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Upcoming Events

- Thanksgiving Holiday; Nov 23-24, 2006
- TTI Support Staff Holiday Party; Dec 12, 2006, Gilchrist
- Winter Break; Dec 25, 2006 - Jan 1, 2006
- 86th Annual TRB Meeting; January 21-25, 2007; Washington, DC
- TexTE Winter Meeting, February 1-3, 2007; Houston TX
- ITS America 2007 Annual Meeting & Exposition, June 4-6, 2007, Palm Springs, CA

TOG Day - 2006

On Monday, November 13, 2006, the Transportation Operations Group met for the first time in two years. Groups traveled from Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Houston and College Station to get acquainted or re-acquainted with one another outside the day-to-day work environment. Chris Poe chaired this year’s event held at The Veranda, located north of Bryan. A technical program in the morning followed by a catered Thanksgiving lunch and a toy drive assembly-line, provided the agenda for the day.

Dennis Christiansen started off the morning activities with an overview of the institute. Dennis was named TTI Director in late October, after being selected sole finalist by the A&M Board.

(Continued on page 2)
Paul Carlson, Sue Chrysler, Gary Thomas, Janice Konecny, Susan Adams and Cassandra Agee-Letton filled the morning program. Paul brought the TxDOT Deliverable back into perspective with a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation will be highlighted in this month’s newsletter. See page 5.

Sue Chrysler, from the Human Factors Group, offered information on the Institutional Review Board. Gary Thomas, Center for Professional Development, presented the Web Conferencing feature. “Web confer-ence, it’s not just for meetings anymore!” Upcoming newsletters will highlight each of the technical program agenda items throughout the next couple of months. Information highlighting the TTI Intranet MyStuff presented by Janice Konecny and Susan Adams were relevant to the proposal and contractual stages of the research program. Kassandra’s discussion on the Black-Berries was a hot topic!

Early feedback indicates the meeting was a success and people really gained information from the presentations. Thank you to all the behind the scene workers, Kathy Montemayor, for handling logistics, Lisa Patke for the toy drive arrangements, and to others that were available to help out at a moments notice. Look for Bob Brydia to give you a call sometime in the near future for participating in TOG Day 2007!!! Look forward to seeing you there!
TranStar Web Site Honored

The Houston TranStar Web Site (http://www.houstontranstar.org) has been honored by the Center for Digital Government for being the "Best Application Serving the Public" in Texas for 2006. The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology polices and best practices in state and local government. The award was presented at the Best of Texas Award Ceremony in Austin on October 30th. Mike Vickich, along with representatives from Houston TranStar, were present during the ceremony. Kathy Tran is also involved in the development and maintenance of the web site. The web site is developed under an interagency contract with the TxDOT-Houston District and continues to be a leader in providing innovative traveler information and invaluable resources for the public, media, and traffic managers in the Houston region.

TTI Going Forward

Dennis Christiansen announced the make up of the TTI Management Team which will become effective December 1. For at least the near term, the position of Agency Deputy Director will not be filled. Most of the Associate and Assistant Directors will continue to be primarily supported by project work. The management team will be made up as follows.

Executive Associate Director Bugh, Associate Director Stockton, Associate Director Turnbull, Assistant Director Roop, and Associate Director Seymour will continue to serve in their current capacities. In the absence of the Director, the Executive Associate Director, Don Bugh, will have responsibility for the operation of the agency. Drs. Hawkins and Little will continue to participate on the management team as representatives of civil engineering. Dr. Gene Buth will become Assistant Director for Materials, Structures and Safety.

As Director Emeritus, Dr. Herb Richardson has agreed to continue to be involved in certain TTI activities. He has agreed to oversee both SWUTC and the new University Transportation Center that is headed by Melissa Tooley, and he will also chair a TTI committee to identify and implement significant initiatives with academia. He will provide invaluable guidance and advice to us on numerous other matters.

Dr. Dean Alberson and Dr. Chris Poe will join the management team as Assistant Directors. Their primary role in the near future will be taking the lead in pursuing new, high priority TTI research initiatives. Dean will continue to office from Riverside, and Chris will remain in the TTI Dallas office.

In the near future, one more assistant director position will be created and filled. This position will have responsibilities for many of the functions Penny Beaumont led under Herb, and will also be responsible for overseeing some initiatives designed to address internal TTI management/communication issues.

Other organizational changes will coincide with the December 1 effective date.
Srinivasa Sunkari was in Austin, TX, November 1 to teach SYNCHRO to TxDOT Austin District personnel.

Kevin Balke traveled to Schenectady, NY, November 6 - 9 to teach NHI Course 133075 - Freeway Management to the NY Department of Transportation personnel.

Nadeem Chaudhary was in Houston, TX to teach PASSER 5 classes to KLOTZ Associates on November 3; in Austin, TX to teach PASSER 5 classes to TxDOT personnel, November 9; and in Arlington, TX to give a presentation to RMC 4 meeting.

Bob Brydia went to Austin, TX 11/03/06 to give a presentation to TxDOT Traffic Operations personnel (marketing TOG/TransLink capabilities). Bob was in Arlington, TX 11/06/06 to give a presentation to RMC 4 meeting;

Kay Fitzpatrick had several trips in October (but none to rival Ed’s international travel). Two of the trips were to Washington DC – one for ITE and the other on the FHWA low-cost pedestrian treatment project. She also traveled to Austin for a kickoff meeting on TxDOT project 0-5470 and to the valley (Brownsville to McAllen) to look at work zones. While in McAllen she made a presentation on schools site design to the city traffic engineering staff, city commissioners, and members of the planning and zoning committee.

Lupe Ramos (El Paso Office), Kandis Salazar (San Antonio Office), Brenda Manak and Lisa Patke (Houston Office) attended the TAPSS Conference in College Station on October 3.

Michael Davis traveled to El Paso on October 16-20 to collect data on freeway-to-freeway connectors.

Tony Voigt traveled to El Paso on October 16 to oversee data collection. Tony was also in McLean, Virginia on October 23-26 to attend and participate in the Integrated Corridor Management project kick-off meetings.

LuAnn Theiss traveled to Lumberton, Nederland, and Orange on October 20 to present the Teens in the Driver Seat program. LuAnn also traveled to Austin on October 23-25 to attend an Airport Engineering and Management class.

(Continued on page 6)
TxDOT RMC Deliverables

TxDOT’s Initiative
- Started in earnest in December 2005
  - Then: 162 very late deliverables
  - Today: about 50 very late deliverables
- March 2006 TxDOT provided guidelines on very late deliverables:
  - Shall submit by August 2006 or
  - No new research awards for RS for FY07
  - Winning proposals or changing RS
  - Proposals with significant RS time

More on the “Late List”
- RTI provides RMCs a list of all late deliverables
- RTI and RDO reconcile their late lists
- You will be contacted if you are on TxDOT’s late list
- After satisfying contractual obligations, you need to take initiative, starting with RDO, to ensure your name is removed from the late list.

Late Deliverables
- RTI developing additional material for late deliverables
  - May elect to modify current very late deliverable guidelines
  - Developing guidelines for all late deliverables
  - TTI can expect draft guidelines by early 2007 for FY07 deliverables and FY08 proposals
  - TTI feedback

Rick’s Main Points
- On-time delivery
- Maintain quality
- Start discussions early if deliverable deadline is in question
- Researcher performance is high
- Don’t add unnecessary deliverables
  - PowerPoint presentations
  - Products

Avoiding Late Deliverables
- Management tools
  - Research & Implementation Manual
  - mystuff.tamu.edu
- Proposal planning
- Technical Memorandums
- Communication with PD
  - Progress reports (monthly / quarterly)
  - Panel meetings – web conferencing
  - Other opportunities
  - Sense a problem? Start communicating!

“How To” Manual for Deliverables
- Chapter 8
  - Reports
    - Technical
    - Summary
  - Products
    - Specifications
    - Design procedures
    - Workbooks, manuals
    - Software

“More on the Late List”
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My Stuff
- Tools to manage your projects, including deliverables
  - Proposals
  - Research and Implementation Manual
  - Reports
  - Products

Papers & Presentations from TxDOT-Sponsored Research Activities
- Reminder for 2007 TRB Annual Meeting and Beyond

Paul Carlson recently met with Rick Collins, director of TxDOT’s Research and Implementation Office. From that meeting, Paul has provided information shared with those attending the TOG Day event. The slides represent a summary of the deliverables process with TxDOT.
TOG Family News

WELCOME

Welcome Shamanth Kuchangi! Shamanth joins the Houston office as an Assistant Transportation Researcher and is currently working on a retro reflectivity project and on the interagency contract tasks. He completed his studies at the Texas A&M University and will receive his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in December. Shamanth recently took the EIT exam and is anxiously awaiting the results.

CONGRATULATIONS

The El Paso Office would like to Congratulate Rafael Aldrete on his new baby girl. Lila was born on November 3, 2006, at 7:55 a.m., weighing 7 lbs 8 oz.

Charles Stevens and his wife vacationed in New Delhi, India on October 10-30. This trip was Charles’ first to India and his first opportunity to meet his in-laws. He was happy to share his travel experiences!

KUDOS

The TxDOT El Paso District added a new task to its Interagency Cooperation Agreement (IAC) with TTI. The task involves the use mesoscopic and microscopic simulation to conduct an evaluation of proposed interchange improvements at Zaragoza and I-10, and at other I-10 congestion hot-spots in the El Paso area. Jeff Shelton, an Engineering Research Associate with the El Paso Research and Implementation Office, was instrumental in achieving this significant add-on to TTI's El Paso IAC, and will lead the new task. Kudos to the El Paso TTI office!

GOOD - BYE

The Roadway Design Program as well as all of TOG bid farewell to Todd Hausman this month. An opportunity at another firm, that will allow him to not travel so much, knocked on his door. He is looking forward to being able to see more of his sons’ sport games. We will miss him greatly – especially when we assemble equipment for the next field data collection effort! Good luck, and best wishes, Todd!

Travels - continued

(Continued from page 4)

Robert Benz, Darrell Borchardt, Lisa Patke, and LuAnn Theiss from the Houston Office attended the retirement luncheon for Dr. Herbert Richardson on October 27. Jim Carvell and Lisa Palmer were attending from the Dallas Office.

Rafael Aldrete and Jeff Shelton traveled to College Station from the TTI El Paso Office to attend Transportation Short Course October 9-11, 2006. They were also able to meet some of their co-workers some 800+ miles from the office!

Gary Thomas traveled to Washington, DC on Oct. 17-19 to facilitate a meeting of the White House Area Transportation Study Technical Working Group. The study is part of the Travel Model Improvement Program.

On Oct. 3, Gary Thomas commuted to his own office in College Station to teach an ITS Standards Overview for Managers webinar for the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Participants in the workshop were logged in as close as Dallas and as far away as India. For more information on holding your own meetings and workshops via the web, contact Gary.
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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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061408</td>
<td>Software Applications Developer I</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>070228</td>
<td>Programmer/Analyst I</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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<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
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<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<td>Chris Poe</td>
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<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<td>Work Zone and DMS</td>
<td>Jerry Ullman</td>
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<td>Paul Carlson</td>
<td>070209</td>
<td>Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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Birthdays

Nov 01 Ivan Lorenz
Nov 10 Paul Carlson
Nov 29 Keqing Li
Dec 06 Jeremy Johnson
Dec 06 Kandis Salazar
Dec 07 Debbie Jasek
Dec 12 Adam Pike
Dec 15 Anthony Voigt
Dec 16 Jodi Carson
Dec 17 David Stehlik
Dec 23 John Schneider
Dec 26 JuAnn Theiss
Dec 29 Adrian Figueroa
Dec 29 Thomas Hartmann
Dec 30 Rebeca Coronax

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