ED’S CORNER

It looks as though we’ll be busy with TxDOT RMC projects next year. Congratulations to all those who’ve done such a great job with previous projects and deliverables and to everyone who helped submit such well-considered proposals this year! We’re on track to receive thirteen new projects totaling over $1.6 million. Of course these proposals are a team effort involving a lot of participation. Contributors listed on the proposals include: Abbas, Balke, Bonneson, Brewer, Burris, Carlson, Charara, Chaudhary, Chrysler, Collier, Cothron, Dudek, Engelbrecht, Finley, Ford, Gates, Goodin, Hawkins, Henk, Herrick, Holick, Jacobson, Jasek, Kraus, Lord, Martello, Middleton, Ojah, Parham, Quiroga, Seymour, Stockton, Storey, Thomas, Trout, Brooke Ullman, Jerry Ullman, Vadali, Voigt, Womack, Wooldridge. Well done.

Part of the success we’ve experienced depends on the submission of good project statements. And TxDOT has issued their request for Project Statements for the FY 04 research program. We are using the same process we have in the past. Project Statements should be submitted to Patti Ellis/Bill Stockton (RMC 2), Harlow Landphair (RMC 3) and Gene Hawkins/Beverly Kuhn (RMC 4) by July 26. They will be responsible for reviewing, consolidating, and selecting the Problem Statements to submit to TxDOT by August 2. Get those ideas down on paper and get a leg up on next year’s projects!

It's a pleasure to work with such an energetic and creative group of professionals.

Ed Seymour

KUDOS!

Jim Carvell, of the Dallas Office, was elected by the Texas District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (TexITE) to serve as an International Director on the Board of the Institute. Jim will serve a 3-year term on the Board, which consists of the Officers and District Directors from eight geographic districts around the world. Jim’s many years of service to TexITE and the profession will be of great benefit to the district and international ITE during his service on the Board. Congratulations, Jim!

Marc Jacobson of the San Antonio office, was recognized by TexITE with the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognized Marc’s outstanding contribution to the TexITE website, found at www.texite.org. The website, developed almost single-handedly by Marc, is an excellent example of how a professional organization can serve its membership.

Houston Student Worker Chris Heitfeld will become an Eagle Scout at a ceremony on Saturday, July 27th. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement Chris!

Grant Schultz, TexITE Student Chapter President won the Student Paper Competition and the Texas A&M Outstanding Chapter Member Award at the Summer TexITE Conference. Congratulations Grant!

WELCOME TO TOG

Welcome to Liz Rose, who has recently joined the FTO program. She will be working with Gene Hawkins on Project 4150, Evaluation of Pavement Marking Effectiveness, with Jerry Ullman on Project 2137, Improving Work Zone Safety Through Better Traffic Management and Enforcement, and with Connie Dudek on Project 7295, Guidelines for Changeable Message Sign (CMS) Messages. Her research interests include all facets of traffic operations as well as work zone mobility and safety.

The Traffic Analysis Program would like to welcome Graduate Assistant Researcher James McKenzie.

The Houston office would like to welcome student workers, Teddy Lin, Venus Nahid, and Kristin Williams. Teddy and Venus are both students at the University of Houston. Teddy is an electrical engineering major and Venus is a civil engineering major. Kristin is beginning her third year as an architecture major at the University of Texas in Austin. Welcome Students!

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TOG’S Mission

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

On June 17 Gary Thomas traveled to Dallas to give a presentation at the Paul Quinn Summer Transportation Institute.

Jerry Ullman traveled to Raleigh, NC June 19-21 to make a presentation on creating enforcement-friendly work zones at an FHWA workshop entitled "Making Work Zones Work Better."

Jerry Ullman and Andrew Holick traveled to Columbus, Ohio June 24-28 to collect data for an FHWA project to assess work zone exposure characteristics.

Kay Fitzpatrick spent the last week in June developing and making several presentations. She presented "Is 85th Percentile Speed Used to Set Speed Limits" at TexITE on June 28 in League City and "Design Speed and Operating Speed" and "Update on the National Agenda for Intersection Safety" at a TRB Summer Meeting held July 1-3 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She also made presentations on two TxDOT projects during the RMC 3 meeting held in San Antonio June 10-11.

Several people attended the TexITE Summer meeting in League City June 27-29. TOG employees seen included Darrell Borchardt, Marcus Brewer, Jim Carvell, Nadeem Chaudhary, Melisa Finley, Kay Fitzpatrick, Tim Gates, Norman Hogue, Marc Jacobson, Carissa Mardiros, Dan Middleton, Angelia Parham, Grant Schultz, Ed Seymour, Srinivasa Sunkari, Gary Thomas, Nada Trout, Brooke Ullman, and Tony Voigt.

Pictured below is Grant Schultz as he gives his presentation entitled: Advanced Technology Warning Devices - A Survey of the United States Practice at the TexITE Summer Meeting in League City.

In addition to Grant’s presentation, the following presentations were also given at the TexITE Summer Meeting:

- Update on PASSER Family of Programs (Nadeem Chaudhary)
- Is 85th Percentile Speed Used in Setting Speed Limits? (Kay Fitzpatrick)
- Treatments at Rural Intersections (Angelia Parham)

Darrell Borchardt was invited to attend the State Senate State Affairs Committee hearing on June 20th to be available as a resource witness with regards to truck restrictions in Texas.

TAPSS MEETING HELD

Brenda Manak, Maria Medrano, Beth Neilson, Helen Olivarez, Lisa Patke, Liz Perez, and Liz Post recently attended the 12th Annual Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff Development Conference. This year's theme was Creating an Opportunity for Victory. Staff were able to attend 2 out of 9 workshops offered in addition to the opening and closing sessions.

TOG IN THE NEWS

Mike Vickich was spotted on Houston's ABC news affiliate, KTRK, showing off the mobile traffic information application that the Houston office developed for Houston TranStar. The application allows users to get traffic information from TranStar on handheld Internet devices such as wireless phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and pagers. You can read more about the application at http://traffic.tamu.edu/mobileinfo/.

Srinivasa Sunkari attended and completed a 2-week training course in Houston entitled, "Traffic Control Systems Troubleshooting and Maintenance" from June-June 14. The workshop conducted by TEEX for TxDOT employees identified various means to identify and fix problems in traffic signal controller cabinets. This included both TS 1 and TS 2 cabinets from various vendors. Srinivasa has a workshop notebook available if you would like more information.
CALENDAR MARKS

July 04  Independence Day
July 10  Speak Up! The Art of Presenting
        12:00 - 1:00, Room 103 Gilchrist
July 17  Creating Successful Presentations
        12:00 - 1:00, Room 103 Gilchrist
July 22  ITE Practice Presentations
        Carlson, Chaudhary, Schultz
        12:00-1:30, Room 217 CE/TTI
July 29  ITE Practice Presentations
        Engelbrect, Seymour, Thomas
        12:00-1:30, Room 102 Gilcrest
July 31  Tips and Tricks of Powerpoint
        12:00 – 1:00, Room 103 Gilchrist
Aug 31  Last Day of Fiscal Year

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 03  Wonho Kim
July 10  Justin Winn
July 13  Karl Zimmerman
July 13  Leslie Kacer
July 15  Bikash Mandal
July 20  Angelia Parham
July 25  Curtis Herrick
July 28  Ricky Parker
July 29  Jim Bonneson
July 31  Paul Barricklow
Aug 04  Kerri Blaschke
Aug 04  Larry Rilett
Aug 07  Scott Abraham
Aug 13  Dennis Smalley
Aug 17  Sue Suter James
Aug 24  Akshit Kumar
Aug 24  Dan Middleton
Aug 24  Zong Tian
Aug 25  Maria Medrano
Aug 26  Cesar Quiroga
Aug 28  Tzong Lin

Newest Member of the Professional Development Program

FY 03 SWUTC PROPOSALS

The following SWUTC proposals involving TOG researchers have been selected for FY 03:

- Transportation Career Guide for the Non-Traditional Student – Debbie Jasek
- Quantifying Access Management Performance Measures and Incorporating Them Into the Transportation Planning Process – Bill Eisele, Larry Rilett, and Bill Frawley
- 3D Visualization as a Tool to Evaluate Sign Comprehension – Sue Chrysler

The following ITE practice presentation brown bag lunches have been scheduled for the end of July. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

July 22, 216 CE/TTI, 12:00-1:30
Chaudhary  Integration of an Advanced Traffic Management System with PASSER IV in Cupertino, CA
Carlson    Impacts of the Size of Trucks Related to Nighttime Visibility of Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings
Schultz   Implementing a Comprehensive Access Management Program in the State of Texas

July 29, 102 Gilchrist, 12:00 - 1:30
Seymour  ITE/AASHTO Report: Where Are We on ITS Standards
Thomas  Reaching Out to Our Future: Texas' Efforts in K-12 Transportation Outreach
Engelbrecht  A Safety Checklist for Traffic Signal Operations Near Highway-Railroad Grade Crossings
Did you recognize the snake charmer in the June issue of Interchange? It was Administrative Assistant, Kerry Brown. Kerry has been with the TTI Dallas office for 6 years. She enjoys traveling and Tai Chi.

He was recently seen serenading the crowd at the TexITE Summer Meeting. Look for answer in the August issue of Interchange!

**CAN YOU NAME THIS TOG EMPLOYEE?**

**NEW PROJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400531</td>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>FHWA</td>
<td>Investigate Large-Observation Angle Effects and Night Visibility for Trucks Associated with Minimum Retroreflectivity Requirement Values for Traffic Signs</td>
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<tr>
<td>400501</td>
<td>Jasek</td>
<td>Galveston County Office of Emergency Management</td>
<td>Conducting Hazardous Materials Flow Study</td>
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