The 2006 Hurricane Season is here. Hurricane Rita came calling to the Texas Gulf Coast in September 2005 leading to what has been described as the largest evacuation in the history of mankind. (2.4 to 2.8 million people were estimated to have evacuated from the Houston/Galveston/Beaumont region). During the events of Rita, Houston Office staff provided key "on-the-fly" services to the TxDOT Houston District in the areas of data collection, traveler information support and technical assistance. Mike Vickich was even spotted aligning wireless internet antennas in tropical storm force winds so that critical data flows for traveler information would be available for motorists during re-entry into the area!

(Continued on page 2)
After the Rita evacuation experience, TxDOT looked to TTI for assistance in preparation for the 2006 hurricane season. TTI has provided support to TxDOT via the GBE study, RMC Project 4962 and various IAC activities with the coastal Districts of TxDOT. In cooperation with TTI staff in San Antonio and College Station, many members of the Houston Office, including Tony Voigt, Darrell Borchardt, LuAnn Theiss, Charles Stevens, Mike Vickich and Darryl Puckett, have worked closely with the Houston, Beaumont and Lufkin Districts to prepare for 2006. Work has included:

- Inventory of existing routes for Evaculane, Contraflow, and Counterflow implementation;
- Support of operational initiatives with Technology Transfer: “Will this work?”;
- Development of Conceptual Contraflow plans for IH 10 EB (Harris County to US 69) and IH 10 WB (Louisiana State Line to SH 62), IH 10 (Houston to San Antonio), IH 45, US 290, and US 59. Work was also completed for the development of conceptual evacuation plans for US 69, US 96, SH 87, SH 62, SH 92, SH 105, SH 146, and SH 321 (from the Beaumont area);
- Intelligent Transportation Systems development, evaluation and testing;
- Development of enhanced Houston TranStar interfaces, including map development and integration for ITS equipment located outside the Houston area; and
- Demonstration Projects (VIVDS and PTZ Cameras in rural environments).

The Houston Office is evaluating the results of a Houston evacuation survey that broke all records for Houston TranStar Survey response rates. Results of this survey will be used for modeling efforts at H-GAC. Mike Vickich continues his work on integration of evacuation cameras and radar equipment into internet-based maps for use during an evacuation event. The 2006 hurricane season will hold some surprises for coastal residents, but hopefully the extraordinary planning efforts will help the citizens of Texas have a smoother ride to safety.

Evacuation out of the Houston area in September 2005

Evaculane Stripping on US 69
GOOD-BYE

Due to continuing health issues, David Fenno of the Houston office has retired from the Institute as of June 1. Continued thoughts and prayers are with Dave and his family as he continues his battle with cancer.

WELCOME

Kathy Montemayor has joined the TTI Dallas Office working for Chris Poe as an Assistant Research Specialist. Kathy is no stranger to TTI. She worked with the TTI Event Management & Planning office previously.

Please welcome Tiffany Hoffart, Sarah Navarro and Kasey O’Leary to the Houston office. Both Sarah and Kasey attend Prairie View A&M University as CE students, Tiffany is a junior accounting major at Texas State University. They join as student technicians under Rob Benz’s supervision. Welcome!

KUDOS

Marsha Anderson Bomar’s son Ross graduated from High School in Georgia. He plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall.

Ed Seymour’s daughter, Megan finished Plano West Senior High and is off to the University of North Texas.

Megan is also traveling this summer to Russia.

For the second consecutive year, Dan Middleton completed the 170-mile Houston to Austin bicycle ride to benefit the National Multiple Schlerosis Society. He and Shawn Turner (SPP&E) rode with the Ol’ Army Cycling Team which had over 70 riders this year. The total number of cyclists in the ride was over 13,000!

CONGRATULATIONS

Kim and Paul Carlson are proud parents of Mr. Kai Carlson - born Friday, June 2, around 6:00 PM. Kai weighed 9 pounds and 3 oz and was 21 inches long. Congratulations!

Recent Travels

Liz Perez, Helen Olivarez, Maria Medrano, Diane Fischer, Colleen Dau, Stacey Alejando, from College Station as well as Brenda Manak and Lisa Patke from the Houston Office, Kandis Salazar from San Antonio Office and Lisa Palmer from the Dallas Office, all attended the Support Staff Appreciation Luncheon at Oxford Street in Bryan on May 1.

Robert De Roche traveled to Grand Rapids, MI, to present the ITE Outreach, Education, and Training course on Dynamic Message Signs on April 27. It was a small but very enthusiastic group with diverse backgrounds.

Tony Voigt participated in the Statewide Hurricane Preparedness Exercise on May 3 and 4 and in the first meeting of the Houston-Galveston Region Hurricane Evacuation Traffic Management Team Meeting on May 16. Tony also attended the Houston-Galveston Hurricane Workshop in Houston on May 30.

Darrell Borchardt attended the State Hurricane Conference in Beaumont on May 23 to May 25.

Russell Henk hosted the GBE Study Team Meeting in the Houston office on May 10. Other attendees: TTI - Tony Voigt, and Rob Robideau; Also attending from University of Texas Engineering Department, Peter Siegesmund,
Recent Travels - continued

Rob Harrison, Lisa Loftus-Otway; University of Texas-El Paso; along with other Partner Universities.

Houston TranStar celebrated its 10th Year Anniversary on May 15. Robert Benz, Chris Poe, Mike Vickich, and Tony Voigt attended the reception.

In May, Jerry Ullman spent two weeks in California collecting data for his NCHRP project on nighttime and daytime work zones. He also found out that: (1) Barry Bonds looks very small from the top row of SBC field; (2) Giant sequoia trees are called that for a good reason; and (3) just like many small towns in Texas, there isn't much to do in Yuba City, CA.

Robert Benz and Tony Voigt toured the Texas Medical Center Security and Mobility Management Center on May 16. Working with the Texas Medical Center and H-GAC to develop an operations plan and operational strategies.

Tony Voigt, Houston Office, Ed Seymour and Chris Poe, Dallas Office, along with TTI Staff attended the TxDOT Metro District Engineers Meeting in College Station on May 23. Guests were treated to a special crash test at the TTI Riverside campus as part of the meeting on the A&M campus. TTI hosted a reception on the evening of May 22.

Dan Middleton traveled to Austin, Texas to participate in "Traffic Data for Pavement Design" Workshop on May 17th. He and Ryan Longmire traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend and participate in the North American Travel Monitoring Exposition and Conference, June 3-8. The conference was packed with activities including technical sessions, TRB committee meetings, technical tours, exhibitor presentations, and abundant networking opportunities. Dan made presentations entitled "Applying Innovative Technology to Advance Planning and ITS Data Sharing" and "A Comparison of Non-Intrusive Detectors to Inductive Loops."

Melissa Tooley traveled to Washington D.C to attend/participate in the American Road Transportation Builders Association on May 16-18.

Debbie Jasek is traveling the whole month of June to Kingsville, Dallas and Weslaco at different times of the month to conduct Summer Transportation Institute programs.

Brooke Ullman will be traveling several times the month of June to Dallas, Houston, and Austin to conduct focus group.

Beverly Kuhn and Jodi Carson are participating in scanning tours in Europe this month. Beverly is already there and Jodi will be leaving in the middle of this month. It won’t be all fun, they are the “reporters” who will document the trip.

Steve Venglar and Kwaku Obeng-Boampong traveled to McAllen, Texas May 10-11, 2006 to work with local TxDOT Pharr District staff on various access management projects underway in the region.

Kwaku Obeng-Boampong and Liang Ding of the SA-RIO office participated with TxDOT and local San Antonio public agency staff in one of Jim Bonneson's Red Light Running workshops (in San Antonio) on May 16, 2006.

Gary Barricklow added many miles to his travel log on May and June trips to Corpus Christi, Brownsville, and Edinburg on a variety of field data collection trips in South Texas.

Russell (Gulliver) Henk has been on the road again -- recent destinations included: Arlington, Austin (x4), College Station (x2), Corpus, Dallas, El Paso (x2), Houston (x2), Laredo, Karnes City (x2), Milwaukee, Midland-Odessa, and Waco. He made formal presentations on Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Best Practice at Wisconsin’s SmartWays ITS Conference and TxDOT’s Statewide Operations & Maintenance Conference.

Russell Henk and Bernie Fette participated in the Texas Association of Student Councils Annual Conference in Arlington, Texas -- an event attended by 4,000 members of Student Councils from all parts of Texas. Russell and Bernie hosted an exhibit booth for Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) and also conducted three (3) workshops on teen driving as part of the conference.
New DFW Traffic Information Web Site

The new TxDOT DFW traffic information web site at, appropriately named, http://www.dfwtraffic.info is in beta testing and will eventually replace the existing web site at http://dfwtraffic.org/.

The TxDOT Dallas District requested TTI to upgrade the existing site and to add functionality and make it more appealing to the user. Bryan Miller and Ed Seymour devised an approach that would utilize an existing commercial map base rather than using an artist rendering. A map that uses a Google Map base was planned. This meant overlaying the camera and dynamic message sign locations which were available on the previous map, and adding incident locations as well as ongoing and planned lane closures for maintenance which were available only in tabular form on the old site. Speed level information on the map wherever TxDOT has traffic detectors was added. Using a commercial map base such as Google Maps has the advantage of someone else maintaining the map while the developer concentrates on the functionality. The Google Map also has the advantage of covering all parts of the state so that a coordinated operation, say during evacuation routing, could be accomplished. There is a feedback survey on the new website for anyone that visits - check it out!

Two Awards Announced

The TxDOT project 5-2110-01 "GIS-Based Inventory of Utilities" received an FHWA Utility Outstanding Achievement Award at the AASHTO 2006 Right of Way/Utility Conference. Cesar Quiroga, TTI San Antonio office, as well as, TxDOT ROW Division's John Campbell and Jesse Cooper, who were also named in the award, were on hand to accept the award.

The Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program, lead by Russell Henk, TTI San Antonio office, was recently awarded an International Videographer Award for its new PSA on cell phone use and text messaging by teens while driving. A special thanks are due to David Dennis, Clyde Hance and David Martin (TTI-Communications) for their fine work in bringing another prestigious award home to the TDS program and TTI.
Birthdays

Jun 02 Maneesh Mahlawat
Jun 05 Eduardo Garcia
Jun 10 Gary Barricklow
Jun 15 Yuanchang Xie
Jun 24 Shamanth Kuchangi
Jun 25 Sangita Sunkari
Jun 27 Gary Thomas
Jun 28 Liang Ding
Jun 29 Edgar Kraus
Jun 29 Kwaku Obeng-Boampong
Jun 29 Cameron Williams
Jun 30 Ganesh Karkee
Jul 04 Curtis White
Jul 05 Jennifer Stark
Jul 13 Marshall Cheek
Jul 13 Karl Zimmerman
Jul 14 Kevin Lipnicky
Jul 16 Wendy Ealding
Jul 17 Marsha Anderson Bomar
Jul 18 Cecilia Chapa
Jul 19 Selvaraj Rayan
Jul 24 Kathy Montemayor
Jul 25 Krizia Martinez
Jul 27 Tiffany Brooks
Jul 28 Lisa Palmer
Jul 29 Jim Bonneson

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

TOG Is Hiring

New positions and positions filled are listed below. 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.

New Positions

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<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
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<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061101</td>
<td>Software Application Developer II</td>
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<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
<td>061188</td>
<td>Asst. Research Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>060676</td>
<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</td>
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<td>Ed Seymour</td>
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<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
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Pending

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<td>Asst. Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signs and Markings</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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<td>Asst. Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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City of Houston Flextime Initiative

The City of Houston Flextime Initiative is intended to improve mobility and workplace productivity. **Tony Voigt** is a member of the Measurement Subcommittee of Houston Mayor Bill White’s Flexible Workplace Committee. One area employer, Duke Energy, recently implemented a flexible work schedule during April and May. TTI staff, working alongside City of Houston and committee volunteers, completed traffic counts and travel time runs to measure the actual benefits of the Duke Energy Flextime program. Preliminary results were shown to have positive impacts on localized travel time and signal delay on the nearby roadway network. The flextime program, cleverly dubbed “Flex in the City”, will look toward a regional flextime experiment in September where many employers switch to a flextime program for a two week period. TTI will assist the measurement committee with AVI data mining activities to determine if any change in travel times was observed.

More information about the program can be found at http://www.houstontx.gov/flexworks/.