Message from the Associate Director

Congratulations to the All TTI Day 2001 Planning Committee for organizing a great day. Anna Jo Mitchell and the Committee did an outstanding job of making it an informative and fun day. SPP&Es helping included Heather Ford, Claire Roth, Pam Rowe, and Casey Toycen.

Congratulations also go to Gordon Shunk and the other TTI award winners. Gordon received the TTI Senior Researcher of the Year Award.

Gordon was noted for his “dedication to the improvement of travel demand forecasting models, his commitment to meeting the needs of state and federal sponsors, his success in establishing TTI as the technology transfer and information center for the Travel Model Improvement Program, and for his leadership, knowledge, innovation, and outstanding customer service.”

The award is well deserved recognition of Gordon’s contributions to transportation research. He is a key part of the SPP&E and TTI team. Congratulations Gordon!

December is always a busy month with everyone working to get things done before the break and getting ready at home for the holidays. I hope you all have a very enjoyable and safe holiday season! See you in 2002!

Thanks!
Katie

RMC Proposal Process

It is anticipated that TxDOT will issue RFPs to universities in late January or early February for proposals on the FY 03 RMC research program. Proposals will probably be due at the end of March or early April.

SPP&E researchers should have received summaries on the fall RMC 2, 3, and 4 meetings from their Program Managers. Although the exact problem statements to be released are not known in all RMCs, the meeting summaries provide a good indication of the top rated problem statements.

Please let your Program Manager know if you are interested in being considered as a PI or researcher on any of the projects. Similar to previous years, the identification of PIs and staff researchers will be coordinated across TTI. Researchers will be notified when the requests for proposals are received from TxDOT.

Also, to help ensure that RMC projects are on schedule and that reports will be submitted on time, meetings will be scheduled in January and February with PIs, Program Managers, and the Associate Director. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the status of projects, deliverable schedules, possible implementation efforts, and any issues or concerns.
Staff Activities

Ginger Daniels Goodin and Steve Vengler coordinated a visit to TTI by TxDOT Austin District staff. Shawn Turner, Bernie Fette, and Lindsey Griffin gave presentations on projects. Dana Evan gave a demonstration of the Driver Simulator and Bob Brydia gave a tour of the TransLink Laboratory.

Shawn Turner participated in the Pennsylvania Traffic Engineering and Safety Conference at Penn State in December. Shawn gave presentations on the Urban Mobility pooled fund study and the Mobility Monitoring Program. Shawn noted that justice was served, as he stayed at the nicest inn on campus, which he could hardly afford to walk through when he was a poor student at Penn State.

Congratulations

Christy Harris received her 15-year TTI pin this month.

Ed Pultorak has been promoted to an Assistant Transportation Researcher. Ed completed his Masters in Civil Engineering - Transportation from the University of Texas at Arlington this month. Ed is a key part of the System Operation Management Program and is working on a number of projects supporting the Dallas and Fort Worth TxDOT Districts.

Congratulations Christy and Ed!

All SPP&E Meeting

The Planning Committee is working on the program for the 2002 SPP&E meeting. They are scouting out possible locations in Waco and are targeting mid-April for the meeting. More information on the exact date and location will be available soon. Please let Kim Phillips know if you have any ideas or suggestions for the 2002 meeting.

Winter Holidays

TTI will be closed for the Winter Holidays December 24 – January 1. Best wishes for an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season!

Calendar

January 13-17 – 81st TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
January 24-26 – TexITE Winter Meeting, Irving
March 12-13 – 3rd Annual Forum on Public Health and Transportation Safety, Houston
June 10-13 – TxDOT Spring RMC Meetings, Location TBA

Birthdays

January
Denise Pineda 1/3
Lisa Day 1/6
Bill Frawley 1/9
Brian Bochner 1/11
Carol Walters 1/12
Sharada Vadali 1/18
Carol Court 1/21
Evelyn Pilgrim 1/21
Pam Rowe 1/24
Harlow Landphair 1/25
Jim Schutt 1/26
Stephen Ranft 1/30
February
Tammy Pietrucha 2/16
Scott Cothron 2/24
Susan Adams 2/28