The summer is always a busy time at TTI. TxDOT research reports, TxDOT RMC project statements, proposals and research projects for other sponsors, and mid-year TRB committee meetings all add up to keep things buzzing over the summer.

Numerous internal activities are also underway this summer. Many of these efforts will be discussed by Dennis Christiansen in his Q&A with the Director on July 16th. These efforts focus on the TTI strategic plan, risk management plan, professional development, and internal communication.

A new TTI Strategic Plan is being developed by the Leadership Team. Rob Robideau is taking the lead on this effort. The draft plan will be available for review and comment by all TTI staff soon. The plan will be used to guide the Institute over the next three to five years.

Rob is also taking the lead on the development of a Risk Management Plan for the Institute. This plan focuses on the identification and management of potential risks associated with TTI’s functions and activities.

One element of the Strategic Plan focuses on research diversification. As I have noted previously, the SPP&E is taking a coordinated team approach to diversification. All programs will contribute to the effort, but some have more opportunities than others.

The teams looking at internal communication, recognizing years of service, and professional development are continuing to work and should have preliminary recommendations on different activities over the next few months.

Thanks to those of you who responded to Suzie Edrington’s survey on the years of service recognition. Suzie passed on the suggestion for recognizing years of service in this newsletter. This information has been added as a regular feature. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions for the newsletter.

You will have the opportunity to provide input to these and other activities over the next few months. A survey of TTI support services will be conducted, as will surveys on other topics. Please take the time to respond to these surveys as your input is needed to ensure these efforts focus on meeting your needs and enhancing TTI.

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities

**Bill Eisele** has been approved by the Texas A&M University Dean of Graduate Studies as an Associate Member of the Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Graduate Faculty.

**Juan Villa** and **Bill Eisele** attended the 2007 North America’s SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc. (NASCO) Moving North America Forward Conference in Fort Worth, May 30-June 1. Juan participated on a panel, *Moving Rail and Trucking Forward*.

The following SPP&Eer’s gave presentations at the TxDOT RMC Spring meetings in San Antonio June 4-7.

**Ginger Goodin** — The Role of Preferential Treatment for Carpools in Managed Lane Facilities.

**Juan Villa** — Integration and Consolidation of Border Freight Transportation Data for Planning Applications and Characteristics of NAFTA Truck Loads for Aiding in Transportation Infrastructure Management.

**Jason Crawford** — An Assessment of a Traffic Monitoring System for a Major Traffic Generator to Improve Regional Planning.

**Linda Cherrington** — Integrating Regional Multimodal and Public Transportation Planning.

**Jett McFalls** — Comparison of Alternative Seed Mixes to TxDOT Standard Specifications.

Other SPP&Eer’s attending the RMC meetings included **Patti Ellis**, **Beverly Storey**, **Scott Cooner**, **Bill Stockton**, **Sharada Vadali**, **Susan Adams**, and **Katie Turnbull**.

**Dennis Perkinson** has accepted an invitation to provide peer review assistance for the *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*.

**Bill Frawley** and **Bill Eisele** presented a workshop on *Engaging the Public as Decision-Makers: Successful Public Involvement* at the TRB 3rd Urban Street Symposium in Seattle, Washington, June 24-27. They also co-authored a paper, “Safety Benefits of Raised Medians and Low Driveway Densities on Urban Streets,” which was presented by Bill Frawley. **Shawn Turner** was a co-author on a paper, “Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Intersections,” presented by Kay Fitzpatrick.

**Tim Lomax** testified before the Subcommittee on Highway and Transit; Congestion and Mobility of the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee on June 7.

The following SPP&Eer’s are Research Supervisors on RMC projects selected for funding in the FY 08 program.

**Jeff Arndt** — Transportation, Economic, and Social Impacts of Light and Commuter Rail in Metropolitan Areas.

**Brian Bochner** — Guidance on Mitigating the Impacts of Large Distribution Centers on Texas Highways.

**Jim Schutt** — Water Retention Techniques for Roadside Vegetation Establishment in Arid Regions in Texas.

**Jeff McFalls** — Roadside Sediment Control Device Evaluation Program.

**Ming-Han Li** — Bioretention for Stormwater Quality Improvement in Texas.

**Bill Eisele** — Safety and Economic Impacts of Converting Two-Way Frontage Roads to One-Way.

**Joe Zietsman** — Characterization of In-Use Emissions from Non-Road Equipment in the TxDOT Fleet.

Thanks to everyone who assisted with developing and reviewing RMC proposals. As we all know, numerous individuals contributed to all the proposals!
Years of Service

The following SPP&Eer’s passed anniversaries at TTI in May and June.

May
Lauren Geng — 5 years

June
Suzie Edrington — 1 year
Debbie Spillane — 5 years
Cynthia Lowery — 15 years

Congratulations!

Brian Bochner has been elected to Honorary Membership in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Brian becomes the 74th individual elected to Honorary Membership, which recognizes outstanding professional achievement. Brian will be presented with the Honorary Membership at the ITE Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in August.

Congratulations Brian!

Calendar of Events

JULY 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY, TAMUS HOLIDAY
OCTOBER 16-17 — TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, REED ARENA, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 17-20 — TEXAS APA CONFERENCE, ADDISON
NOVEMBER 5-8 — TXDOT RMC FALL MEETINGS, SAN ANTONIO

BIRTHDAYS

July
Shawn Turner 7/15
Cynthia Lowery 7/20
Casey Toycen 7/22
Tim Lomax 7/25
Gary Lobaugh 7/26
Lisa Nimocks 7/27
Teresa Qu 7/30

August
Marty Boardman 8/10
Robert McLain 8/15
Ming-Han Li 8/16
Ed Sepulveda 8/23
Jeff Borowicz 8/28
Justin Malnar 8/28