Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to find out more about what is happening at TTI and to visit with new (or familiar) faces. Here’s the agenda.

9:00 – 9:45 Registration and Social Time
9:45 – 10:15 The State of TTI – Herb Richardson
10:15 – 11:15 Awards
11:15 – 11:30 Break
11:30 – 12:15 Presentations
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch – Catered by C&J’s BBQ
1:15 – 2:00 Presentations
2:00 – 2:15 Door Prize Announcement
2:00 – 4:00 Holiday Party

Presentations

The presentations at TTI Day 2003 will be given by some of our own biggest and best (and definitely entertaining) colleagues. These will incorporate topics that are major focus areas for current and future TTI research.

Speakers
Russell Henk, Val Pezoldt
Brian Bochner, Sue Lancaster
Stephen Sebesta, Tom Scullion
Gene Hawkins, Beverly Kuhn
Bill Frawley, Bill Eisele
Dean Alberson, Lance Bullard

Topics
Young Drivers In Texas
Drive Clean Across Texas
High Tech Pavement Inspections
“Drive a Mile”, Daily Encounters with Traffic Operations
Access Management
Security Device Crash Testing

As noted in TOG’s last newsletter, we were successful in submitting our TxDOT deliverables by the end of October last fiscal year. But we have an even bigger challenge looking ahead. For this upcoming October we’re increasing the number of TxDOT deliverables from the low 70s to 126. That’s a 70% increase.

While some of these deliverables are “products” that might be included as an appendix of a deliverable report, the direction is clear — we’ve got more to get to TxDOT. And this means we’ll have to be even more considerate of the workload this might impose on ITEC.

So far in our counting, the good news is that we’ve got 14% more contract dollars within TOG this year. This increase reflects the good work and great reputations you’ve all earned.

Be good to yourself this holiday season, you’ve earned it.

Ed Seymour
**Birthdays**

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  

Jan 01 Ed Seymour  
Jan 03 Nishant Kumar  
Jan 04 Adam Chodkiewicz  
Jan 16 Ben Brannaka  
Jan 17 Edward Brackin  
Jan 19 Melisa Finley  
Jan 20 Michael Vickich  
Jan 27 Stephanie Sandt  
Jan 30 Maritza Cisneros  
Jan 30 Denise Robledo

**Kudos & Congratulations**

Kay Fitzpatrick, Program Manager for the Roadway and Design Program, recently received her 15 year service pin.

New Arrival – The Roadway Design Program (FRD) would like to congratulate late Tim and Laura Wolff on the birth of Tanna Elizabeth Wolff. She weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces, and is 18 ½ inches. Tim Wolff is a graduate assistant in Kay Fitzpatrick’s program.

**On the Road Again**

The research team on TCRP/NCHRP Project 7470 (PI: Kay Fitzpatrick) continued its tour of pedestrian crossings in the western states. In early November, Shawn Turner (Mobility Analysis) and Gary Barricklow flew to Portland to collect the needed data. They ended their shift after a long drive along the coast to L.A. They were replaced by Paul Carlson and Andrew Holick who collected data at nine sites. Marcus Brewer replaced Paul for the final L.A. site which allowed him a glimpse of life in southern California (lots of people and cars, where is the glamour?). Marcus and Andrew then drove the video trailer to Tucson where Todd Hausman replaced Andrew on the data collection team. The mileage on the rented truck is currently at 5,750 miles. Remaining on the “tour” are a few more sites in Tucson, the long drive home, and collecting data at the final two sites in Texas. Once we are done on the road all that is left is reducing the mountain of video tapes in Marcus’ office.

Houston staff (too many to name) both student workers and full time staff members, have been involved with a multitude of data collection (HOV counts, LED compliance counts, turning movement counts, tube counts) as well as assisting Mark Burris of the TransLink® Program and Linda Cherrington of the Transit Mobility Program in license plate studies and surveying commuters along the I-10 (Continued on page 7)
San Antonio Office Floods

We want to commend the staff in the Castle Hills San Antonio Research and Implementation Office for their outstanding attitude regarding the flood...Yes! we said flood...on the 4th floor!!! It seems a water filter on a coffee maker had sprung a leak over the week-end of October 19th.

Paul Barricklow made productive use of his time off and showed a lot of creativity, and helped “take the edge off” of a tough situation for the office. This truly reflects the can-do, roll up your sleeves and “dive in” attitude of the staff. Check the video produced by Paul Barricklow on the TOG shared drive at:

\Tti-bcs\TOG\TOGShare\the flood.wmv

TxDOT RMC Presentations - RMC 4 Wrap Up!

The RMC 4 meeting two weeks ago went very well. TTI staff did a great job in presenting their projects. Unlike years’ past, university staff were not able to sit in on any of the discussion related to ranking and selecting the statements to be included in the FY 05 RFP. However, we’ve subsequently learned that the following 20 projects were nominated by RMC 4 for FY 05 funding. This identification by the RMC 4 should be considered preliminary, as it must still be approved by the ROC.

The projects are listed in project number order. Where known, the TTI author for the statements is listed, even if the project statement was formally submitted to RTI by a TxDOT person. As you can see from this list, TTI staff were involved in the development of 70% of the statements that were selected. That speaks very highly of our staff’s ability to recognize TxDOT research needs and prepare statements that respond to those needs. Congratulations to all of you who were successful in getting your statements through the process. Please note that these results are preliminary.

Some of these projects may not be included in the actual RFP package that is expected to come out in February.

Please do not contact any TxDOT staff about preparing proposals for these statements. The RMC is still in the process of identifying PCs and PDs for these projects and it is expected that most of these statements will be revised to some degree before being issued in the RFP. Therefore, contact at this point in time would be premature. Please contact Beverly Kuhn or me if you have any questions.

4898; Criteria for Adapting HOV Lanes to HOT Lanes; Stockton

4946; Dynamic Traffic Flow Modeling for Incident Detection and Short-Term Congestion Prediction; TxDOT

4962; Development of Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation Signing and Markings; Ford

4965; Rural, Two-Lane Roadway Crash Analysis; Mounce

4968; Evaluation of Wind Loads on Short-Term/Temporary Work Zone Sign Supports; TxDOT

4969; Wireline Communications Design Guidebook for ITS Systems for Rural and Small Urban Areas; Brydia

(Continued on page 4)
San Antonio Office Shares in the Holiday Spirit of Giving

Everyone in the San Antonio Office, including the students took home a 21 inch mesh stocking and filled them with all kinds of neat Christmas presents (art supplies, one was a princess theme, one was Spiderman theme). Each chose a boy or girl to shop for and an age between infant – 12 yr old. The stockings will be distributed to families that have gone to the San Antonio Salvation Army Hope Center asking for help because they know they cannot afford to buy Christmas presents for their children. TEEX (Texas Engineering Extension Service) also joined in the fun in filling stockings. For a total of 39 stockings.

8th Annual TOG – Thanksgiving Lunch

Once again, Ricky’s Catering did an outstanding job of feeding us! The TOG Thanksgiving Lunch was held November 19th at the G. Rollie White Visitor’s Center. Approximately 50 people attended, with family and friends mixed in the group. Thanks to Beth Neilson for coordinating the logistics.
Spyware? What’s Spyware?

Is Spyware that new breed of NASA satellite that can read a 2-inch headline from 20 miles up? Or is it all those neat devices “Q” makes for James Bond?

Unfortunately, it’s neither. Spyware is typically defined as software that gathers and transmits information about the host computer without a user’s knowledge. At best, Spyware represents an invasion of your privacy. Worse than that however, it can be used to steal information, such as credit card numbers or passwords.

Let’s look at a benign example of spyware. Suppose you download a program from the Internet that has spyware hidden in it. The hidden program tracks where you go on the Internet and sends that information back to the company that created it. That company then sends you directed advertising via pop-ups. They know what to send you—because they have a record of where you’ve gone and have established your habits!

Now let’s consider a more lethal example. Suppose you download a program that contains a key-logging application. Let’s say you were just completing your Christmas shopping on Amazon and typed in your password, everything you wanted to buy and your credit card number, complete with expiration date. The key-logging program would send all of that information out your Internet connection to an unknown “someone” hidden on the Internet. Effectively, your identity has just been stolen.

Where does spyware come from?

Spyware can come from anywhere. Anytime a program sends information about you to someone else—without telling you—it can be classified as spyware. Spyware can come from established and legitimate companies. A few years ago, Microsoft created uproar among its customers by sending personal information back to the company. The company quickly changed its policy based on the resulting customer outrage. A case that has just come to light recently is spyware embedded in routers made by Belkin. Every 8 hours, the Belkin router will take over your web browser and point you to a Belkin website where you can sign up for a parental control feature that just happens to cost additional money. Customer outcry over this hijacking has been so severe that Belkin issued a press release stating they will immediately remove the feature.

Many programs are known to contain spyware. Some example are Kazaa, a well-known music sharing program, Gator, a program that manages your passwords for different websites, and Comet Cursor, a program that give you additional cursor features and many many more. Some lists that track programs containing spyware contain more than 200 entries. While it is recognized that each of these programs may have legitimate uses, the fact that they contain and install spyware is where the trouble starts.

What about cookies?

Well, my favorite is chocolate chip, but that’s really not what we’re talking about here. A cookie is a small text file that gets written on your hard drive. They are often used for legitimate purposes, such as tracking items when you’re shopping an Internet store. I’ve used them before when setting up Internet surveys, to ensure that (most) people can take the survey more than once. However, cookies are also a form of spyware in that Internet sites can record information in a cookie and other sites read it and direct advertising based on that cookie. An Internet com-

Why do parents keep asking their kids, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”
The parents are hunting for ideas.

When was the last time you asked yourself, “What do I want to be?”
pany called DoubleClick is one of the worst in this regard. Even the most careful user will likely find cookies from DoubleClick or similar companies on their hard drive.

**So what do I do?**

The best answer is that you immediately check your computer for spyware, get rid of it, and then consistently check in the future to ensure that you remain free of Spyware. Remember, it’s your computer, your Internet connection and nobody’s business what you do with it. You should be aware that there are obvious exceptions to this statement for computers purchased by your place of employment and used by you to accomplish your daily work. However, spyware still isn’t warranted or legal on these computers and should be identified and removed.

While there is more than one program to detect and remove spyware, the one I like the best is AdAware, a program made by LavaSoft-USA. AdAware detects all known spyware programs, detects spyware cookies and can safely remove all of these items, even if they are within the system registry. The program is also free for personal use and features periodic updates.

AdAware is available at:

http://www.lavasoft.de/software/adaware/

Check today. You may be shocked to find out what is on your computer that you didn’t even know about!

**TTI Day**

(Continued from page 1)

**Toy Drive**

TTI is going to be collecting unwrapped new toys to be donated to Child Protective Services. These toys will go to children of all ages - from infants to 18 year-olds in the foster care system who would not otherwise receive gifts this holiday season. This is a wonderful chance to show a child that someone cares!

A "wish list" of items for this toy drive can be found at:

http://ttinet.tamu.edu/mgmt_org/ttiday/toys.pdf

**TTI Day Thank You**

Executive Committee Members responsible for TTI Day deserve a big round of applause. Be sure to thank them at TTI Day.

Lance Bullard  
Lisa Palmer  
Sue Chrysler  
Lisa Patke  
Scott Cothron

Liz Perez  
Margarette Goss  
Becca Simons  
Gene Hawkins  
Wally Simpson  
Russell Henk  
Nancy Stratta  
Barb Lorenze  
Brooke Ullman  
Ivan Lorenze

“All you have to do is to decide what to do with the time given you.”  
Gandalf

“’It’s easy to decide what you’re going to do. The hard thing is deciding what you’re not going to do.’”  
Michael Dell
During the last two weeks of October, Gene Hawkins and Paul Carlson conducted three train-the-trainer courses on minimum traffic sign retroreflectivity. The courses were sponsored by the FHWA in support of their effort to develop minimum levels of sign retroreflectivity. A total of 85 people participated in the courses, representing LTAP, T2, state DOTs, and FHWA personnel. These individuals were trained on basic sign retroreflectivity issues so that they can conduct training on how to maintain traffic sign retroreflectivity within their own organizations and states after the minimum sign retroreflectivity rulemaking is published. The two-day course included a nighttime demonstration on sign retroreflectivity basics at the Riverside Campus. In the demo, participants viewed 45 signs with varying levels of retroreflectivity to help them better associate the classroom lessons with the visual appearance of the signs.

The FHWA expects to publish a proposed rule on minimum sign retroreflectivity in early 2004. The minimum levels that will be included in the proposed rule were developed by Paul Carlson and Gene Hawkins, who also assisted the FHWA in developing the proposed rule language and supporting documentation.

The 2003 MUTCD final rule has been published in the Federal Register. The final rule was published on November 20. A PDF version of the 2003 MUTCD, along with the Federal Register final rule notice, can be downloaded from the FHWA MUTCD web site - http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov.

The Road

(Continued from page 2)

Katy corridor and US 290 Northwest corridor for the QuickRide Program.

Gary Thomas (Systems Management) has been on the road again after a bit of a break. Nov. 4 in Houston to teach an ITS Standards course. Nov. 20-21 in Washington, DC to facilitate the Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) Review Panel meeting.

Jerry Ullman (Operations and Design) traveled to Columbus, Ohio on November 5th and 6th to make a presentation about automated speed enforcement at the Ohio DOT Transportation Engineering Safety Conference.

Brooke Ullman and Melisa Finley have been visiting Houston on a regular basis over the past several weeks. Their first trip had them traveling all over town looking at the use of portable changeable message signs in work zones. They also got to look through piles (and I mean piles) of inspector diaries to collect data on nighttime work zones. Just recently, they traveled back to Houston (along with Geza Pesti and Jerry Ullman) to observe a nighttime work zone at the IH-610/IH-45 Gulf Freeway interchange. There is nothing like working in traffic on a Friday night at midnight! We got to see all kinds of things and wondered just where all those people were going at that time of night?

Those attending the ITS Texas Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas Nov. 12-14, 2003 were Kevin Balke, Bob Brydia, Geoff Stewart, and Geza Pesti.
### Schedule of Events

- **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

### TRB Practice Sessions

The TRB Practice Sessions are formatted as brown bag lunches. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to find out about recent research activities and to provide constructive feedback. Watch your email for locations and agendas.

### New DE Assignments

TxDOT has recently announced a number of new District Engineer appointments. Throughout this newsletter you’ll see the new DE’s names. Two more remain to be filled: Abilene and Corpus Christi.

Staff changes typically pose challenges for any organization. But they also can bring new ideas and opportunities. Let’s help TxDOT continue to be successful as they move forward with these new appointments.

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**SUN** | **MON** | **TUE** | **WED** | **THU** | **FRI** | **SAT**
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7
8 | **9** TRB Practice Session | **10** TRB Practice Session | 11 | TTI Day | 12 | 13
14 | **15** TRB Practice Session | **16** TRB Practice Session | 17 | **18** TRB Practice Session | 19 | 20
21 **Winter Begins** | 22 | 23 | 24 **Winter Break** | 25 **Winter Break** | 26 **Winter Break** | 27
28 | 29 **Winter Break** | 30 **Winter Break** | 31 **Winter Break** | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

**Save the Date**

- January 19, 2004 – Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday
- April 26-29, 2004 - ITS America 2004 Annual Meeting & Exposition, San Antonio, TX
More Travels

(Continued from page 7)


Professional Development

Ricky Parker (Systems Monitoring) recently attended a training course on Data Acquisition and Signal Conditioning in Austin. The course was taught by National Instruments and was hands on requiring you to be able to use LabView software and National Instruments analog and digital data acquisition hardware. The course lasted three days and examples of analog input, output, signal conditioning and processing were covered. Parker also worked exercises involving Digital I/O, counters and device synchronization. This training course will help improve data collection proficiency on future research projects.

2004 TRB Presentations

The following TOG members will be making presentations at TRB in January. Great job representing TTI!

Montasir Abbas
Justice Appiah
Kevin Balke
James Bonneson
Mark Burris
Mark Burris
Paul Carlson
Hanseon Cho
Conrad Dudek
Melisa Finley
Kay Fitzpatrick
Gene Hawkins
Andrew Holick
Ranhee Jeong
Seung-Jun Kim

Edgar Kraus
Carroll Messer
Dan Middleton
Geza Pesti
Robert Pina
Cesar Quiroga
Larry Rilett
Steve Schrock
Zong Tian
Nada Trout
Brooke Ullman

Jerry Ullman
Tim Wolff
Karl Zimmerman

Hellos

TOG Dallas Research & Implementation is pleased to welcome Cliff Franklin into our program. He is transferring from SPP&E Arlington. After officing in Dallas for over 10 years and since 100% of his work is for TxDOT Dallas, it seemed like a good fit. Cliff has received many accolades for his service as the mobility coordinator on the landmark reconstruction of North Central Expressway (US 75). TxDOT was so pleased with his work on NCE that they asked him to perform similar services on the reconstruction of the US 75 IH 635 interchange, the largest single public works project ever in the State of Texas ($161 million.) Cliff has previously served as a traffic engineer in Fort Worth and Wichita Falls and as General Manager for Dallas Transit, predecessor to DART. He is a true Aggie having received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from A&M and was in the Corps of Cadets

Hanseon Cho (Systems Management) has been hired by TransLink® as a Post Doctoral Research Associate.