Although the SPP&E and TTI are aggressively pursuing research diversification, TxDOT remains a key sponsor. The SPP&E Research Diversification Plan notes that the SPP&E will continue to focus on providing quality and timely research, technical assistance, and support to current sponsors, including TxDOT, while actively pursuing additional research opportunities.

TxDOT recently announced the selection of universities for the initial FY 09 RMC projects. Congratulations to Linda Cherrington, Jeff Arndt, Phillip Reeder, Joe Zietsman, Patti Ellis, and Ed Hard for taking the lead on selected proposals. Thanks to all staff who assisted with the proposals.

As noted on page 2, six of the seven proposals involve other universities. TTI is the lead on three of these projects, while other universities are the lead on two proposals. These multi-university teams better meet TxDOT’s diversity goals for the research program. The team approach takes more time to develop the proposals and to make the projects a success, however. The extra effort to undertake these multi-university proposals and projects is both recognized and appreciated.

SPP&Eer's also took the lead and assisted on supplemental RMC proposals. The final set of FY 09 RMC RFPs was recently released and SPP&Eer’s are working on some of these proposals.

TxDOT has issued the call for FY 10 RMC problem statements. The RMCs have developed new research priorities for FY 10. Please review these priorities as you are working on possible problem statements.

Members of the Leadership Team are organizing meetings with key TxDOT District Engineers, Division Directors, and members of their staff to obtain additional input on critical issues and possible research projects to address these concerns. Information from these meetings will be made available to researchers throughout the Institute.

RMC 2 has been reorganized to include both planning and environment. TAPer’s Patti Ellis, Ginger Goodin, Joe Zietsman, and Beverly Storey will be coordinating the development, review, and submission of RMC project statements in these areas. As always, project statements can also be submitted by TxDOT personnel you are working with.

Please let me or your program manager know if you have any questions on the RMC FY 10 problem statement process.

Thanks!

Katie
FY 09 RMC Project Selections

TxDOT has announced the selection of universities on FY 09 RMC projects. Congratulations to the following SPP&Eer’s who are research supervisors on selected proposals. Congratulations also go to all the researchers and staff assisting with the development of these winning proposals, to everyone who wrote proposals — those selected and those that went to another university — your extra efforts are greatly appreciated!

Linda Cherrington — Quantifying the Purchasing Power of Public Transportation in Texas (TTI lead with Texas Tech University and the University of Texas, Brownsville)

Linda Cherrington — Estimated Impact of the 2010 Census on PTN Funding Formula (University of Texas, San Antonio lead with TTI)

Jeff Arndt — Benchmarking and Improving the Texas Rural Public Transportation System (TTI lead with Prairie View A&M University)

Phillip Reeder — Adding Tour-Based Modeling to TxDOT’s Travel Forecasting Modeling Framework (Center for Transportation Research lead with TTI)

Joe Zietsman — Characterization of Exhaust Emissions from Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles in the Houston, Galveston, Beaumont Area (TTI lead with Texas Southern University)

Patti Ellis — Integrating the Texas Workforce Commission Data into TxDOT Modeling

Ed Hard — Preserving Functionally/Asset Value of the State Highway System (TTI lead with TSU).

SWUTC Project Selections

SPP&Eer’s also had projects selected for the SWUTC FY ’09 Research Program. Congratulations to the following SPP&Eer’s for having their proposals selected.

Juan Villa, David Schrank, David Ellis, and David Winterich — Developing and Applying Mobility Performance Measures for Freight Transportation in Urban Areas

Laura Higgins and Sue Chrysler — Driver Eye-Scanning Behavior at Intersections at Night

Luca Quadrifoglio — Performance Analysis of the “Zoning” Strategies for ADA Paratransit Services

Retirement

Jim Schutt retired June 30, after 20 years of service with TTI’s Environmental Management Program. Jim was recognized for his expertise in transportation aesthetics and landscape development and how these relate to natural systems, native plant communities, and landscape preservation and restoration. He was PI on a long-standing IAC with TxDOT’s Design Division, Landscape Design & Enhancements Section, focusing on alternative approaches for highway landscape development that were linked to specific maintenance and management goals. Jim also participated in TxDOT RMC projects. He was mentor to numerous landscape architecture graduate students and interns over the years. Jim was a member of the TRB Committee on Roadside Maintenance Operations. He is a member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and serves on the board of directors of the Native Prairie Association of Texas. Jim’s professionalism was well recognized and he will be missed. We wish him well as he pursues ongoing activities in retirement. Jim’s contributions to TTI will be recognized at a retirement reception from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20th in Room 102 of the Gibb. Please attend if you can.
Years of Service

Dave Winterich, Economics, Trade, and Logistics — 1 year
Carol Court, Urban Analysis — 10 years
Laura Higgins, Systems Planning — 15 years
Dennis Perkinson, Transportation Modeling — 15 years
Stephen Ranft, System Operation Management — 25 years

TRB Appointment

Joe Zietsman has been appointed Secretary of the TRB Committee on Performance Measurement.

Congratulations Joe!

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 17-20 — ITE ANNUAL MEETING, ANAHEIM, CA
OCTOBER 14-15 — TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, RUDDER THEATER COMPLEX, COLLEGE STATION

2008-2009 Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving — November 27-28, 2008
Christmas-New Years — December 24-January 2, 2009
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — January 19, 2009
Spring Break — March 19-20, 2009
Memorial Day — May 25, 2009
Independence Day — July 3, 2009

Birthdays

July
Shawn Turner 7/15
Cynthia Lowery 7/20
Casey Dusza 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 Borowiec 8/28