The TxDOT RMC FY 11 project selections have been announced. Congratulations to everyone who assisted with the proposals. SPP&Eer’s serving as Research Supervisors on selected projects include Jeff McFalls, Tara Ramani, Reza Farzaneh, Jeff Arndt, and Phillip Reeder.

Congratulations also go to Sharada Vadali for leading TTI’s involvement in the EDR Group team on the recently awarded SHRP2 project, Development of Improved Economic Analysis tools Based on Recommendations from Project CO3.

Additional congratulations to David Schrank, Bill Eisele, Jeff Borowiec, and Jeff Warner for their proposals recently selected for funding by the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) at the University of Wisconsin. David’s and Bill’s project is Development of an Area-Wide Estimate of Truck Freight Value in the Urban Mobility Report. The Jeff team project is Air Cargo in the Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition Region.

These successful projects represent more than just writing good proposals. They also highlight the importance of working with TxDOT to develop good problem statements, building strong working relationships with other groups, and developing partnerships through hosting groups here in College Station.

TTI wrote the problem statements based on meetings with TxDOT personnel for the selected RMC projects. Writing the problem statements does not guarantee being selected. It does ensure that good project statements will be considered and that TTI will be in position to write a strong proposal.

Developing and maintaining strong working relationships with consultants, other universities, and other groups is also important. Good work on one project often leads to follow-up projects. As we all know, “additional research” is always needed.

The CFIRE projects resulted from Jason Bittner’s visit to College Station, which was arranged by David Schrank. The more people get to know TTI, our facilities, and capabilities — the better off we are.

Thanks to everyone involved in these proposals and other efforts. I hope you all have a very enjoyable July 4th weekend.

Thanks!
Katie

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Staff Activities

David Ellis spoke at the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee on June 3.

Katie Turnbull testified at the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee hearing in Amarillo on June 8. Katie's testimony focused on Commute Choices.

The SPP&E was well represented at the NATMEC: Improving Traffic Data Collection, Analysis, and Use Conference in Seattle on June 21-24. Shawn Turner was the star of the conference. Shawn chaired the Conference Planning Committee (yes, that was his photo in the program), presided at the opening and closing sessions, gave a presentation on Using Private Sector Speed Data in Congestion Monitoring and Performance Reporting, and chaired the Archived Data User Service Subcommittee meeting. Shawn also organized the first Tour de NATMEC bicycle ride, which was a big success. Tim Lomax presented a poster on Using Private Sector Traffic Speed Data in TTI's 2010 Urban Mobility Report. Ginger Goodin gave a presentation on Traffic Data and VMT. Dave Schrank gave a presentation on Conceptual Framework and Trucking Applications to Estimate the Impact of Congestion on freight. Rob Benz and Darryl Puckett also gave presentations at the Conference and Dan Middleton moderated a session.

Jeff Arndt was a guest lecturer for a Masters of Public Administration Urban Management class at the University of Houston Central Campus on June 21.

Linda Cherrington gave a presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission on June 23. Linda’s presentation was on the 2010 Census. She was part of a session on the possible impacts of the 2010 Census on transit and transportation in the state.

Katie Turnbull authored an article, Transportation to Enhance America’s Best Idea: Addressing Mobility Needs in National Parks, in the March-April 2010 TR News.

Joe Zietsman presented a paper at the Air & Waste Management Association (AWMA) Annual Conference in Calgary, June 22-25. Joe’s paper was on Comparison of In-Use Real World Emissions of Compressed Natural Gas and Diesel Refuse Trucks.

Ginger Goodin gave a presentation on Setting Managed Lane Toll Rates Using Performance Measurement at the TxDOT Metro District Engineers/Deputy District Engineers meeting in College Station on June 29.

The SPP&E was well represented at the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference in Bastrop June 30-July 2. John Overman, Patti Ellis, and Bill Frawley organized and presented the workshop on Rural Planning Organizations — Their Role in Transportation Planning and Project Development in Texas. Patti also spoke at the Demographics 101 Workshop. David Ellis gave a presentation on the TRENDS model at the TEMPO meeting held at the conference. Linda Cherrington gave a presentation on Emerging and Expanding Urbanized Areas in the 2010 Census. Ed Hard spoke on TxDOT’s Travel Survey Program. Sharada Vadali gave a presentation on Opportunities for Highway Financing. David Pearson spoke on the data that will be available from the National Household Travel Survey.

Congratulations, Reza and Yatin!

Reza Farzaneh Center for Air Quality Studies, and Yatin Rathod, System Operation Management Program recently passed their P.E exams. Both are now licensed professional engineers in Texas. As a result of passing the exam, Reza has been promoted to an Assistant Research Engineer. Yatin’s immigration status preclude a merit/change in title at this time. His accomplishments were recognized financially, however.

Congratulations, Reza and Yatin!
Years of Service

The following SPP&Eers reached a special anniversary with TTI in June:
Dean Hollingsworth — 1 Year

Welcome

Janelle Turner has joined the Center for Air Quality Studies/Transportation Modeling Program as a Business Coordinator III. Janelle graduated with Bachelors in Industrial Distribution from Texas A&M University. Janelle has previous TAMU experience with the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center and for Financial Management Operations. Janelle was also an Accounting Assistant for WEST Engineering in Katy, TX prior to joining TTI. She will be located at the Gilchrist Building in College Station.

New Arrival

Justin Malnar, RDO, and his wife Meredith welcomed a son on June 16. Jackson Emory weighed 8 lbs, 10 ozs, and was 20.75 inches long.
Congratulations Justin and Meredith!

Calendar of Events

JULY 15 — ANNUAL TAMU ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF (TAPSS) CONFERENCE, HILTON HOTEL, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 12-13 — TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 19-21 — FALL TXDOT RMC MEETINGS, SAN ANTONIO

Birthdays

July
Shawn Turner 7/15
Cynthia Lowery 7/20
Casey Dusza 7/22
Tim Lomax 7/25
Gary Lobaugh 7/26
Teresa Qu 7/30

August
Marty Boardman 8/10
Ming Han Li 8/16
Jeff Borowiec 8/28
Justin Malnar 8/28