Who would have predicted that Texas House Bill 3588 would be leading to 85 mph speed limits in Texas? Yes, we knew about RMAs, toll roads, and the Trans-Texas Corridor. But 85 mph speed limits and the associated design issues for those roads weren’t an obvious consequence of the legislation. However once they were identified as real outcomes for future roadways, TxDOT looked to TTI for assistance in defining the issues involved and identifying potential solutions. It’s gratifying to see so many people willing to help TxDOT get the answers and products they need.

These kinds of team responses to a changing environment are the attributes that make TTI a great place to work and that will position our organization to be successful in our changing marketplace.

I’d encourage everyone to read the RMC Long Range Research Plan article on page 2. The RMC meetings are around the corner and knowledge of the LRRP might be very useful.

Don’t forget — plan some vacation. Summer is upon us!

Ed

“I have never been hurt by anything I didn’t say.”

Calvin Coolidge
RMC 4 New Long Range Research Plan

TxDOT’s RMC 4 Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) has been working on a new long-range research plan (LRRP) that has been reformatted to be more functional than the previous LLRP, which was more of a file cabinet of past projects fitted into various traffic operations categories. The new LRRP is expected to be used by the TAP to help focus the needs of the Department by cross-referencing this year’s problem statements to the LRRP’s technical and focus areas. The LRRP should be considered as the TTI technical teams develop problem statements for this coming research cycle.

It is worth noting that the new RMC4 LRRP has been well received within TxDOT. Other RMCs are beginning to develop similar LRRPs. Keep in mind, however, that the RMC4 LRRP is evolving. We continued to enhance the document during the 2005 Spring TAP meeting. Additional writing assignments were made that have not been incorporated into the latest version (File:///\Tti-bcs\log\TOGshare\RMC4\LRP04.doc). It is arranged by Technical Areas and those technical areas are subdivided into Focus Areas. You’ll find this information helpful as you begin working with the TTI teams to formulate relevant research topics. Your input and suggestions are welcome. Please contact either Beverly Kuhn or Paul Carlson with your ideas.

June RMC 4 Meeting Updates

There will be some changes to the RMC 4 meeting in June. All presentations will be made on Monday, June 6th (and all will be TTI presentations). Researchers will have 15 minutes to present this year. RTI has also asked for all presentations by June 1. Do not send your presentation to RTI directly. Instead, send final presentation to Beth Neilson. She needs your presentation in time to get it on a CD and to RTI by June 1. A schedule for the practice presentations will be emailed shortly.

New Projects

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<tr>
<td>455315</td>
<td>Andrew Ballard</td>
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<td>401341</td>
<td>Gerald Ullman</td>
<td>FHWA</td>
<td>Highly Mobile Barrier Applications Workshop</td>
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<td>403550</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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<td>Evaluation of Lighted Pavement Marking Systems</td>
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<td>451505</td>
<td>Gene Hawkins</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Qualification of Mobile Retroreflectometers</td>
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Hawaii DOT and FHWA-Hang 10!

Aloha! Paul Carlson has signed a new contract with the Hawaii DOT and FHWA to study the use of red RRPMs as used on Hawaii highways, which is not in conformance with MUTCD. The contract will require no fewer than two trips to Hawaii to collect data. We’re looking for researchers that are interested in participating. The catch is, because of the demand, each research will have to pay their own way! Just kidding!! Really, Nada Trout is leading the data collection effort and her team is already formed. But, if we do a top-notch job, we’re hopeful to establish a TTI satellite office in Hawaii! There has not been enough research on transportation modes such as wave-surfing or windsurfing. Hang 10!

Recent Travels

- On March 17th and 18th, Rajat Rajbhandari was in El Paso for Dynasmart-P training provided by Dr. Yi-Chang Chiu of the University of Texas at El Paso. TTI and the San Antonio office look forward to a continued strong relationship with Dr. Chiu as our research programs move forward.

- Andy Ballard attended the 27th National Hurricane Conference in New Orleans on March 21-25, 2005. Andy was “blown away” by all of the new things he learned at the conference, and looks forward to bringing new information to ongoing hurricane evacuation work with the South Texas districts of TxDOT.

- April 18-20 in Houston - Beverly Kuhn attended the 12th International HOV Systems Conference: Improving Mobility and Accessibility with Managed Lanes, Pricing, and BRT. Beverly gave a presentation entitled “Research on Managed Lanes: A Report from Texas.” Marcus Brewer attended the conference and made a presentation on “Managed Lane Ramp Design Issues” based on research conducted on TxDOT project 0-4160. Also attending the HOV Conference, Rob Benz, made a presentation on “Using Real-Time Data to Evaluate HOV and General Purpose Lanes.”

- Gary Thomas was in El Paso (along with Scott Cooner) to teach a Beginning CORSIM class on April 20-21.

- Dan Middleton traveled April 27-28, to participate in the ITS Technologies to Reduce Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities Workshop.

- Debbie Jasek traveled April 27-28, to Kingsville, Texas for a Career Fair and meetings with TAMU Kingsville and also to San Antonio, Texas to meet with Palo Alto officials for the Summer Transportation Institute program.

- Paul Carlson traveled to Detroit to participate in the 100th Annual SAE World Congress. Paul presented a paper that demonstrated how the automotive industry headlamp specification changes have impacted the transportation world in terms of nighttime roadway visibility. There was a great discussion afterwards that identified past breakdowns in communication between the two groups and future resolutions that can start the process to develop a more balanced headlamp specification for the US.

- In April, Andrew Holick, Melisa Finley, Jerry Ullman, and Paul Carlson traveled to Washington DC to attend and make presentations at TRB’s 17th Biennial Visibility Symposium. Paul’s presentation, “Progress Toward a Performance Based Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting,” was the keynote presentation of the conference.
TOG Family News

HELLO

The TTI San Antonio Research and Implementation Office welcomes a new employee, Rajat Rajbhandari, who comes to us after having received his Master’s and PhD degrees from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Rajat, who is originally from Nepal, says that it is about time he can spend a winter somewhere without having to fight the snow!

Claudiu Ghigiu joined the TTI San Antonio Research and Implementation Office as a Student Worker. Claudiu will bring all that he is learning as a computer science Master’s student at the University of Texas at San Antonio to bear on the data and programming needs of the San Antonio RIO.

Jodi Carson is switching acronyms and will be assigned to the System Management Division. Jodi works out of the Austin Urban Office and will continue to do so.

KUDOS

Montasir Abbas was featured in the February issue on the Battalion and the Eagle newspapers. Montasir sang while strumming the “oud” during an event to kickoff Celebrating Arab Cultures Week.

Marsha Anderson-Bomar’s daughter Alexis, who has been a ballerina for many years, just found out that she has qualified to go on pointe. This is a major milestone in the life of a student of ballet. Marsha’s son Charles, a senior at another fine engineering school (Georgia Tech), recently became engaged to his girlfriend of three years, Aubrey Powell. She is a pre-med student at West Georgia University. They met doing a service project in their freshman years as members of a national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. Marsha’s stepson Heath and future daughter-in-law Jackie have set their wedding date – September 17th.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kathy Tran (TTI Houston Office) and husband, David Nguyen have a new addition to their home. Erik Nguyen was born on February 11, 2005. He weighed in at 7 lbs 15 oz and 20 inches long at birth. Kathy works out of the Dallas office.

Paul Barricklow (San Antonio Office) and his wife, Natosha and (new big sister) Evelyn welcomed the addition of Allison Avery Barricklow on April 6, 2005. Allison weighed in at 9 pounds 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. Paul is working in the San Antonio Castle Hills office.

New Office Space in San Antonio

NEW OFFICE SPACE MOVE

The San Antonio Office located at Castle Hills has relocated to new office suite space. As the sign on the door tells it, they are now located right around the corner!

Steve Venglar noted with a slightly bigger conference room that will have a Smartboard and Polycom, and offices for visitors – for everyone to remember the San Antonio Office when planning a meeting in the area - SA can accommodate!
May 2005

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Birthdays

May 01 Lindsay Armstrong
May 02 Mark Burris
May 10 Bob Brydia
May 15 James Carvell, Jr.
May 16 Steve Venglar
May 18 Brooke Ullman
May 20 Robert DeRoche
May 24 Andrew Holick
May 24 Megan Kubecka
May 26 Jeffrey Miles
May 28 Jonathan Tyllicka
May 29 Kenneth Giusti, Jr.
Jun 01 Melquissides Herrera
Jun 10 Gary Barricklow
Jun 11 Jessica Vehmeier
Jun 13 Lei Xu
Jun 14 Lin Chen
Jun 15 Yuanchang Xie
Jun 24 Shamanth Kuchangi
Jun 25 Sangita Sunkari
Jun 27 Gary Thomas
Jun 29 Edgar Kraus
Jun 29 Kwaku Obeng-Boampong

Upcoming Events

- TexITE Summer Meeting - June 23-24, 2005; Laredo, TX
- ITE 2005 Annual Meeting-Aug 7-10, 2005; Melbourne, Australia
- ITS Texas Annual Meeting - Nov 16-18; College Station, TX

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.

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<td>Signs and Markings</td>
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<td>Assistant Transportation Researcher</td>
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<tr>
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<td>050795</td>
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<td>Steve Venglar</td>
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TOG Mission Statement

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