Paul Krugler recently retired with 31 years of service from TxDOT. While he served as the director of TxDOT Research and Technology Implementation many of us worked with Paul while we were conducting an RMC sponsored research project. We’re happy that he will soon begin to work for TTI and that we’ll be able to continue our relationship with Paul!

On Wednesday October 19th Paul participated in a briefing to a group of TTI program managers and offered five guidelines for developing TxDOT Implementation Projects.

1. The project needs to answer a real, genuine need that is understood by a broad cross-section within TxDOT.

2. The project should fit within the administrative direction established by the ROC including:
   - Steve Simmons, Chair, ROC
   - Amadeo Saenz, Vice Chair, ROC

3. The project needs a TxDOT champion.

4. Implementation funds must be available.

5. Minimize time requirements on TxDOT personnel – You know they are busy and you want to take some of the load.

And a special thanks goes to the ITEC team who really hustled to get us and TTI through the last minute crunch. They received, edited, returned, assisted with Word problems, printed, advised, delivered and more...in a time frame they didn’t request. It was quite a job to make us all look good.

Don’t forget TTI Day in December. The theme:

TTI Day 2003, HIP2B2
TTI – Biggest and Best (B2)
Be There and B2

Ed Seymour
Birthdays

Nov 01 Ivan Lorenz  
Nov 03 Brianne McEwen  
Nov 08 Mark Wooldridge  
Nov 10 Paul Carlson  
Nov 20 Grant Schultz  
Nov 21 George Balarezo  
Nov 24 Laura Wohlgemuth  
Nov 27 Di Wu

Dec 02 David Fenno  
Dec 03 Jeremy Johnson  
Dec 06 Steve Liu  
Dec 06 Kandis Salazar  
Dec 07 Debbie Jasek  
Dec 11 Scott Schmidt  
Dec 12 Anuj Sharma  
Dec 14 David Rickerson  
Dec 15 RanHee Jeong  
Dec 15 Anthony Voigt  
Dec 30 Todd Hausman  
Dec 30 Lane Roberts

Kudos & Congratulations

Dan Middleton, Program Manager for System Monitoring, received his 20-year pin.

Kevin Balke, TransLink Center Director, received his 15-year pin.

Beverly Kuhn, Division Head, received her 15-year pin.

Hassan Charara and his wife have a bouncing baby boy, born October 17, 2003. All are doing quite well.

On the Road Again

Jerry Ullman traveled to Corvallis, OR on October 2-3 to give a presentation on enforcement-friendly work zones at the FHWA Making Work Zones Work Better Workshop.

Beverly Kuhn traveled to Austin to attend and participate in the Leadership Texas meeting on October 19-22.

Ricky Parker traveled to Austin, Texas on Oct 13-16 to attend a National Instruments Training Course.

The research team on FHWA Project 7470 (PI: Kay Fitzpatrick) have been hitting the open road in October. The team is collecting pedestrian crossing data in five metropolitan areas in the western United States: Salt Lake City, Seattle/Kirkland/Redmond, Portland, Los Angeles/Santa Monica, and Tucson. Because the project requires the use of a video trailer, it was necessary for the team to drive from city to city. Marcus Brewer and Andrew Holick took the first shift, beginning in College Station on October 6, and going to Salt Lake City and Kirkland. Todd Hausman and Laura Wohlgemuth flew to Seattle and took the second shift on the 17th, ending up in Portland on the 27th. So far, our rented Ford F-250 has approximately 3,450 miles (in 9 states) on the trip thus far, which is scheduled to conclude by the end of November. Best wishes to Shawn Turner (Mobility Analysis) and Gary Barricklow, who are slated for the next shift.
There are TOG funds available for professional development but approval must be received prior to attending. Here is a list of the simple steps that should be followed. Email is fine for all approvals.

**Step 1** Provide course details, justification, registration costs, and estimated travel costs to your Program Manager and request approval to attend.

**Step 2** Get approval from your Division Head (after receiving Program Manager approval)

**Step 3** Get approval from Ed Seymour (after receiving Division Head approval)

**Step 4** Attend course

**Step 5** Provide a brief write-up for the newsletter.

Requests for core software training should be sent to NIS after receiving approval from your Program Manager.

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**5 Simple Rules - For Professional Development**

By Beth Neilson

There are TOG funds available for professional development but approval must be received prior to attending. Here is a list of the simple steps that should be followed. Email is fine for all approvals.

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**TxDOT RMC Presentations**

By Ed Seymour

Thanks to everyone who participated in the TxDOT RMC presentations beginning on Monday, November 3, 2003 in Austin.

- **Rose** 0-4052 Guidelines for the Use and Spacing of Delineators and Chevrons
- **Hawkins** 0-4150 Evaluation of Pavement Marking Effectiveness
- **Hawkins** 0-4170 Improved Signing for Urban Freeway Conditions
- **Bonnieson** 0-4196 Safety Impact of Red Light Running in Texas: Where is Enforcement
- **Fitzpatrick** 0-4278 Safety Measures for Rural Intersections
- **Fitzpatrick** 0-4365 Urban Intersection Design Guidance
- **Thomas** 5-1439-01 Transportation Research Implementation Consortium for Operations and Management (TRICOM)
- **Balke** 0-1752 TransLink Research Program
- **Kuhn** 0-4160 Operating Freeways with Managed Lanes
- **Carlson** 0-4472 Evaluation of Edge-Line and Center-Line Rumble Strips
- **Middleton** 0-4364 Truck Accommodation Design Guidance
- **Quiroga** 5-2110-01 and -03 GIS Based Inventory of Utilities & Internet Based Utility Data Submissions and a GIS Inventory of Utilities

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“If you’re still using these tools, sign up for some training.”

“Thanks to everyone who participated in the TxDOT RMC presentations beginning on Monday, November 3, 2003 in Austin.”

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“Austin’s known for many things other than RMC meetings.”
You recall last month, the article on educating ourselves with virus shields in three danger areas on the internet? By getting a program in each of these areas and putting it on your PC, that’s about as protected as you can get! So what are the good programs to get?

There are multiple vendors in any category. In many ways, picking a program is like picking a recipe for dinner. You pick what you like the best. While someone else may pick a different recipe, as long as you both enjoy what you’re eating, you’ll both have a good meal and leave the table satisfied.

There are a number of sites where you can go to read detailed reviews of virus programs or personal firewalls. This article is not intended to provide that. We’re merely looking at a few of the options available in each category.

In each category, I’ve listed my recommendation. This is what I use on every PC I own or use. As with most items based on opinion, yours may differ and that’s ok. Just make sure you have some type of protection in place.

**Antivirus:**


McAfee Virusscan – http://us.mcafee.com/default.asp


One important item to remember about Anti Virus packages is that they are only as good as the latest virus information. Most products include a year of updates as part of the purchase price. After the initial one year period, you can keep buying additional years of updates to keep the product protect-

**Firewall:**

Norton Personal Firewall -- http://www.symantec.com/sabu/nis/npf


Zone Labs Zone Alarm – http://www.zonelabs.com/ (Select Home/Office products)

The above are just a few of the firewall products available. These are all software firewalls. There are other (hardware-based) solutions that can be employed if you are running more than one computer off the same Internet connection. Firewall vendors also have some very different approaches to securing your PC. It typically takes a little bit of time to get a firewall set up and configured correctly on your PC.

Remember also that if you use your PC to log-on to TTI from home or the road, using VPN, that you’ll have some additional configuration to do.

Bob’s Favorite – Zone Labs Zone Alarm Free Edition. That’s right, FREE, a word we all like. The free edition provides a very high level of protection without bundling in stuff you may not need or want. Zone Alarm is the easiest to configure and is the best at hiding and protecting your PC.

"the Bank of Motomba probably doesn’t have 14 million in cash if you’ll just pose as a long-lost relative (read details in the attachment and reply soonest!"

(Continued on page 5)
Virus Shield—Part II

(Continued from page 4)

Pop-Up Stoppers:


Google Toolbar – http://toolbar.google.com

Intellistopper – http://www.smartstopper.com/

There are dozens of pop-up stopping programs—far more than can be listed in a short article! In the list above, Pop-Up Stopper works with all browsers. The Google toolbar only works with Internet Explorer, but also gives you the benefit of having easy access to one of the the best search engines around.

Bob’s Favorite – In this case, we have a tie. The Google toolbar is a nice addition to IE. One click access to headlines, search engine results, remembers previous searches—and blocks pop-ups. It’s also FREE. Not much to find fault with here! However, if you need a solution that works across more than one browser (such as IE, Netscape, Mozilla, Opera, AOL, etc), then Pop-Up Stopper from Panicware is a great choice. It’s free, easy to configure and works great—with all browsers.

Additional Security Updates:

While the above products will help you keep your PC secure, there’s another security consideration that people should be aware of. Microsoft periodically releases security updates to the Windows operating system at a website located at: http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/en/default.asp.

This web site will scan your computer and alert you to any critical updates that your system is lacking. Of course, this does require some trust towards Microsoft, but they’re not cataloging the information they look at, merely examining it to see what patches you need. The web site then walks you through the process of updating the Windows operating system. Keeping your system updated is a critical part of shutting down security holes that viruses often use.

Above all, use common sense. Disney isn’t giving out 10,000 free vacations if you’ll just provide your credit card number for incidental expenses, and the Bank of Motomba probably doesn’t have 14 million in cash if you’ll just pose as a long-lost relative (read details in the attachment and reply soonest!)

One of my favorite spam emails is one that announces the company has just charged your credit card $234.65 for money laundering fees. If you feel this was done in error, please provide your credit card number and expiration date and click submit. Hmmm…if they supposedly just got done charging my credit card, then why are they asking for the number again?

Next month: Spyware? Is that a new NASA satellite?
### Schedule of Events

- November 2-5 – Hwy-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference, San Antonio TX
- November 3-6 – Fall TxDOT RMC Meetings, Austin TX
- November 12-14 – The 2003 ITS Texas Annual Meeting, Austin, TX
- November 27-28 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 11 – All TTI Day, Brazos Center, Bryan TX
- December 24 – January 2 – Winter Break

### Future TRB Dates

- 2005: January 9-13
- 2006: January 22-26

### RMC 4 Chair Visits TTI

On October 31, Bob Ratcliff, the Atlanta district engineer and the new chair of RMC 4, visited TTI to meet with research staff and TTI leadership. Larry Colclasure, chair of the RMC 4 Technical Advisory Panel, and Wade Odell, the RTI RMC 4 engineer, also took part in the meetings. The purpose of the visit was to give the RMC 4 leadership an opportunity to better acquaint themselves with the objectives and research plans for the newest RMC 4 projects. During the course of the day, they met with the research supervisors of 12 RMC 4 research projects that started this fall or last spring, spending about 20 minutes hearing about each project. Before meeting with the research supervisors, they met with members of the TTI management team, where Herb Richardson gave an overview of the TTI research program. During lunch, they met with program

(Continued on page 7)
Ratcliff Visit

(Continued from page 6)

managers and division heads to discuss future research needs for RMC 4. Bob, Larry, and Wade were extremely grateful for the chance to meet with our researchers and felt that the meetings were very beneficial to them. Thanks to everyone who participated in the meetings. Based on our visitors’ response to the meetings, we can expect to have more meetings in the future.

New Projects

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>403471</td>
<td>Puckett/Ruback</td>
<td>METRO</td>
<td>Wireless Research to Integrating Transit into Houston TranStar</td>
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<td>474791</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>FHWA</td>
<td>Transportation Planning Analysis</td>
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<td>Technology Transfer and Program Support for the Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) - Year 2</td>
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<td>475070</td>
<td>Herrick</td>
<td>AASHTO</td>
<td>NTCIP Laboratory Testing for Actuated Signal Controllers Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>475000</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>ITE</td>
<td>Intersection Training</td>
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Hellos

The Work Zone and DMS program has recently hired Colleen Dau as a lead office assistant. Prior to joining TTI, Colleen worked in the CE department here at Texas A&M University. Colleen is located in Suite 309 of the CE/TTI tower. Welcome Colleen!

The Work Zone and DMS program has also hired Geza Pesti as an Associate Research Scientist. Geza comes to TTI from the University of Nebraska, where he had been an Assistant Professor since 1997 and had worked on several work zone and traffic operations research projects. He will be housed in room 405H of the CE/TTI tower. Welcome Geza! Also, in a show of fine Texas hospitality, Danny Morris gave up his office on the 4th floor to Geza. For those of you looking for him, Danny is now housed in room 310E of the CE/TTI tower.

Peter Gaylord just started working with us as a student tech I for the DTO program.

Korey Curtis has transferred from the Systems Operations Management Program in Arlington to the Research and Implementation Office in Houston.

What could be a better welcome than the Thunderbird show on October 29 and 30?