ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MESSAGE

This month we have a guest columnist. Chris Poe has written an article concerning transportation operations test beds that are available through TransLink®.

Tom Urbanik

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TEST BEDS

TransLink® is focusing on ‘linking’ railroads, transit, and emergency services with existing transportation operations. By being a ‘Center,’ TransLink® can also help link researchers from different programs/divisions, urban offices with College Station, and field test beds to the research program. It is in this last effort that TransLink® has worked to create facilities that will benefit all researchers. TTI has established a number of test beds for transportation operations in College Station. These test beds allow researchers to take concepts from a laboratory to the field and test proof of operational concepts. Ultimately, this should achieve faster and more successful implementation of research findings. Many of the test beds were started on individual projects, and have continued to be supported by the TransLink® Research Center. The real benefit of these facilities will come from the synergy of additional research and projects utilizing the test beds.

The current facilities consist of 1) a freeway test bed, 2) a diamond interchange test bed, and 3) a multi-modal corridor test bed. The freeway test bed is on the southbound lanes of Highway 6 just south of the University overpass. This facility is set up to test traffic detectors under different mounting locations with continuous recording of environmental conditions. The second test bed is the Smart Diamond location at the interchange of Highway 6 and Harvey Road near the mall. The third test bed is along the Wellborn corridor. In this facility, we are tracking transit and rail operations. The next phase is to bring the traffic signal monitoring on-line for the seven intersections in the Wellborn Corridor. We are also planning on creating a sensor testing area near the pedestrian overpass to test traffic detectors under lower speeds and stop-and-go conditions.

The ability to conduct testing in a more controlled environment under live traffic conditions is a unique capability of TTI. Please consider how current or proposed projects can leverage these test beds to benefit your research and further contribute to the development of these facilities.

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Poe or Dan Middleton.

Christopher Poe

CALENDAR MARKS

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Ph.D. Student Seminar, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Room 304F, Paul Carlson presenter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6-7</td>
<td>Reading Day TAMU</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>SWUTC Project Call Meeting, Room 217, 9:00-10:00 a.m., TTVN available for urban offices</td>
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<td>May 8-13</td>
<td>Finals</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Modifications due to RTT</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>Mothers Day</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
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<td>May 15-16</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>TOG Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Memorial Day, (TxDOT State Holiday)</td>
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<td>May 28-29</td>
<td>Mentor Program: Advanced Surface Transportation Systems</td>
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<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>SWUTC Project submittal due</td>
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<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>First Summer Session begins</td>
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<td>Jun 1-2</td>
<td>RMC 2, 6, and 9 Meetings in San Antonio</td>
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<td>Jun 3-4</td>
<td>RMC 4, 5, and 8 Meetings in San Antonio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 4-5</td>
<td>RMC 1, 3, and 7 Meetings in San Antonio</td>
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<td>Jun 18-20</td>
<td>TEXITE summer meeting in Austin</td>
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<td>Jun 19</td>
<td>Emancipation Day, (TxDOT State Holiday minimal staffing)</td>
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<td>Jun 21</td>
<td>Fathers Day</td>
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<td>Jul 4</td>
<td>Independence Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Jul 7</td>
<td>Second Summer Session begins</td>
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TOG ANNUAL MEETING

The 1998 Transportation Operations Group Annual Meeting is on Friday, May 22 at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park. The theme for this year’s meeting is *Something for Everyone.*

The meeting will be from: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration forms and a schedule of the day’s activities will be distributed soon. Make your plans to attend today and we hope to see everyone there!

TOG’S Mission

Develop implementable solutions which promote a safer, more effective, more efficient, and sustainable transportation system by providing quality research, education, technology transfer, and leadership in transportation system operation.
FRIENDLY REMINDER: DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

The TransLink® laboratory is a resource and research tool for all of TTI. Due to the research being conducted, there are numerous occasions where equipment and computers are left on and unattended. While this equipment may appear to have been left on by accident, turning it off is actually disruptive to the projects. While people's intentions are good, please do not turn any items off, move equipment around or otherwise change any configurations.

Please keep in mind that the laboratory is also a showcasing facility for TTI. Please make every effort to keep the lab neat and remove items such as coffee cups, soda cans, etc when you are done working in the lab.

Your extra attention to these matters is appreciated and will help to make the lab a better resource for all of us.

Bob Brydia

GET WELL SOON

Monye Brookover and Susan LaFosse, both of the Houston office, were involved in an automobile accident. Both are recovering well and are in good spirits.

Get well soon.

HELLO AND GOODBYE!

Goodbye and Best Wishes

Karl Passetti is graduating in May. Karl starts work for Kittelson & Associates in their Ft. Lauderdale office on July 6. One of his first projects will be redesign of U.S. 1 in the Florida Keys. Rumor is that Karl will have lots of visitors between TRB and spring break next year.

Michaela Buch is returning to Germany and the University of Karlsruhe in May. She is working on a graduate degree at the University of Karlsruhe and her TAMU course work is part of her degree program. This summer, Michaela will be taking classes and studying for her comprehensive exams in the fall.

Hello

The Houston office would like to welcome Elston Jones and Mary Tadros. Elston is a traffic surveyor; he will be installing portable traffic recorders and related equipment, completing traffic studies, and compiling traffic data. Mary is a student worker and will become a co-op worker during the summer; she will be entering and compiling MAP data and assisting with traffic studies. Welcome Elston and Mary.

The Transport Operations Program would like to welcome Sharon Burton as their new Secretary. Sharon, who previously worked in TAMU purchasing, has an Associates Degree in Business and attended Texas Southern and University of Houston. She resides in College Station with her husband, Alfred, and her daughter, Clarissa. Welcome Sharon.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for Papaw Gene Ritch from the Houston office. Gene's "first wife's baby boy" and his wife are the proud parents of an 8 pound, 8 ounce, 20 inch long baby boy. Jason Kerr Ritch was born April 16th. Grandsons 3, Granddaughters 0.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

The TransLink® Roadside Equipment Laboratory hosted a lab session on traffic signal controller operation for CE 618. This was an excellent example of how the academic and research programs can work together to the benefit of everyone. Thanks goes to Dan Fambro, Roelof Englebrecht, and Peter Koonce for their hard work and cooperation. We look forward to more of these sessions.

Larry Rilett, Karl Passetti, and Byungkyu Park presented papers at ASCE's Fifth International Conference on Advanced Technologies in Newport Beach, CA on April 27 and 28.

Congratulations and bravo to Lisa Badillo. May 2 marks her 10th anniversary with TTI!

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING MILESTONES

1868  • The first traffic signals (semaphores) were installed in London, England.
1896  • The first recorded auto accident in the U.S. was in New York City.
1899  • The first traffic fatality in the U.S. was in New York City.
1911  • The first centerline pavement marking in the U.S. was in Michigan.
1914  • The first electric traffic signal in the U.S. was in the City of Cleveland.
1915  • The first stop sign was installed in Detroit.
1919  • The first bronze towers installed to house electric traffic signals were in New York City.
1935  • The first edition of the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUTCD) was published.
1935  • The first parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

There were no items on professional development activities submitted this month. If you attend an activity please submit information to Debbie Jasek (Deborah Jasek@TRA@TTI) anytime during the month.

We must either find a way or make one.

—Hannibal
BRAVO! GREAT JOB! TAKE A BOW!
To recognize someone's great job, send pertinent information to Debbie Jasek (Deborah Jasek@TRA@TTI) anytime during the month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1  Monye Brookover
May 4  Jeannette Montufar
May 6  Michael Thomadakis
May 10 Bob Brydia
May 14 Ramon Labrador
May 15 Kelly Blume
May 15 Jim Carvell
May 16 Mike Davis
May 16 Steve Venglar
May 16 Jack Webb
May 18 Brooke Durkop
May 18 Terry Ogle
May 19 Joseph Koothrappally
May 27 Stephen Moore
May 29 Kenneth Giusti, Jr.
May 31 Julia Wilkie
Jun 1  Rene Hulett
Jun 2  Sean Merrell
Jun 6  Kollan Pillay
Jun 16 Yaru Liu
Jun 22 Edmond Chang
Jun 25 Roelof Engelbrecht

GREAT TRUTHS IN LIFE

Great truths about life that little children have learned:
* No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
* When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
* If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
* Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
* You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
* Reading what people write on desks can teach you a lot.
* Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
* Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac.
* Never hold a dustbuster and a cat at the same time.
* School lunches stick to the wall.
* You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
* Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
* The best place to be when you are sad is in Grandma's lap.

TRIVIA QUIZ

Here are the answers to last month's trivia:
Maryland leads in harvesting oysters.
Texas leads in beef cattle production.
Oregon (followed by California and Washington) leads in lumber production.
Idaho (followed by Washington and Oregon) produces the most potatoes.
Texas (followed by California and Mississippi) produces the most cotton.

This month's trivia questions concern state nicknames.

What state is nicknamed "The Land of Enchantment"?
Which state is called "The Peach State"?
Which state is known as "The Sunshine State"?
What state is the "Treasure State"?
What state is "The Blue Hen State"?

Good luck. Look for the answers next month.

AND YOU THOUGHT SOME OF YOUR DAYS WERE BAD!

A fierce gust of wind blew 45-year-old Vittorio Luise's car into a river near Naples, Italy, in 1983. He managed to break a window, climb out, and swim to shore -- where a tree blew over and killed him.

PROJECT EXCHANGE MEETING

The next Project Exchange Meeting will be held on May 11, 3:00 - 5:00, room 217. The following presentations are scheduled:

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<th>Project</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>473330</td>
<td>Kay Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>An Evaluation of Bus Bulbs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
<td>Overview of TransLink® Test Beds</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Byungkyu Park</td>
<td>Genetic Algorithm-Based Traffic Signal Optimization for Oversaturated Intersections</td>
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