Message from the Associate Director

The TxDOT RMC FY 2004 proposal preparation process is underway. Thanks to everyone who indicated an interest in the various proposals. The Research Supervisors have been identified and are working with others to develop proposals.

One question that frequently comes up is how Research Supervisors are selected. In many cases, TTI researchers have worked with TxDOT staff to identify issues. TTI staff develop the project statements which are submitted by TTI or by TxDOT staff. If a researcher has done all this work, it is obvious that they are the logical and appropriate Research Supervisor.

In cases where project statements are submitted by TxDOT or other universities, the identification of a Research Supervisor may not be so clear cut. Researchers expressing interest in being a Research Supervisor are considered by senior management. The attempt is made to match researchers with the best expertise and experience to a proposal. In some cases, Co-Research Supervisors may also be identified.

The remaining members of the research team are identified by the Research Supervisor from those expressing interest. Typically there are many more individuals expressing interest on a project than can be accommodated. A Research Supervisor will select researchers that best match the topic, scope, scale, and budget of a project.

So, how do researchers become Research Supervisors? The key is to start interacting with TxDOT staff and building strong working relationships with them. Developing and submitting problem statements that address key issues facing TxDOT is a logical second step.

Winning proposals and establishing a good track record of completing projects on time, within budget, and to the satisfaction of TxDOT is critical. The process of developing project statements then starts all over.

Please let me or your Program Manager know if you have any questions on the TxDOT RMC process or how you can become more active in the TxDOT research program.

Thanks!
Katie

TTI and College of Architecture Sign Memorandum of Agreement

TTI and the Texas A&M University College of Architecture signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 26, 2003. The MOA formalizes the strong working relationship that has developed between TTI and the College, especially the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning.

The MOA encourages research collaborations, provides College faculty with opportunities for joint research appointments, and offers TTI researchers opportunities for adjunct teaching appointments. It also supports ongoing student involvement in transportation research projects.

Representatives from TTI, the College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, and the Texas A&M University System attended the signing luncheon. The MOA was signed by Herbert H. Richardson, TTI; J. Thomas Regan, College of Architecture; David B. Prior, Texas A&M University; and Jerry Gaston, the Texas A&M University System.
Staff Activities

Tim Lomax, Bill Stockton, and Bill Eisele gave presentations on research projects at the TTI Council meeting, which was held in Austin on February 13.

Tim Lomax, Carol Walters, and Katie Turnbull gave presentations on research projects to members of the media on February 18. Representatives from newspapers in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Bryan/College Station, along with personnel from an Austin television station and UP attended the briefing and crash test.

Tim Lomax and Carol Walters discussed research projects during Graham Hill’s visit to TTI on February 20-21. Mr. Hill is Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

Microsoft Word Tip

Quickly Change Line Spacing in Word

The Format/Paragraph option allows you to change paragraph spacing. However, you don’t have to leave the keyboard to do so. To change line spacing within paragraphs, simply place your cursor anywhere in the paragraph you want to modify and press one of the following key combinations:

- Ctrl 1 – Single Spacing
- Ctrl 2 – Double Spacing
- Ctrl 5 – 1½ Spacing
- Ctrl 0 – To add or remove one line space before the selected paragraph

Congratulations

Two members of the SPP&E recently received TTI Service Pins. George Dresser, Transportation Planning Program, received his 35-Year Pin and Denise Pineda, Research Development Office, received her 20-Year Pin.

Congratulations George and Denise!

Departures

Dong Ju Lee, Economics and Policy Program, has left to take a teaching position at a university in his native country of Korea. Dong Ju joined TTI in 2002 and was working on the Houston Value Pricing project, as well as other studies. We wish Dong Ju the best of luck!

New Arrival

Toni Carelock, Research Development Office, and her husband, Alvin, welcomed a daughter, Mia Carrington Carelock, on February 10th. Mia weighed 6 lbs, 13 ozs and was 20” long.

Congratulations Toni and Alvin!

Calendar

March 13-14 – Spring Break
May 27-30 – TxDOT Planning Conference, Irving, Texas
June 12-14 – TexITE Summer Meeting, Richardson

Birthdays

March
Joanna Rakes 3/1
George Dresser 3/9
Steve Farnsworth 3/10
David Schrank 3/13
Mary Levien 3/13
Lauren Geng 3/23
Karen Eddleman 3/27

April
John Wikander 4/2
Ethel Bunton 4/6
Aruna Nathu 4/8
Sung Ho Chang 4/16
Mary Cearley 4/16
March 2003
David Ellis 4/20
Robin Rabinowitz 4/22
Bonnie Duke 4/24
Charles Bell 4/25
Jett McFalls 4/30