Message from the Associate Director

TTI recently conducted a survey of key research sponsors. The survey was undertaken to meet the state law requiring agencies to obtain feedback from sponsors and customers. In addition to reporting the results to the state, the information is being used to enhance internal procedures and communication.

A total of 22 individuals at TxDOT, FHWA, NCHRP, TNRCC, HGAC, consulting firms, and other organizations were asked to complete the 15 question survey. All 22 took the time to respond and most provided comments. Many of these individuals are key sponsors of SPP&E research projects.

The survey responses indicate TTI continues to meet sponsor needs. As always, however, there are areas for improvement.

In terms of overall averages, TTI was rated above average to outstanding on all but two questions. The quality of TTI research facilities, the responsiveness of TTI researchers to any complaints and concerns arising during a project, and the expertise of TTI researchers received the highest ratings. Further, all 22 individuals indicated they would contract with TTI on future research projects based on their experience.

The two questions receiving the lowest rating, which were average to above average, were on time completion of research and the quality and timeliness of contract and billing services.

While the overall results are positive, some individuals, including TxDOT personnel, rated TTI as average on a few questions.

How can we use the results to improve TTI research projects and services? First, the responses reinforce what we all know – completing projects and deliverables on time is critical to meeting sponsor expectations.

Setting realistic schedules and maintaining schedules are key to completing projects on time. Given heavy work loads and competing demands on our time, projects can often slip behind schedule. The survey results indicate we need to make completing tasks and projects on time a higher ongoing priority.

Second, the results restress the importance of ongoing communication with sponsors. Good research is not conducted in a vacuum. Ongoing dialog with sponsors on the status of projects, any problems encountered, and findings is a cornerstone of success research.

Third, members of the TTI management team will be scheduling meetings with key TxDOT staff over the next few months to follow up on the survey. Like the Process Team of a few years ago, these meetings will help identify any special concerns from TxDOT’s perspective and possible areas for improvement.

Please let me know if you have any ideas on how we can continue to enhance the quality, timeliness, and responsiveness of TTI research projects and activities.

Thanks!
Katie

Staff Activities

Joe Kammerman presented a paper at the International Emergency Management Society Annual Conference in Toronto. Joe’s paper was on Travel Demand Forecasting and What it Means to Emergency Management.

Shawn Turner and Doug Skowronek gave presentations at the North American Travel Monitoring and Exhibit 2002 Conference (NATMEC) in Orlando, Florida. Shawn moderated a session on Making the Connection Between ITS and Traffic Monitoring. Shawn gave presentations on Making the Operations to Planning Connection in Texas: Experience and Findings and on Observations from FHWA’s Mobility Monitoring Program. Doug’s presentation was on HOV Lane Data Collection, Procedures, and Forecasting.
Congratulations!

Joe Kammerman has completed his Master of Science in Crisis and Emergency Management from George Washington University.

Summer Fellows

The CE Summer Fellows Program is back this year. The SPP&E is sponsoring three students.

Kit Black is working with Stephen Farnsworth and the Transportation Planning Program. Kit is from Amarillo. His project involves collecting speed/travel time data on congested roadways in the D/FW area using GPS technology and analyzing the data with emission-related software.

Brian Bochner and the System Planning Program is sponsoring Matt Feil. Matt is from Houston and will be working on either a Smart Growth TxDOT research project or the TMC Transportation Master Plan.

Jeff Miles from Dallas is working with Bill Eisele and the Mobility Analysis Program. Jeff is examining before-and-after crash data with raised medians as part of an access management research project.

Calendar

- **June 4-7** – TxDOT Planning Conference, San Antonio
- **June 10-11** – TxDOT Spring RMC 3 & 4 Meetings, San Antonio
- **June 12-13** – TxDOT Spring RMC 1 & 2 Meetings, San Antonio
- **June 17-18** – TxDOT Spring RMC 5 Meeting, Camp Hubbard, Austin
- **June 21** – 12th Annual Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff Development Conference, College Station
- **June 27-29** – TexITE Summer Meeting, League City
- **September 5** – All SPP&E Meeting, Texas Ranger Museum, Waco

Birthdays

**June**
- Beverly Storey 6/5
- Darryl Puckett 6/16
- Zack Graham 6/17
- Mark Ojah 6/20
- Sirisha Kothuri 6/25
- Ed Pultorak 6/30
- Larry White 6/30

**July**
- Juliani Nasution 7/8
- Omeiga Bean 7/2
- Juliani Nasution 7/8
- Shawn Turner 7/15
- Cynthia Lowery 7/20
- Casey Toycen 7/22
- Doug Skowronek 7/24
- Tim Lomax 7/25
- Gary Lobough 7/26
- Korey Curtis 7/26
- Teresa Qu 7/30