What is Web Conferencing?

You’ve probably heard the term “Webinar” being used for professional development opportunities. ITE, ASCE, APWA all offer these types of continuing education opportunities. A webinar is, of course, a web-based seminar. In addition to simple voice conferencing, web conferencing adds the ability to show PowerPoint presentations, demonstrate software applications, electronically poll the audience, and share desktop applications. As long as a person has a computer connected to the Internet and a telephone, he or she can participate in a web-based conference.

Did you know that the Center for Professional Development is currently test driving this fairly new technology? In September, we held a couple of successful pilot webinars for an internal-only audience. Beverly Kuhn presented one on managed lanes; Bill Eisele followed up with one on access management. In both cases, we also sent out a live video feed of the presenter. But it does not need to be limited to training activities. I also held a TxDOT project meeting using the technology, thereby saving the time and expense of making a day-long trip to Austin for a 1-hour meeting.

Sound intriguing? If you would like to try it out yourself for a meeting, please contact me. I will be more than happy to get you set up for your meeting. It is quite simple to use. We are currently using WebEx as our web conferencing provider. You can find the web site at: http://tti.webex.com

In the future we hope to be regularly offering courses to an external audience by using web conferencing.

More Information
Contact Gary Thomas at 979-458-3263 or g-Thomas@tamu.edu.

Ed’s Notes

We’re moving forward with opening a TTI Office in El Paso. This new office will leverage existing interagency work that TOG, SPP&E and Communications have been performing for a number of years. It also builds on funding provided by the Legislature, which was secured though the efforts of State Senator Shapleigh to conduct secure international intelligent transportation research in the El Paso area.

Russell Henk, Bill Stockton and Brian Bochner are working together to develop an initial set of projects that have themes of advanced traffic management, border crossings, security and air quality. Those projects will guide our near-term staffing and capital purchases. In future issues of the Interchange we’ll provide updates on this office and the projects in that region.

This is a great opportunity in El Paso. In my mind the location ranks alongside Houston in the diversity and impact of work that TTI can pursue.

It’s not enough that we do our best, sometimes we have to do what is required.
Sir Winston Churchill
Recent Travels

On Sept. 28th, Marsha Anderson Bomar assisted TRB and the Census Bureau in facilitating a workshop preparing for the 2007 VIUS (Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey). The website includes notes from the session. The next day, Marsha attended the Georgia Planning Association Fall Conference where she served as a Transportation Expert in a series of Smart Growth clinics. After the awards luncheon, Marsha gave a presentation on Transit Safety and Security.

Beverly Kuhn, Kevin Balke, Nadeem Chaudhary, Kwaku Obeng-Boampong, and Steven Venglar traveled to Austin on September 27th to attend a TxDOT project kick-off meeting.

Rajat Rajbhandari traveled to Bismark, North Dakota to attend 2005 International Highway Engineering Exchange Program (IHEEP) on Sep 14-16. Rajat presented Customized GIS based Signal Inventory System work being done for local TxDOT districts. In all more than 70 presentations were made by engineers from various state DOTs, Universities and Consulting Firms throughout US.

Chris Poe was in Cleveland, Ohio for the IBTTA conference, September 19-21. (See article on page 3).

Nadeem Chaudhary attended the project meeting for FHWA’s NGSIM (next generation simulation) project while in Sedona AZ last month. Nadeem and Geza Pesti were already in Sedona for the Traffic Modeling Workshop. (See article on page 3)

Gary Thomas was in Washington DC., Sept. 14-16, to facilitate a meeting of the White House Area Transportation Study technical working group.

Jerry Ullman traveled to Baltimore at the end of September to participate in the InterTraffic North America Conference and Exhibition. He made a presentation on highly-portable positive protection guidelines in work zones, and moderated another session on collision investigations, reconstructions, and animations.

Kandis Salazar, Lisa Patke, Helen Olivarez, Stacey Alejandro, Maria, Medrano, Colleen Dau, and Liz Perez attended the Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff Development Conference. The one day event was held October 5, at the MSC on the A&M Campus. Other support staff from within TTI also attended.

TOG Family News

CONGRATULATIONS

Eric Logan Finley, turned 1 on September, 7, 2005. Eric is the son of Melissa Finley. TTI may have a new age and height restriction on test driver’s!

Way to go - Sport! Hart Walker, 9 year old son of Dan Walker is featured in, not one but two recent issues of the ATV Sports Magazine.

“Son, I said get involved with AVI - not ATVI!”

“Am I too young for the Teen in the Driver Seat Project?”
Traffic Modeling Workshop

Geza Pesti and Nadeem Chaudhary traveled to Sedona, Arizona, to attend a four-day traffic modeling workshop. They flew to Phoenix, and then drove to Sedona. Sedona (elevation 4000 ft) is located about 120 miles north-north-east of Phoenix. The workshop was sponsored by Atlas Research Center at the University of Arizona, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), PATH program at University of California PATH, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) committees on Traffic Flow Theory, Highway Capacity and Quality of Service, Freeway Operations and several private companies.

The title of this workshop was, "Simulation Models: From the labs to the trenches." During the workshop, Geza and Nadeem attended presentations about new developments in simulation modeling as well as innovative uses of, and other issues regarding, existing simulation models. They also participated in two break-out sessions. The objective of these break-out sessions was to identify the limitations of existing simulation models and to identify short and long-term research and development needs.

IBTAA - What’s That?

The International Bridge Tunnel and Turnpike Association meeting is the international annual meeting of the tolling profession. Over 1,000 participants were in Cleveland. Considerable time on the program was spent on concessionaire agreements and whether toll authorities should keep or sell their toll facilities along with breakout sessions on finance, operations, and technology. Next years’ meeting is in the Big D hosted by NTTA. IBTTA is starting a new process of developing sessions by allowing people to send in abstracts and session ideas. Deadline for submitting topics and ideas is December 1, 2005 for all of the 2006 IBTTA conferences (including the annual meeting in Dallas). Instructions can be found at the IBTTA web page: http://www.ibtta.org

New Projects

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<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>401551</td>
<td>Jim Bonneson</td>
<td>Ontario/Ministry of Transportation</td>
<td>Installment of Texas Detection-Control System in Ontario, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>401541</td>
<td>Melisa Finley</td>
<td>FHWA</td>
<td>Development of Innovative New Technologies for Work Zone Lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td>451746</td>
<td>Melisa Finley</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Implementation of Mobile &amp; Short Duration Maintenance Operations Guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>407042</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Tech Transfer &amp; Tech Support for the Laredo District, Operations Section</td>
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Mike Vickich and Kathy Tran were working continually to update the website and to archive data from the cameras for future studies. Here is one story from the Hurricane Rita evacuation. TTI Houston Office employee Lisa Patke planned her route from Houston to Bryan, Texas - from FM 1960 in northwest Houston to SH 249. Lisa started out Thursday, September 22, 2005 around 4:00 a.m. and only got as far as Magnolia, Texas by 7:30 a.m. What is normally a 40 minute drive, took her 3.5 hours. Most of the time, Lisa was completely stopped and was concerned about running out of gasoline. What evacuation stories do you have? Let us know!
**Birthdays**

- Oct 01  Dan Walker
- Oct 02  Isabela Ghigiu
- Oct 03  Geza Pesti
- Oct 11  Omar Mata
- Oct 13  Aaron Milsaps
- Oct 19  Gene Hawkins
- Oct 19  Charles Stevens
- Oct 20  Seung-Jun Kim
- Oct 20  Brenda Manak
- Oct 22  Roberto Gomez
- Oct 27  Srinivasa Sunkari
- Oct 29  Rajat Rajbhandari
- Oct 31  Marcus Brewer
- Nov 01  Ivan Lorenz
- Nov 02  Bill Schneider
- Nov 10  Paul Carlson
- Nov 23  Orinthia Thomas
- Nov 29  Keqing Li

**Upcoming Events**

- ITS Texas Annual Meeting - Nov 16-18, 2005; College Station, TX
- Thanksgiving Holidays - Nov 24, 25, 2005
- TTI Day-Dec 7, 2005; Brazos Center, Bryan, TX
- Winter Break; Dec 23-30, 2005

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**October 2005**

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**TOG is Hiring**

TOG is 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/](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.

**Program**

- San Antonio Office
- El Paso Office

**Contact**

- Cesar Quiroga
- Russell Henk

**NOV**

- 060072
- 060071
- 060173
- 060172
- 060171

**Position**

- Software Applications Developer I
- Software Applications Developer II
- Research Scientist/Engineer
- Research Scientist/Engineer
- Assoc. Research Scientist/Engineer

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**TOG Mission Statement**

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