1. **Edwards Urges Teamwork in Fighting Congestion**  

U.S. Representative Chet Edwards was at the Gilchrist Building Aug. 27, announcing he has secured another $600,000 toward a Transportation Management Center (TMC) that could become a model for other small to mid-sized towns facing congestion and other traffic problems.

Edwards made the announcement at TTI’s Translink® Laboratory, which could be used as the center’s headquarters. Edwards told reporters that such a center would “improve the quality of life and boost economic growth.” While standing alongside Bryan Mayor Mark Conlee, College Station Mayor Ben White and Brazos County Judge Randy Sims, he told reporters that everyone must work together. The elected officials told Edwards they were grateful for the funding and are backing the project.

Last year, $400,000 was earmarked for the TMC facility. **Kevin Balke** and **Bob Brydia** of TTI’s Traffic Operations Group have provided the technical guidance to allow the local communities to develop a common vision. For the center to become a reality, the newest $600,000 in funding would need to be approved by the U.S. Senate and signed by the President. Also, the cities, county, Texas
Department of Transportation and Texas A&M University would have to be in agreement regarding how the center would be operated and maintained.

The TMC could be used to monitor traffic with cameras set up in key locations in the community. It would help coordinate traffic signals, data collection and special events planning. Bryan-College Station traffic is especially congested during the numerous Texas A&M sporting events throughout the year.

Associate Director Bill Stockton echoed Edwards’ comments about teamwork on the project. “The public really doesn’t care if they’re on a state road or a city of College Station road or a road in Brazos County. We want to make travel in our area seamless, and that can happen if all the entities work together.”

Read news article:

2. TTI Welcomes UT and Colombia Visitors

Three professors from Colombia who have an interest in transportation safety were treated to a grand tour of TTI Aug. 20, complete with overview presentations and a cable barrier crash test. The three educators from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia, were brought to TTI by the director of the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH), Sarah Felknor. SWCOEH is affiliated with The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston.

“The visitors from Colombia are in Texas as part of an international training grant awarded to SWCOEH that emphasizes highway safety and traffic injury prevention, so TTI was a perfect fit,” Felknor said. “The Institute really came through for these visitors, who now have a great understanding of what you are doing in the transportation safety arena. They could not have been treated better.”

TTI’s Center for Transportation Safety (CTS) organized the visit and planned the agenda. “It was our pleasure getting to know the concerns of transportation professionals from other countries,” said CTS Director John Mounce. “This visit could lead to a working
3. TTI Shines at ITE Annual Meeting

Brian Bochner, Scott Cooner and the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program were recognized with major honors at the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) 2007 Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 5-8.

Bochner, a senior research engineer with the Center for Air Quality Studies and the System Planning Program, was elected as an honorary member of ITE’s International Board of Direction, ITE’s highest recognition of notable and outstanding career achievement in transportation. Bochner becomes one of only 75 honorary members since the program began in 1933. ITE currently has 17,000 members. “This is a great honor of which I am very proud, but my transportation engineering accomplishments have resulted from a labor of love for the profession,” he said. “Transportation has been very good to me and extremely enjoyable, too.”

Cooner, program manager with System Operation Management, was the recipient of the Traffic Engineering Council Outstanding Paper Award for his work entitled Operational and Safety Guidelines around Schools in Texas. “This is recognition for a subject that hits home with a lot of people, not only in Texas but across the country,” Cooner said. “I am very pleased and honored.”

Also receiving national recognition was TTI’s TDS program. Director Dennis Christiansen accepted the ITE Transportation Achievement Award in Safety on behalf of the Institute.
recognizing the program, ITE officials said, “It is America’s first peer-to-peer safety program for young drivers. Unlike other safety programs, TDS involves the teen audience directly in both the development and the delivery of safety messages, empowering young people to make a difference and save lives.”

Kay Fitzpatrick and Bochner helped a consultant and the Massachusetts Highway Department develop the 2006 MassHighway Project Development and Design Guide, which was honored with the All Users Transportation Achievement Award.

TTI presenters at the ITE Annual Meeting included Bochner, Marcus Brewer, Ryan Eurek, and Shawn Turner.

4. TTI Anniversaries

10 Years

Diana Lin, Systems Analyst I (NET)
Robert McLain, Technician I (HSO)
Shanna Yates, Coordinator of Special Projects (ADM)

15 Years

Ed Seymour, Associate Agency Director (TOG)

25 Years

Cindy Estakhri, Associate Research Engineer (BSU)

30 Years

Tim Lomax, Mobility Analysis Program Manager (AMA)

35 Years

Charlene Meier, Assistant Financial Manger (BUS)
5. TTI Researchers Familiar with Mexican Truck Issue

Barring further delays from additional legal challenges, Mexican trucks will soon be allowed into the U.S. interior to haul goods from and then back into Mexico. However, TTI researchers who have worked along the Texas/Mexico border do not expect an inundation of Mexican trucks into the United States.

Under a one-year trial period, 100 Mexican carriers will be allowed movement beyond a current 20-mile commercial zone north of the border. The provision was first proposed in the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

“TTI has been analyzing ways of improving commercial vehicle crossings at the U.S./Mexico border for over a decade,” said Research Scientist Juan Villa. He says some of the Institute’s recommendations are being implemented or have been used to develop some of the security and safety programs at the border. “Some of the research projects include the development of a prototype border crossing facility for use at the Texas/Mexico border, the development of a methodology assessing public benefits of deployed intelligent transportation systems, and the development of a coordination system for border ports of entry for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and U.S.-Mexico Joint Working Committee,” Villa noted.

Meanwhile, TTI is currently testing technologies to measure commercial border crossing time and delays for a Federal Highway Administration project. Also, TTI is working with TxDOT to identify ways of integrating and consolidating border freight transportation data for planning applications.

Associate Research Engineer Joe Zietsman of the Air Quality Studies program has conducted studies for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), comparing emissions from Mexican trucks that were running on Mexican diesel, biodiesel and ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD). “Owners of those Mexican trucks have several worries about doing business inside the U.S.,” Zietsman said. “They are concerned about losing their drivers to U.S. employers, higher insurance costs to operate in the U.S., potential inspection hassles, language barriers and service problems if their trucks break down so far from home.”

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6. Texas Joins Deer-Vehicle Crash Reduction Research

With fall fast approaching, Associate Research Scientist Keith Knapp, director of the Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center, has new reason for optimism about his work. “Last month, Texas joined the other members of our pooled-fund study that focuses on the information exchange and research needed to curtail the number of deer-vehicle crashes,” he said. TxDOT’s Environmental Affairs and Maintenance divisions have representatives participating in the pooled-fund technical advisory committee. TxDOT’s contribution boosts the project’s budget to more than $300,000.

Fall is the “rut” or mating season for deer species, when many deer-vehicle crashes occur. There are an estimated one million deer-vehicle crashes each year in the U.S., costing an estimated $1 billion.

In addition to Texas, other states in the pooled fund are Ohio, New York, Connecticut, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Maryland and New Hampshire have indicated they will join soon. The Federal Highway Administration’s Office of Natural and Human Environment is the lead agency for the pooled fund and is also helping fund the project.

“Members of the pooled fund will meet in Schenectady, New York, in October for a symposium and business meeting. There will be a series of presentations and panel discussions focused on deer-vehicle crash reduction work being completed at locations throughout the United States. The business meeting will include discussions that advance the contracting and completion of research in at least four subject areas identified last winter,” Knapp said.

Visit website:
http://www.deercrash.com/

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7. TDS Receives Record Contract—Employees Honored

TTI employees who were part of the Trinity Industries–Herbert H. Richardson Team Award were honored with a luncheon and presentation of plaques Aug. 30. The 25 employees worked on the Teens in the Driver Seat program in 2006.

“Teens in the Driver Seat is growing beyond anyone’s expectations,” said Director Dennis Christiansen. “It is spreading across Texas and is now in Georgia. And just recently, TxDOT has awarded the project with an $880,000 traffic safety program grant, which is the largest in TTI’s history.”

Christiansen awarded TDS Program Manager Russell Henk with a plaque. Henk then issued individual plaques to the remaining employees. “I think the best is yet to come for TDS. This is indeed an exciting time, and I thank you all for the work you have done.”

TDS team members are: Henk, Bernie Fette, Kandis Salazar, Krizia Martinez, Andrew Ballard, Gary Barricklow, Tina Collier, Ken Giusti, LuAnn Theiss, Jeff Shelton, Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez, Kathy Montemayor, Katie Womack, Val Pezoldt, Brad Hoover, Tobey Lindsey, Rose Matejka, Brandon Webb, Clyde Hance, David Martin, Rick Davenport, John Henry, Mark Coppock, Khyle Dietz and Vicky Nelson.

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8. TTI in the News

There have been numerous mentions of TTI and our experts in recent media reports. Here are links to some of the stories.

Infrastructure concerns (Washington Times) Aug. 27

Hurricane evacuation planning (Dallas Morning News) Aug. 23

Infrastructure stocks (Motley Fool) Aug. 6

Crash barriers (KHOU-TV) Aug. 3
9. Zietsman Named Center Director for Air Quality Studies

Joe Zietsman, associate research engineer in TTI’s Center for Air Quality Studies, has been promoted to center director effective immediately. Zietsman takes over the helm from Brian Bochner, who continues as manager of the System Planning Program and who will continue to be heavily involved in TTI’s air quality research.

Zietsman has been a TTI employee since 1998, receiving numerous accolades for his research projects covering areas of air quality, sustainable transportation, performance measurement and transportation planning. He is currently principal investigator of several projects including a $3 million U.S. EPA project that involves the development of a national deployment strategy for truck stop electrification, emissions testing of 2007 model year trucks and actual deployment of truck stop electrification.

Bochner has over 40 years experience in transportation planning and engineering. He has been involved in air quality since the Houston area’s first transportation air quality planning in the early 1980s. He has devoted his work with TTI to helping improve Texas air quality. He is also leading a statewide transportation air quality public education and outreach program entitled Drive Clean Across Texas.

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10. Mission Possible: TTI Day Planning Underway

TTI Day will change locations next year with the all-day event scheduled for April 29, 2008, at the new Brazos County Exposition Complex. With one planning meeting under their belts already, TTI employees who have volunteered for next year’s TTI Day will meet again at the Exposition Complex Sept. 20. (The Brazos County Exposition Complex is located at 5827 Leonard Road in Bryan, which is off Hwy. 47 at the corner of Leonard Rd. and Jones Rd.)

Lance Bullard, chair for TTI Day 2008, says they can always use more help in making sure the event runs smoothly. “We have plenty of openings available for people who would like to volunteer,” he said. “Our theme this year is Mission Possible. And with more volunteers, it will be.”

View Exposition website: http://www.brazoscountyexpo.com/

11. August Statistics Seminars Completed, More in October

Free statistical assistance will continue through December for those employees needing help with their projects. To help show the importance of sound statistics, members of the Short-Term Statistical Help Desk, or St. Stats, conducted seminars in August that focused on statistical analysis on collected data.

In October, seminars will be conducted focusing on establishing statistically valid collection plans and determining appropriate sample sizes.

For more information about St. Stats, contact Eun Sug Park. You will be notified by email about the dates and times of the next seminars.
12. Editor’s Corner: Delivering RMC Deliverables

This time of year, many Research Management Committee (RMC) deliverables for projects sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are due either to TTI Communications for editing and processing or to TxDOT. This column offers a little insight on the life of an RMC deliverable.

When and how should you send a deliverable to COM?
RMC deliverables are usually due to COM 60 days prior to the TxDOT deadline shown in the project contract. Automatically generated lists emailed to Principal Investigators (PIs) (and listings in the MyStuff section of TTInet) show COM due dates. This time period provides time for editing, for the author to address editorial comments and return the file, and for COM to print and process the deliverable.

After you make revisions following an edit, send the revised file to COM soon so it can be sent to TxDOT on your behalf. For deliverables that need additional assistance from Communications, such as creation of a CD label or cover, allow additional time for processing.

To transfer your deliverable to COM, send an email notice to TTI Reports delivering or identifying your deliverable. Attach your files, link to a shared drive or use COM’s web transfer site.

What happens to a deliverable in COM?
When a deliverable arrives in TTI Communications, processing staff verify its number and log it as received. Some products can be submitted directly to TxDOT, such as equipment or installations. Some deliverables need additional documentation, such as attendance lists for workshops or photos of installations. Most deliverables require editing.

Editors review written deliverables for compliance with TxDOT guidelines and for editorial correctness and clarity. Edits can be in the form of either hardcopy markup or tracked changes in Word® files. Authors make editorial revisions and return the revised file to COM, where the processing team logs it in, prepares it for printing, prints it, records and documents its status, and sends it to TxDOT on behalf of research staff.

How do you find out more information about RMC
deliverables?
Pls receive regular due date lists that are automatically generated and emailed by the projects database, so project teams can check with Pls to see what deliverables are due. For more information, see:

- TTI net at http://mystuff.tamu.edu/login.asp,
- TTI’s Research and Development Office,
- TTI Communications: Dolores Hott or Michelle Jones,
- Guidelines for Preparing, Editing, and Submitting TxDOT Technical Reports, and
- the editorial resources page of TTInet.

Editor’s Corner is written by Rhonda Brinkmann, research editor in TTI Communications. Rhonda is happy to take requests for column topics.

13. Calendar/Reminders

Sept. 10—University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM) Colloquium
102 Gilchrist, 12:00 p.m. (Bring your own lunch)
Hosted by Center Director Melissa S. Tooley

Sept. 19-21—2007 Texas Ports and Waterways Conference
For more information, registration:
http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/ports07/

Oct. 16-17—81st Annual Transportation Short Course
http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tsc07/

Nov. 4-7—2007 National Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference,
San Antonio
For more information, registration:
http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/rail07/

Nov. 5-8—RMC Meetings, San Antonio

Nov. 22-23—Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 24-Jan. 1—Christmas-New Year’s Day Holidays
CenterLine is a production of TTI Communications. We encourage your comments and suggestions for articles about TTI people and research efforts. Please send email to news@ttimail.tamu.edu or call Rick Davenport at (979) 862-3763.