Summer is almost here, which means conferences and mid-year committee meetings sponsored by TRB, ITE, TxITE, and other organizations. These activities provide great opportunities to enhance your technical skills, learn more about projects and programs throughout the country, and network with fellow transportation professionals.

Conferences and meetings provide great settings for interacting with federal agency staff, as well as staff for state departments of transportation, transit agencies, MPOs, and other groups. Take the time to introduce yourself to people you do not know.

At this point, 54 committees are participating in the TRB Joint Mid-Year meeting in Boston, July 10-13. The combination of technical sessions, which are typically oriented more toward discussion than sessions at the Annual meeting, and longer committee meetings, make the Joint Mid-Year meeting a good venue for learning and networking.

The TRB Technical Activities Council (TAC) has a number of initiatives underway, which may be of interest to P&Eer’s. One initiative is the Back to Basics: Fostering and Nurturing a Research Agenda. This effort focuses on enhancing one of the key roles of TRB committees. The initiative will provide additional training and guidance on writing and gaining support for research needs and problem statements. It will also provide enhanced on-line tools for tracking Committee Research Needs. It will afford regular opportunities for Committee Research Needs Coordinators to share information and best practices. It will also build stronger links to the cooperative research program.

Who knows more about writing good research problem statements than P&Eer’s? Consider volunteering to help in this initiative if you are a member or a friend of a committee!

A second initiative, Giving Young Transportation Professionals a Voice, builds on the initial efforts of two groups. The Planning and Environment Group and the Design and Construction Group initiated young member subcommittees or councils in 2010. The TAC is encouraging all groups to establish similar councils or subcommittees.

The TAC is also establishing a Young Professionals Council that will include one young professional from each of the 11 groups. The individuals may be either a young member or a regular member of a committee, as long as they are under 35 years of age, which is the current age limit TRB uses in defining young members.

These efforts provide a great opportunity for P&Eer’s under 35 years of age. Even if you are not a young member or a regular member of a committee, you can volunteer to help with activities these committees and subcommittees will be planning.

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities

Nick Wood, Austin Office, was featured in the Member Spotlight of the Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT) — Austin Chapter Spring 2011 Newsletter. YPT is a national organization focused on providing career guidance, fellowship, and networking opportunities for young professionals in the transportation field.

Ginger Goodin gave an update in on Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF) to the Texas Transportation Commission on April 28. Ben Pierce from Battelle also participated in the briefing with a presentation on the Minnesota MBUF demonstration project.

The work of Joan Hudson, Shawn Turner, and others was noted in an April 23rd article in the Austin-American Statesman. TTI’s research installing two permanent bicycle pedestrian counters along the Lance Armstrong Bikeway and manual counts of cyclists and pedestrians at 15 locations in the Austin area was highlighted in the article. In addition, Austin was recently designated as a Bronze-Level Walk Friendly Community by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.

Congratulations!

2011 Delta-T Class

The 2011 Delta-T class has been selected. P&Eer’s include Steve Farnsworth, Transportation Planning, Reza Farzaneh, Air Quality, and Kevin Hall, Travel Forecasting.

Congratulations Steve, Reza, and Kevin!

Council of Principal Investigators

Joe Zietsman, Environment and Air Quality Division Head, has been elected to serve on the Texas A&M University System Council of Principal Investigators (CPI). Joe was elected by TTI principal investigators to serve a three-year term on the CPI. Beverly Kuhn was also re-elected to serve a second three-year term. The CPI focuses on improving the research environment for students, faculty, and staff. It works with TAMUS administration to provide an effective research environment, to achieve the goal of being nationally recognized and competitive in research and teaching.
Calendar of Events

MAY 3 — TTI Employee Appreciation Dinner, College Station Hilton
MAY 4 — All TTI Day, Expo Center, Bryan
MAY 30 — Memorial Day Holiday
JULY 4 — Independence Day Holiday

Years of Service

The following P&Eers will celebrate a special anniversary with TTI this month:
Brianne Glover — 1 Year
Reza Farzaneh — 5 Years
Sharada Vadali — 15 Years

TRB Appointments

Joe Zietsman has been reappointed to the Committee on Performance Measures and the Committee on Transportation and Air Quality.
Montie Wade has been reappointed to the Committee on Statewide Multimodal Transportation Planning. Stacey Bricka and Ed Hard have been appointed the Committee on Travel Survey Methods.

May
Kevin Hall 5/5
Cliff Spiegelman 5/15
Montie Wade 5/20

June
Beverly Storey 6/5
Derrold Foster 6/7
Meredith Highsmith 6/11
Mark Ojah 6/20
Sangita Sunkari 6/25
Larry White 6/30