Ed’s Notes

Thanks to everyone who worked so diligently to get their TxDOT deliverables turned in on time. Although we had some late submissions, TOG did a good job!

And while we’re starting new TxDOT projects, we should look externally beyond TxDOT for new project opportunities. That may mean new partnering strategies, new sponsors, new skills and new contacts. For those of you who attend TRB — lets make a renewed effort to network. Start planning today. If you’re not attending TRB please adopt the same attitude at the next conference you attend. And of course you can always volunteer to provide some technical / secretarial / administrative support to a professional society committee. They always need help, and it can build new work associates.

Your contacts are important. TTI is a loosely coupled group of entrepreneurs cooperating to accomplish work that expands our professional interests, that adds value to the community and that pays the bills. You’ve got the opportunity to control your own destiny!

Ed

Darrell Borchardt, Kathy Tran, and Mike Vickich, and the TTI Houston Office have been recognized by the FHWA for working with TxDOT and TranStar to develop and maintain the Houston TranStar website.

(Continued on page 4)
Kudos and Congratulations

Congratulations to Gene Goolsby on reaching 15 years of service with TTI.

The Board of Governors of the ASCE Transportation and Development Institute has appointed Marsha Anderson Bomar the Chair of the Operations and Safety Council. Kudos, Marsha!

Welcome

Keqing Li has begun employment in the Houston office as a Senior Software Applications Developer. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MS in Systems Engineering and Telecommunications. Keqing has extensive work experience in software development including work with databases and programming. He will primarily be working on the Interagency tasks supporting TranStar/TxDOT operations including the TranStar website and AVI system as well as some new initiatives. Welcome, Keqing!

On the Road Again

On October 11th Robert Benz traveled to Prairie View to meet with ABET reviews. He met with one set of reviewers relating to his teaching responsibilities this past spring and another set of reviewers as part of his role of past president of the Industry Advisory Council. PVAMU is being reviewed to receive their accreditation as engineering academic institution.

On October 12th, the Houston Office hosted a delegation of transportation officials from the Province of Xin Jiang China, City of Kelamay (means black oil). Robert Benz provided a presentation on Urban Mobility in the U.S.A. The delegation was particularly interested in safety, measurement, and reporting. The group viewed photos and videos of some of TTI's roadside safety devices and an interesting exchange of culture, ideas, and practices was had by all.

Mike Vickich, Houston Office, attended the Metropolitan Mobile Wi-Fi Summit in Corpus Christi on October 14-15.

October 15th marked the completion of the remaining Dallas High Five ramps - part of the Interchange work going on US75 and I-635 (LBJ Frwy) in Dallas. Cliff Franklin, Dallas Office, was on hand for a press conference announcing this major milestone.

Bob Brydia traveled to the Cedar Park campus on October 20, 2004 to attend two meetings with TxDOT: a project update meeting on 4770, "Evaluation and Optimization of Automatic Incident Detection Algorithm Used in TxDOT Traffic Management Systems" and a project kickoff meeting on 4969, "Wireline Communications Design Guidebook for ITS Systems for Rural and Small Urban Areas".

Beverly Kuhn gave a presentation on "Operating Freeways with Managed Lanes" at the TxDOT Short Course in College Station on October 13th.

Kay Fitzpatrick presented "Left-Turn Lane Installation Guidelines" at the 58th Annual Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference on Oct 26.

Marsha Bomar Anderson is presenting a paper at the TRB conference entitled, Women’s Issues in Transportation. The paper is: Safety and Security: Technology Responds to the Challenge of Transit. The conference will be held 18-20 November in Chicago.

What an incredible Bosses’ Day Cake! The celebration was held at the Gilchrist Building on October 19.
Calendar Highlight

- TxDOT RMC Meetings, Nov 1-4; Austin TX
- ITS Texas Annual Meeting, Nov 17-19; Fort Worth, TX
- Thanksgiving, Nov 25-26

Future TRB Dates

- 2005: Jan 9-13
- 2006: Jan 22-26
- 2007: Jan 21-25
- 2008: Jan 13-17

Birthdays

- Nov 01 Ivan Lorenz
- Nov 02 Bill Schneider
- Nov 03 Brianne McEwen
- Nov 07 Minchul Park
- Nov 10 Paul Carlson
- Nov 29 Brandon Wenzel
- Dec 02 David Fenno
- Dec 03 Jeremy Johnson
- Dec 06 Kandis Salazar
- Dec 07 Debbie Jasek
- Dec 12 Adam Pike
- Dec 14 David Rickerson
- Dec 15 Anthony Voigt
- Dec 15 Cliff Franklin
- Dec 16 Jodi Carson
- Dec 26 LuAnn Theiss
- Dec 30 Todd Hausman
- Dec 30 Bryan Heiner
- Dec 30 Lane Roberts

Save the Date

- TTI Day; December 8, 2004; Brazos Center, Bryan, TX
- Winter Break; December 24, 2004—Dec 31, 2004
- Annual TRB Meeting; January 9-13, 2005; Washington DC
- TexITE, Feb 3-5, 2005; Waco
- ITS America Annual Meeting and Exhibition; May 2-4, 2005; Phoenix, AZ
Together with TxDOT, TTI has received this outstanding award as stated by the Transportation and Emergency Management Center for the Greater Houston Region. They have proudly announced the website as one of top three best internet destinations providing travelers with real-time information in the nation.

The website located at www.houstontranstar.org was chosen by the United States Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) based on its user friendliness, comprehensiveness of information and real-time reporting capabilities. Houston TranStar has won this nationally recognized award three times (2001, 2002 and 2004) since its inception in 2001. Other recipients of the 2004 top website award are Maryland’s Chart (www.chart.state.md.us) and San Antonio’s TransGuide (www.transguide.dot.state.tx.us). Each year for the past four years, the Federal Highway Administration has identified three websites from around the nation they feel provides the best traveler information available to the motoring public.

According to Mary E. Peters, Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, “We want to give drivers the tools they need to avoid traffic jams and get to where they want to go safely and quickly”. Developed by the Texas Department of Transportation working in conjunction with the Texas Transportation Institute, the website was first made available in 1994 and continues to incorporate new tools that meet the public’s need and desire for real-time traveler information. Some recent additions to the website include the ability to view traveler information messages on the dynamic message signs (DMS), wait times for the Galveston – Port Bolivar Ferry system and day of the week travel times. In addition to these capability upgrades, the members of the Houston TranStar partnership have also expanded the bandwidth connection to accommodate the increased usage during major traffic incidents, freeway construction closures and severe weather related events.

Jack Whaley, Director of Houston TranStar stated, “The members of the Houston TranStar partnership are thankful to the Federal Highway Administration for recognizing us again for our website. Our goal with this site has always been to provide the most up to date and accurate information to travelers in a very user-friendly fashion.”

The Texas Department of Transportation is planning to expand and increase the capabilities of the website to better serve the public by implementing an improved speed map with additional features. Scheduled for release in November 2004, the new layered speed map allows users to display accidents, construction lane closures, DMS messages and freeway cameras all on a single map. The new map will have zoom feature capabilities for certain quadrants of the Houston TranStar service jurisdiction and allow users better access to traffic information using portable internet devices, such as PDA’s, mobile phones and pagers, in addition to using desktop computers. Making this vital information available on portable internet devices provides motorists with valuable traffic information whenever and wherever they need it.