small lot purchases to avoid processing a purchase requisition.

Purchases $500 - $5,000
- Informal telephone bids are required.
- At least one active Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) minority or women-owned business should be included for each purchase if at all possible.
- Form 8518 for Informal Telephone Bids should be submitted to the Business Office for each order regardless of whether the HUB vendor was the successful bidder.

Additional Requirements for TxDOT Projects
- A reallocation budget must be submitted by RDO to TxDOT for approval prior to purchasing any equipment not included in the budget or for supplies of $1,000 or more. Supplies of less than $1,000 don't need approval but still need a budget revision.
- TxDOT appreciates a courtesy e-mail notification of upcoming purchases above $1,000. The research supervisor should send an e-mail to RDO for routing to TxDOT.

Paperwork Preparation and Ordering
- Beth Neilson generally handles all non-incidental orders for TOG College Station and as requested by the RIOs.
- Beth Neilson handles all TOG capital equipment and PUF purchases.

Research Foundation Purchasing
- Please contact your RF account administrator for details prior to making purchases.

TOG POSTER SESSIONS AT TRB

Angela Parham, Mark Wooldridge, and Marcus Brewer

Zong Tian

Marcus Brewer and Kay Fitzpatrick