June RMC Presentations by TOG

The TxDOT RMC June meeting continues to bring out the best in RMC research project presentations. TOG will have ten PI’s involved in making presentations during the RMC meetings.

0-4707 Brewer - Development of Measures for Motivating Drivers to Comply with Speed Limits in Work Zones

0-4745 Quiroga - Using Archived ITS Data and Spatial Statistics for Optimizing Incident Response at Transportation Management Centers

0-4750 Middleton - Long-Term Research into Vehicle Detector Technologies

0-4472 Carlson - Evaluation of Edge-Line and Centerline Rumble Strips

0-4703 Bonneson - Incorporating Safety into the Highway Design Process

0-4728 Finley - Evaluation of New RRPM and Marking Applications

0-4729 Abbas - Reducing Traffic Congestion and Fuel Emission through a Minimal Cost, Self-Tuning Closed-Loop Progression System

0-4746 Ruback - Non-Vital Advance Rail Preemption of Signalized Intersections Near Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

0-4748 Ullman - Effective Use of Portable Changeable Message Signs in Work Zones

0-4023 Ullman - Automated Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) Design and Display

0-4813 Borchardt - Alternative Signing for Advisory Speeds on Freeway-to-Freeway Connectors for Vehicles with High Centers of Gravity.

Ed’s Notes

There has been a lot of change in the last ten years since TOG first started “publishing” a newsletter. Back then it was all done on paper. Now distribution is electronic. But ten years ago we didn’t have the internet and the connectivity we have today. Do you remember that the first internet browser, Netscape, came forward in a beta version in 1994 and that Netscape issued an IPO in 1995? Of course that was quickly followed by the dotcom bubble that led to massive investments in fiber. I know, don’t mention the dotcom stock impacts; but the world is flatter than it has been because of these and other changes. Together with outsourcing, off-shoring, supply chaining and wireless technologies this connectivity has the potential to change our partners, our customer base and our products.

This summer while you’re on vacation and visiting new locations, please take a few moments to reflect on the new transportation opportunities these changes can bring to TTI. In our entrepreneurial setting you may be able to create your own next job by generating value in this market-place.

"...because I really think we are at a big change point in terms of how we think of information."

-Bill Gates

"The New World of Work" speech
Microsoft CEO Summit 2005
Dr. Chris Poe will be rejoining TTI on June 1 and will office in Dallas. Chris will be working on a tolling initiative for TxDOT that will help determine the future of how highway corridors are planned, designed, operated, and maintained. In that capacity he'll be working with many of you who are already assisting TxDOT with the consequences of Texas HB 3588. Chris previously worked in TTI’s Arlington office and was the first director of TTI’s TransLink® Laboratory. He has recently been employed by PB Farradyne in Dallas and has been involved with development of the DalTrans Center for TxDOT.

After 15+ years of service with TTI, Merrell “Gene” Goolsby has announced that he will be retiring from the Institute at the end of June.

Gene has been involved in transportation engineering and planning for over 35 years, practicing in the public sector (City of Houston), the private sector (Wilbur Smith Associates), and in university-related research (Texas Transportation Institute). He began his engineering career as head of the Planning and Special Projects Division, City of Houston Department of Traffic and Transportation. He designed and conducted numerous “problem oriented” operations studies which resulted in physical and operational roadway improvements. He also served as the City’s technical representative on the Houston-Galveston Area Transportation Study.

Gene initially joined Texas Transportation Institute in 1967 and served for four years on the Gulf Freeway Surveillance and Control System. He participated in research projects related to freeway operations, level of service, ramp control, bus use of freeways, emergency call boxes and impacts of incidents on freeway operations.

A retirement reception will be held in the TTI Houston Office on June 28. We all wish Gene and Marlyce the best as they make their home in Carmine, Texas, and we express our gratitude to Gene for all the contributions he has made. Best wishes Gene!
Recent Travels

Beverly Kuhn attended the ITS America Meeting in Phoenix, May 2-4. The conference was sandwiched into our family vacation that included the White Sands National Monument, Montezuma’s Castle National Monument, Grand Canyon National Park, Wupatki National Monument, Sunset Crater National Monument, Petrified Forest National Park, Painted Desert National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. We really got our money’s worth out of our National Parks Pass! Over 3000 miles later, we were glad to head home! Attached is a photo of the four of us at the Grand Canyon. (Darrell, Parker, Beverly, Harrison).

Andy Ballard of the San Antonio RIO was in Phoenix, Arizona May 2-4 for ITS America’s 15th Annual Meeting and Exposition, "Connecting Ideas, Partners and Solutions."

Montasir Abbas, Nadeem Chaudhary and Srinivasa Sunkari traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas to teach Traffic Signal Technical workshops to the Corpus Christi TxDOT District personnel, May 1-5.

Brooke Ullman was in El Paso, Texas, May 6-13 to conduct one-on-one surveys for TxDOT project 447485.

Debbie Jasek was in Dallas, TX to meet with Paul Quinn for the Summer Institute Program - May 10.

Geza Pesti attended the Midwest Smart Work Zone Deployment Initiative (MwSWZDI) Conference in Bettendorf, Iowa (May 10-11), and gave two invited presentations on traffic-responsive speed and merge control technologies for freeway work zones. The presentations were: (1) D-25 Speed Advisory System, and (2) Construction Area Late Merge (CALM).

Ricky Parker traveled to Waco, Texas several times for testing/repairing equipment for test site for project 450025.

Dan Middleton traveled to Norman, Oklahoma to meet with representatives of Oklahoma University to discuss joint research opportunities, May 16-17.

Kevin Balke and Leonard Ruback traveled to Austin, Texas to attend the Statewide Development and Integration working group meeting, May 17-18.

Gary Thomas traveled to Washington DC - May 18-19 to meet with ITE Staff and Mike Culp who is part of the TMIP Project team and Raj Ghaman who is part of the TMC Clearinghouse Team.

Marsha Anderson Bomar chaired the ITE Southern District meeting held in Savannah, GA, during May. Marsha met with the Commissioner of the Georgia DOT to talk about several partnering opportunities with TTI, including a Teen Driving program that would draw the best elements of the program in which TTI is involved in San Antonio (see article, page 5) and some previous work done in Georgia.
TOG Family News

HELLO

Charles Stevens, currently a graduate assistant for Kay Fitzpatrick, has accepted an Assistant Transportation Researcher position with the Houston Office. He will begin work in Houston on June 13th.

KUDOS

Roberto Gomez of the Houston Office received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston and has plans to further his education. Way to go!

Kudos to Ross Anderson (Marsha Anderson Bomar’s son) for being selected as Percussion Captain of the Duluth (GA) High School Marching Band.

GOOD-BYE

Paul Barricklow of the TTI San Antonio RIO left for the private sector - his last day was April 29. Paul has enjoyed his years working as a student and full-time researcher with TTI and now looks forward to a successful and dynamic career with Klotz Associates, Inc. in San Antonio. Lin Chen with System Monitoring Program is leaving TTI to finish pursuing his masters degree. His last day was May 31.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jeremy Johnson and Alyssa are the proud parents of Ethan Parker Johnson, born May 8th, 2005 at 1:49am, weight 7lb and 2oz., 20 inches long! Congrats to the Johnsons!

“Web-cam” - “Ethan, can you say web-cam?”

Utilizing Network Drives

A recent article in the *Bits & Bytes* newsletter by Brian Long, described the information resource available to all full-time TTI employees - The network share drive.

This is a good reminder to TOG employees to safe-guard your project files. The network share drive can be found on the H: drive, which contains all the personal folders for the members of your immediate group or division. In your personal folder (labeled by your network username), you are the only one that can edit or delete files in that folder. Anyone else in the agency can read those files. A shared folder, TOGShare is another area that all members of the group or division can use to store and share files.

The article goes into detail on how much space you have, how to find information and what to store.

Read the March 2005 issue for the full article!
**Teens in the Driver Seat**

Work continues on the San Antonio Office-led “Teens in the Driver Seat” (TDS) project. Recent activities have included work with the City of San Antonio Youth Commission – a group of 22 high school students in San Antonio elected (2) from each of the 11 City Council Districts. The Youth Commission is now a formal component of the recently formed TDS Coalition. This new coalition was announced at a press conference May 18th by Texas Transportation Commissioner Hope Andrade. Members of the new coalition include TTI, the Texas Transportation Commission, The City San Antonio (including the Youth Commission), and Bexar County. This group is working hard to acquire corporate sponsorship as the project moves forward. NHTSA has also recently inquired about providing funding for the project.

Patrick Deuley – a high school student intern in the S.A. Office – continues to work on the TDS project website and maintain the peer-to-peer input and direction of this initiative. Patrick attends the Design and Technology Academy (DATA), which is a computer programming and web design magnet school based at Theodore Roosevelt High School (Russell Henk’s high school alma mater). Russell was a guest speaker at DATA’s recent graduation ceremony that included a graduating class of approximately 150 students.

**Professional Development**

Edgar Kraus attended the Bentley Conference in Baltimore, MD. A variety of Microstation products, including InRoads, InRoads Survey, DigitalPlant, Geopak Road, Geopak Survey, and I/RAS-B, made the conference well worth the investment. The classes were very informative, they provided both theory and hands-on training in front of computers, Helpful manuals and friendly and knowledgeable instructors made for a good format. Some of the training was quite intense; for example the 8-hour InRoads course on Sunday covered the contents of the standard two-day InRoads introduction course. The best part of the conference was the ability to get some ideas directly from the Microstation pros in the exhibit area. The conference is ideal for anybody who would like to gain a basic understanding of a number of Microstation products and the latest updates. The conference was also helpful in learning about some advanced features of certain Microstation applications. In my opinion, the conference was not very helpful in gaining a profound knowledge about a specific Microstation product. To anyone attending this conference in the future, register for training classes as early as possible. The classes fill up very quickly.

Baltimore is a nice place for a conference. You can take a tour of the inner harbor, explore an old submarine, or catch a baseball game with the Baltimore Orioles. The first time somebody told me about them I thought “Now corporate sponsorship has gone too far!”, since I understood “Oreos”.

**New Projects**

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<td>475630</td>
<td>Gary Thomas</td>
<td>Battelle</td>
<td>Traffic Management Center Clearinghouse Development and Initiation.</td>
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<td>403561</td>
<td>D. Fenno - D. Smalley</td>
<td>MTA</td>
<td>High Occupancy Vehicle Lane (HOVL) Operations Manual Update/Preparation of a Computerized Operating Manual for the Houston Tran Star Center.</td>
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June 2005

Upcoming Events

- TTI Support Staff Retreat: June 8, 2005, The Chapel-Riverside Campus.
- TxDOT Transportation Short Course: Oct 11, 12, 2005; College Station, TX.
- ITS Texas Annual Meeting - Nov 16-18; College Station, TX.

Birthdays

- Jun 01: Melquissides Herrera
- Jun 10: Gary Barricklow
- Jun 11: Jessica Vehmeier
- Jun 13: Lei Xu
- Jun 15: Yuanchang Xie
- Jun 24: Shanthan Ku changi
- Jun 25: Sangita Sunkari
- Jun 27: Gary Thomas
- Jun 29: Edgar Kraus
- Jun 29: Kwaku Obeng-Boampong
- Jul 06: Zachary Howard
- Jul 08: Julie Moreno
- Jul 13: Karl Zimmerman
- Jul 17: Marsha Bomar
- Jul 26: Roma Garg
- Jul 28: Lisa Palmer
- Jul 28: Ricky Parker
- Jul 29: Jim Bonneson

TOG is Hiring

Three TOG programs are actively looking for additional staff. Please spread the word to 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.

Program  Contact  NOV  Position

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TOG Mission Statement

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