First-ever TDS Summit draws more than 200 attendees

More than 200 attendees representing 48 different schools from 35 cities attended the first-ever Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Summit. Teen leaders, parents and professionals took part in a lifesaving experience by attending breakout sessions, engaging in open-forums on the teen crash epidemic, and sharing personal experiences in video interviews at the University of San Antonio, the summit host site during National Teen Driver Safety Week.

"We definitely hit a home run," TDS Director Russell Henk commented. “Many of the teenagers said they were grateful that the event gave them a voice on this issue and a 30-year educator told me that our summit was the best she had attended during her career.”

U.S. Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, one of the program’s biggest supporters, was on-site to announce a 27 percent decline in fatal accidents involving teen drivers in Texas from 2002 to 2006, a decline that is more than twice the pace of the national average. “Effective laws and parental involvement are essential,” said Rodriguez. “But laws and parents will never be enough. We need teenagers to drive the message - just as they’re doing through Teens in the Driver Seat.”

Dr. Maria Teresa Cerquiera of the World Heath Organization spoke to teens about the personal meaning this program has on her, since her son suffered a traumatic brain injury due to a car crash many years ago.

The TDS in-school program is launching in both, Georgia and Connecticut, and has plans to continue to expand in at least two other states.

“We have an incredibly wonderful and talented team of staff that continue to dedicate themselves to this initiative,” Henk said. “It’s very exciting to achieve another major benchmark based upon this team’s efforts. We look forward to our second annual TDS Summit in El Paso next year.”
Blanco office assists Ike victims

Following the recent devastation of Hurricane Ike, the third most destructive hurricane to ever hit the United States, professors from TAMU Galveston moved quickly to discuss how to get their classes back up and running. With the aid of the San Antonio-Blanco office, Galveston professors held a strategic planning meeting on September 19 and were able to hold six successful classes via polycom.

TTI Climate Assessment Survey online

Results of the TTI Climate Assessment Survey are posted on TTINet. The survey was conducted to measure employee and management attitudes, perceptions and beliefs about the work environment at TTI.

Many thanks goes to all the members of the Diversity Council, including Kassandra Agee-Letton (co-chair), Juan Villa (co-chair), Richard Badillo, Rob Benz, Don Bugh, Ginger Goodin, Debbie Jasek, Beverly Kuhn, Lupe Ramos, Karen Smith, Melissa Tooley, David Trejo, Shanna Yates and the Mays Business School for conducting the survey.

Saving lives, one donation at a time

Blood donation is a gift needed more often than we realize it. One donation can often save up to three lives, and TTI employees have been dedicated to saving lives through onsite blood donation since 2003. Whether you are a return donor like Jerry Ullman, or a first time donor like Kay Fitzpatrick, every donor gives the gift of life through this act of kindness. This year TTI had the largest turnout since 2003 with a total of 46 donors, 8 being first-time donors. Thank you to all of you who donated and to Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, and if you missed out this time - be sure to check for signs and emails.
The Infrastructure Management Program in San Antonio started working on Research Project NCFRP 12, which focuses on the development of specifications for a national freight data architecture. A number of TTI folks are involved in this project including, Cesar Quiroga (PI), Edgar Kraus, Nick Koncz, Juan Villa (Co-PI), Dave Winterich and Jeff Warner. TTI is the lead agency on this research project. Other members of the team include ATRI and Prime Focus. The project is scheduled to end in March 2010.

In September, Cesar Quiroga and Shawn Turner wrapped up an NCHRP synthesis study (NCHRP 20-07, Task 249) which gathered information on the various approaches transportation agencies use to address ADA compliance issues in terms of asset data inventory, asset condition assessment and programming of asset improvements.

On Friday, October 3, several staff in the TTI Houston Office participated in a TEEX training course titled “Flaggers in Work Zones.” The training was held in the Houston office and topics included appropriate flagger requirements (including personal protective equipment), hand signaling devices and procedures and flagger stations.

Participants were encouraged to “learn by doing” so that they would be able to perform flagging duties themselves as well as provide direction with respect to flagging to other employees.

Due to the amount of traffic data collection constantly going on in Houston, several people attended the training in order to be prepared to perform flagging duties if and when flaggers are needed. The TTI Houston staff in attendance included Paul Adamson, Robert Benz, Darrell Borchardt, Michael Davis, Lori Gray, Shamanth Kuchangi, Mario Martinez, Omar Mata, Darryl Puckett, Roma Stevens, Jonathan Tydlacka, and Tony Voigt.

The TTI Dallas office held their first Halloween “Spooktacular” event with tricks and treats! Check out the creative design on the veggie/spider bowl and the “brain/skull” fruit trays!

Ed Seymour and Christie Madsen play tricks with their treats!
Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez traveled to Manila, Philippines to work on a project to build capacity in infrastructure project monitoring and evaluation for the National Economic Development Agency, the national infrastructure project oversight body.

Bob De Roche traveled to São Paulo and Florianópolis, Brazil on November 8 for a visit with Dr. Werner Kraus at the University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis. There is interest in national NTCIP standards for field devices and the ACS-Lite Adaptive Control System developed by the FHWA. While in São Paulo, Roche will participate in a “Meeting on Technology for Traffic Management in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His presentation will be on Traffic Control Hardware: The Proposal of the ATC (Advanced Transportation Controller) Standard. Other private discussions with Dr. Hugo Pietrantonio, University of São Paulo, and with the City of São Paulo technical staff will cover different aspects of ATC standard development, world-wide acceptance of the US and ITS standards, and the relationship between the standards.

Cesar Quiroga spent two weeks in Australia and Canada as part of the International Scan on Right-of-Way and Utilities, under the auspices of FHWA, AASHTO, and NCHRP. The group included representatives of FHWA, several state DOTs, industry, and academia, visited four transportation agencies in Australia (RTA - New South Wales, DTEI-South Australia, VicRoads-Victoria, and Main Roads-Queensland) and two in Canada (MTO-Ontario and Alberta Transportation-Alberta). While on his trip, Cesar represented the academic sector and served as the report facilitator for the group. A number of implementation ideas were gathered by the group to bring to the U.S. for consideration.

Gary Thomas traveled to Washington DC on September 9-11 to participate in a planning meeting for an ITE project on an introduction to traffic engineering curriculum. On October 29-November 2 he traveled back to ITE headquarters to take part in the Board of Directors meeting and be sworn in as the International Director of the Texas District.

Nadeem Chaudhary, Hassan Charara, and Jeremy Johnson traveled to Brownwood, Texas on October 21 to assist TxDOT staff with the installation of components needed for the implantation of an enhanced Platoon Identification and Accommodation (PIA) system at a selected intersection. The group assisted in installing smart sensors, wireless communication and solar power units at two approaches to the selected intersection, as well as a computer and other hardware/software inside the signal cabinet to start the automated data collection process through the PIA system.

Nadeem Chaudhary traveled to Doha, Qatar on November 7 to attend the 4th International Gulf Conference on Roads. Chaudhary will present three papers which are co-authored by Hassan Charara, Chi-Leung Chu and Praprut Songchitrucksa at the conference. Following the conference, Nadeem will meet with faculty at the local Universities to discuss a proposal opportunity.

Curtis Beaty vacationed for seven days at Jackson Hole, spending time between both Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks. Curtis finally made it back after a 36 hour delay due to a winter/snow storm.
As part of a federal program, Paul Carlson visited Biren Xi in China in the summer to present some research ideas. While in China, he had a chance to visit the site hosting the Olympic games. Biren Xi then came to the US to participate in a sign maintenance conference in Dallas. After the conference, Paul coordinated a trip to the College Station TTI office to discuss more research opportunities. Fan Ye, who had previously worked with Biren Xi at the RIOH MOC before coming to TAMU for her PhD, served as Paul Carlson’s co-host.

**Paul Carlson** at the Olympic games in China.  
**Biren Xi** visits TTI in College Station following a local conference.

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**WELCOME**

Minh Le has joined the Dallas TTI office. Minh has over 10 years of experience in transportation with both the public and private sectors and is a registered engineer in Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master’s degree from the University of Arkansas (where Melissa Tooley was on his graduate committee). In Arkansas, Minh worked for the Little Rock MPO where he was involved with planning, operations and ITS related projects. More recently, Minh was with Jacobs working on the LBJ CDA projects and the NTTA travel time index project. At TTI, Minh will be working on the Integrated Corridor Management Project in Dallas and supporting other local projects. Minh and his wife Jenny have been married for six and a half years and have two sons, Samuel and Josiah. Please welcome Minh to the TTI family.

Larry Weil has joined the Teens in the Driver Seat team. His part-time work will be focused on securing national corporate sponsors for the Teens in the Driver Seat program. Larry owns and operates the company, “Sponsorship Universe” which specializes in seeking and securing corporate sponsorships for organizations like TTI. Check out Larry Weil’s website at [www.larryweil.com](http://www.larryweil.com). Please welcome Larry to the TTI family.

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Newcomers
Arturo Bujanda, Assistant Research Specialist with the El Paso office, received the Civil Engineering “Senior Design Award” from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) this past May. Arturo’s project entitled “Traffic Impact Study for the Land Development near Mesa St. and Executive Blvd” was the only project that focused on transportation and his team was recognized from among seven UTEP student teams for outstanding work.

Bujanda’s team analyzed traffic patterns around a developing section of land adjacent to Interstate 10 in El Paso. They calculated trips generated from the proposed development which included commercial and residential land use. Trips were then distributed to surrounding traffic analysis zones based upon traffic patterns of similar zones in the region. The team then used a multi-resolution modeling approach which included the use of DYNASMART-P, VISSIM & Synchro to analyze traffic patterns at both the regional and localized levels. TTI - El Paso’s Jeff Shelton, provided advice and guidance to the team during the course of the year, and staff members Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez and Rajat Rajbhandari joined in mentoring the team in the run-up to the final presentation.

Members of the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, Texas Department of Transportation, and City of El Paso were among many transportation stakeholders in attendance during presentations and requested additional presentations at their respective organizations. Bujanda’s team also presented at the Institute of Transportation Engineers summer district conference in San Antonio this past June. Congratulations to Arturo and his team for an outstanding effort.

On September 18th Russell Henk hosted a division party at his home in Bandera, Texas. This gave employees an opportunity to mingle with one another and enjoy delicious BBQ. The mouth watering pot luck dishes made it difficult to stop eating, while the outdoor activities kept the team pretty busy. There were games of water volleyball, football, and horseshoes. Splashing the adults was also part of the outdoor activities for the kids. They also had a chance to hit a piñata full of candy and swim in the pool. Overall the division party was a hit and a mini vacation away from work.
Russell Henk provided awards to Teens in the Driver Seat staff members, Christie Madsen, Bernie Fette, Shawna Russell, Val Pedzolt, Jeff Shelton, Krizia Martinez, Lori Gray, Jen Ross, Llubia Corella, Casey Dusza, Katie Womack, Tina Geiselbrecht, Kandis Salazar and Kathy Montemayor for outstanding work following the Teens in the Driver Seat Summit on October 24.

Mark Burris was awarded the Snead Developmental Professorship 1. His professorship officially began on November 1. Congratulations Mark!

Promotions for TOG include:
- Shamanth Kuchangi, JHO, Associate Transportation Researcher
- Omar Mata, JHO, Assistant Research Specialist
- Darryl Puckett, JHO, Research Scientist
- Lupe Ramos, GEP, Office Associate
- Praprut Songchitruxka, DTL, Research Scientist
- Srinivasa Sunkari, DTL, Research Engineer

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

--Andrew Carnegie

TOG Mission Statement
To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations through leadership in research, education and technology transfer.
Family News

Lisa Palmer, welcomed her second grandchild, Blake Isabella Eudoxie, who was born October 14 to Frances and David Eudoxie. Big brother Jacob, is adjusting to the shared time with Gran!

Kwaku and Emma Obeng-Boampong married on July 26, 2008 in a traditional marriage ceremony in Accra, Ghana. They then had a church wedding on August 2, 2008 in their old high school chapel.

Hart Walker takes the lead on his red Honda 300 EX in a race this summer in Highlands, TX. Hart is the son of Dan Walker from the Signs and Markings Division. Hart won the Points Championship in the 300cc class in the 2008 season with 200 points out of a possible 205. Hart and Dan enjoy spending their time racing with the Gulf Coast Quad Racing Association from Houston, TX and travel to enter many races outside of the regular series.

Happy belated and upcoming birthday to -


November/December 2008