MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

2005 has started off great! TTI and the SPP&E were well represented at the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. SPP&E researchers presented papers, chaired committee meetings, and moderated sessions. As always, the Annual Meeting was a very busy, but very productive time!

Meanwhile, back at the Ranch, working with researchers, RDO processed 11 TxDOT traffic safety proposals, 8 TxDOT implementation proposals, and 11 proposals to other sponsors. Not a bad record for the first month of the new year.

The TxDOT RMC RFPs were released on January 31. Proposals are due to RDO on March 14. We will use the same process we have followed the past few years in developing proposals. The key steps in the process are:

- Research Supervisors hold brainstorming session with interested researchers to discuss ideas and approaches.
- Research Supervisors develop concept and approach and submit to me by February 18.
- Research Supervisors attend pre-proposal meetings.
- Research Supervisors submit draft proposal to me for review by at least two senior staff by March 9.
- Research Supervisors submit proposal to RDO by March 14.

If you are a Research Supervisor, please start working now with your RDO representative on the proposal process. Please let me or your Program Manager know if you have any questions on the proposal process. Remember, be creative, have fun, and focus on implementation!

Thanks,

Katie

Staff Activities

The SPP&E was well represented at the 2005 TRB Annual meeting January 9-13 in Washington, D.C. In addition to the following researchers presenting papers and moderating sessions, SPP&Eer’s chaired and participated in the Technical Activities Council, group, committee, and subcommittee meetings.


Brian Bochner – Presided at session on Air Quality: Measurement and Freight Impacts.


Tim Forrest – Presented Paper, Comparison of Trip Determination Methods in GPS-Enhanced Household Travel Surveys (David Pearson, co-author).

David Pearson – Presented Paper, Household Survey Trip Underreporting: Case Study in Laredo, Texas. Participated in panel discussion on New Concepts in Household Travel Surveys: Where are we Now?

Sharada Vadali – Poster Session Papers, North Central Expressway Project Evaluation of Residential Impacts by Land Use Type: Implications for Large Scale Projects and Highway Added Capacity Projects, Property Values, and Private Returns from Investment.


Bill Stockton – Paper Presentation, Development of Toll Viability Screening Tool (Carlos Chang, Son Smith, and Craig Smith, co-authors). Co-Author on Poster Session Paper, Texas: Houston Value Pricing Program (Mark Burris, lead author, Ginger Goodin, Sue Chrysler, and Pam Green, co-authors). Presided at Road Pricing Workshop.

Tim Lomax – Presided at Poster Session, What’s the Picture? Graphics to Communicate Performance Measures and Data.

Katie Turnbull – Presentation, ILEV, Hybrids, and HOV’s. Presentation, Performance Measurement Conference Overview and Key Points. Chaired Policy and Organizational Group Executive Board Meeting.


Harlow Landphair – Chaired Landscape and Environmental Design Committee meeting.

Montie Wade – Chaired Subcommittee meeting on Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Community Conference.

Phillip Reeder received his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at Austin in December. Congratulations Phillip!

Montie Wade was appointed an emeritus member of the TRB Committee on Transportation Planning Applications and the Committee on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities. Congratulations Montie!

Jeff Borowiec has been appointed Secretary of the TRB Aviation System Planning Committee. Congratulations Jeff!!

Scott Cooner was elected to serve as President of the Greater Fort Worth Section of TexITE for 2005. Scott was also nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Dallas Traffic Management Team for 2005.

The SPP&E was also well represented at the South West Transit Association 25th Annual Conference and Expo, January 23-26 in Houston. Tim Lomax gave the Keynote Address at the opening session. Tim discussed the Annual Urban Mobility Report. Linda Cherrington gave a presentation on the recent on-board transit survey in Tucson at the Southwest Showcase breakout session.

Laura Higgins gave a presentation on Flex-Route Transit Service in Texas at another breakout session.
Comings and Goings

Matthew Perez has joined the TTI Arlington Office as a student worker. Matt is majoring in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Welcome Matt!

Scott Cothron, System Operation Management, has accepted a position with the City of Longview as a Traffic Engineer. Scott’s smile, positive attitude, and contributions to HOV and safety-related research will all be missed.

Mark Middleton will be leaving TTI after 15 years for a position with a private consulting firm. Mark will be working for Wilbur Smith & Associates and Dallas. Mark’s work in the areas of systems planning, simulation modeling, and traffic engineering will be missed.

We wish Scott and Mark the best of luck!

New Arrivals

Ming-Han Li, Environmental Management Program, and Teresa Qu, Transportation Planning Program, welcomed their second child on December 30th. Caroline weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long.

Ed Pultorak, System Operation Management Program, and his wife, Michelle welcomed a son on January 18th. Jake weighed 8 lbs, 7.5 ozs and was 19¼ inches long.

Congratulations Ed, Ming-Han, and Teresa!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 3-5, 2005 – TEXITE WINTER MEETING, WACO
March 18, 2005 – SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY

Birthdays

February
Melissa Smith  2/7
Alma Cooper  2/12
Tammy Pietrucha  2/16
Scott Cothron  2/24
Susan Adams  2/28

March
Steve Farnsworth  3/10
David Schrank  3/13
Mary Levien  3/13
Lauren Geng  3/23
Karen Eddleman  3/27