Please mark **Monday, March 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon** on your schedules for the first of four **Mini-SPP&E meetings**. For those of you in College Station, please plan to stay to 1:00 p.m. for lunch and some additional activities.

Rather than the one-day all SPP&E meeting we have had in previous years, we are trying a new approach in 2010. We will have four two-hour Mini-SPP&E meetings over the course of the year. All SPP&E staff are expected to attend the meetings.

The first mini-meeting will be based in College Station. The Houston office will host the second mini-meeting, followed by the Austin and Arlington Offices. I will be traveling to each of the offices hosting the mini-meetings. We will have Polycom links between College Station, Austin, Arlington, and Houston.

Similar to the all SPP&E meetings, the mini-meetings will focus on a mix of information sharing, professional development, and team building activities. The meeting will be scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.

We will continue through lunch at the host location with additional time for discussions and fun and exciting activities. Other offices may also wish to continue the meeting through lunch without the Polycom link.

A group of younger/newer SPP&E staff will help plan the mini-meetings. **Marty Boardman, Teresa Qu, Stella Nepal, and Karen Lorenzini** will assist in organizing the first mini-meeting.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for topics, speakers, and activities for the mini-meetings. Also, please let me know if you like to participate in planning the meetings.

We will provide opportunities for feedback after each meeting and at the end of the year. Your feedback will be important in deciding if we continue the mini-meetings, return to a one-meeting, or use some combination of the two approaches.

On a different topic, you all should have received an e-mail on the TTI on-line training in the use of human subjects in research. All TTI employees are required to take this training. Please make it a priority to complete the training by the March 25th deadline.

Thanks!

Katie
Congratulations!

Ming-Han Li has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) as 2nd Vice President.

Congratulations Ming-Han!

The outstanding efforts of SPP&Eer’s have been recognized recently by sponsors and others at TTI.

Janie Temple, TxDOT, recognized Phillip Reeder for his excellent work with the Harlingen-San Benito MPO on the 2035 demographic database and the travel forecasting model data preparation.

Mary Levien processed 28 TxDOT 402 proposals. Her assistance with all the proposals, especially a few that arrived at the last minute, was recognized by TTI researchers.

Rick Collins, TxDOT, recognized Justin Malnar for his skillful and quick handling of 13 work orders and 4 modifications to the RMC P project.

Dave Schrank has been appointed to the TRB Committee on Statewide Transportation Data and Information Systems. Katie Turnbull has been reappointed to the TRB Committee on Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands. Juan Villa has been reappointed Secretary of the TRB International Trade and Transportation Committee, and as member of the Freight Transportation Data Committee, and the Freight Transportation Planning and Logistics Committee.

Years of Service

The following SPP&Eer reached a special anniversary with TTI in February:
Sangita Sunkari — 10 years

Staff Activities

Derrold Foster attended the International Erosion Control Association’s Conference, Environmental Connection 2010, in Dallas where he introduced TxDOT’s new Sediment Control Testing Program. Testing of sediment control devices at the Hydraulics, Sedimentation, and Erosion Control Laboratory will officially begin in March, 2010. This is the first full scale testing program of its kind.

Beverly Storey assisted Debbie Jasek with the Construction Career Academy on February 14-19 in Fort Worth.

Tina Geiselbrecht spoke at the Successful HOT Lanes Projects: A National Perspective Forum in Atlanta on February 16. The form was part of the outreach efforts associated with HOT lanes planning in the Atlanta area.

David Ellis, Ginger Goodin, and Katie Turnbull gave presentations on TTI research during the February 22 visit of Zeke Reyna, aide to Texas Speaker of the House Joe Straus.
**Staff Activities, Continued**

Juan Villa and Joe Zietsman hosted a workshop and meeting of the Council on Environmental Cooperation in College Station on February 10-12. The workshop included a tour of the new Environmental and Emissions Research Facility at the Riverside Campus. Jeremy Johnson, Tara Ramani, Becca Simons, and others assisted with the workshop and tour.

Photos by Rick Davenport

---

**Birthdays**

**March**
- Trey Baker  3/3
- Suzie Edrington  3/7
- Steve Farnsworth  3/10
- David Schrank  3/13
- Mary Levien  3/13
- Lauren Geng  3/23

**April**
- John Wikander  4/2
- Jennifer Franklin  4/11
- Sung Ho Chang  4/16
- Andrea Herbst  4/17
- David Ellis  4/20
- Bonnie Duke  4/24
- Jett McFalls  4/30

---

**System Planning Policy & Environment Research Group**

---

**Calendar of Events**

**March 18-19** — Spring Break

**March 26** — Dedication of the TTI State Headquarters and Research Building

**March 29** — Mini-All SPP&E Meeting, Gilchrist Bldg., Room 102 (Via Polycom to Urban Offices)

**April 7** — David Pearson Retirement Reception, Gilchrist Bldg., Room 201

**May 5** — TTI Day, Expo Center, College Station