The summer sure has gone by quickly! This August Newsletter is late due to a few too many other priorities at the end of July and early August.

One of those priorities was writing a proposal to the U. S. Department of Transportation for a Transportation Economics Center (TEC). TTI partnered with faculty from the TAMU Department of Agricultural Economics and Mark Burris from Civil Engineering on the proposal.

The objectives of the Center are to mobilize the analytic capabilities of the transportation community, to assist the USDOT Office of Policy in addressing important policy issues, to conduct research applying economics to key transportation policy issues, to conduct training sessions and seminars, and to share best practice examples through electronic newsletters and websites.

The RFP for the TEC included numerous requirements, which made the proposal process a little more challenging than usual. In addition to the work plan and normal elements, the proposal requirements included a transition-in plan, a first-year work plan, a preliminary quality control plan, and a discussion of how the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and the Earned Value Management System (EVMS) would be developed and implemented. The past performance projects listed had to be presented in order of relevancy to the TEC and each had to contain a discussion of the relationship to each of the six TEC work tasks, including assigning percentages to each task. Finally, in addition to annual budgets for the five-year period, individual budgets had to be prepared by task by year.

Special thanks go to Susan Adams, Gary Lobaugh, Bonnie Duke, David Ellis, Mark Burris, Melissa Tooley, and Chris Slape of the Research Foundation for their help with the proposal.

I am sure the competition for the Center will be tough, but the combination of researchers from TTI, Agricultural Economics, and Civil Engineering provides a strong team. And as we all know, the only way to be selected is to submit a proposal. Also, as we all know, good ideas in a proposal do not die if TTI is not selected — they just get repackaged and used with other sponsors.

I know all of you are extra busy at this time completing TxDOT reports and work for other sponsors, writing proposals, and meeting with sponsors. I appreciate all the extra effort everyone is putting in to meet sponsor expectations and deadlines.

Look for the September Newsletter in a week with highlights of your August activities!

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities


The Bill team — **Bill Frawley** and **Bill Eisele** — participated in the TRB 8th National Conference on Access Management in Baltimore, July 13-16. They conducted a workshop on *Successful Public Involvement: Engaging Stakeholders*. They also participated in the poster session, presenting posters on *Better This…Or This?* and *Alternative Left Turn Treatments*. Bill Frawley gave a presentation on *Access Management Outreach Material Developed for TxDOT* and helped facilitate the interactive closing session.

**Katie Turnbull** moderated a session on *People and the Environment* at the mid-year meeting of the TRB Transportation Needs for National Parks and Public Lands in Denver on July 28-31. The mid-year meeting, *Into the Rockies: Environmental Sensitivity in Transportation*, was conducted with the Environmental Analysis in Transportation Committee and the Ecology and Transportation Committee.

**David Ellis** made a second trip to Beijing, China in early July. David met with representatives from the Beijing Transportation Research Center to discuss techniques to measure mobility improvements and to quantify the economic impacts of transportation projects. A major focus of the discussion was on developing an economic benefit assessment methodology that can be applied to projects in Beijing.

**Jeff Arndt** traveled to Daejeon, Korea, as the guest of the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology. Jeff gave a presentation on *Smart Public Transportation* at the International Conference for the Integration of Science and Technology into Society. The conference was held July 15-18. Jeff was one of the guest lecturers in the workshop on Traffimatics. He also helped judge the student presentations. Rumor has it that Jeff was the star of the closing banquet with his Karaoke number, “Nobody Does it Better.”

**Congratulations**

The TxDOT Aviation Division and the Electronic Publishing Center of the General Services Center provided positive feedback to **Chris Sasser**, Communications, on the first issue of the Wingtips completed by TTI Communications. A representative with the Electronic Publishing Center said it was the cleanest and best organized issue he had seen in his 24 years of publishing. Congratulations to all the Communications staff and **Jeff Borowiec** working on the issue!
Years of Service

The following SPP&Eer’s reached special anniversaries with TTI in August.

Andrea Herbst, Transportation Modeling — 1 year
Linda Cherrington, Transit Mobility — 5 years
Andy Mullins, Travel Forecasting — 5 years
Scott Cooner, System Operation Management — 15 years
Beverly Storey, Environmental Management — 15 years

Birthdays

**August**
- Marty Boardman 8/10
- Ming Han Li 8/16
- Ed Sepulveda 8/23
- Jeff Borowiec 8/28
- Justin Malnar 8/28

**September**
- Ginger Goodin 9/7
- Joe Zietsman 9/16
- Scott Cooner 9/20
- Jimmie Benson 9/24
- Todd Carlson 9/26
- Laura Higgins 9/28

Welcome

**Jesús Palomo** has joined the Research Development Office as a Proposal Coordinator. Jesús is a 2008 graduate of Texas A&M University, with B.A. in English-Rhetoric, and a Business minor. Jesús worked as a transit operator, trainer, special assignment driver, and dispatcher for Texas A&M Transportation Services while in school. He served as Vice President of Finance for the Aggie Career Team, and in leadership positions in the Residence Hall Association. Jesús is fluent in Spanish.

Please welcome Jesús to the SPP&E and TTI!