MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Two recent meetings at TTI provided additional ideas on transportation issues and research needs. The West Texas TxDOT District Engineers met at TTI on February 1st and 2nd and TTI hosted a dialog with journalists and key transportation officials on February 18th.

The West Texas TxDOT DE meeting included an informal discussion of issues in each of the nine districts. A number of common issues emerged during the discussion. Most of the DEs noted that maintenance of the existing system – rather than new construction – was the major focus in their districts.

Common issues included signing retroreflectivity and durability, pavement markings, and pavement durability. Roadside vegetation issues were highlighted by a number of the DEs, along with the need to develop approaches to meet the unique environments found in West Texas.

Participants in the February 18 dialog included Mike Behrens and Gary Trietsch, TxDOT; Roger Hord, West Houston Association; Alan Clark, HGAC; James McCarley, Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition; and Gary Slagel, Mayor of the City of Richardson. These individuals provided a wide range of ideas on transportation policy and financial issues from big picture questions to specific topical items.

Examples of issues and research needs identified by these individuals included long-term financing options for all transportation modes, approaches and trade-offs in public/private partnerships, the interaction of land use and transportation planning and development, and the influence of air quality requirements on transportation.

Another suggestion was to consider where transportation will be in 2005 based on three or four different scenarios.

Other more specific issues identified included uninsured motorists, public perceptions related to tolling, pricing strategies for goods movement, local option funding sources, and charging more for transit.

Please consider these issues and ideas as you start thinking about project statements for the FY 06 research program.

Thanks,

Katie

All SPP&E Meeting

June 1, 2005

Please save Wednesday, June 1, 2005 on your calendars for the All SPP&E Meeting. The location is the Waco Arboretum. The Planning Committee, under the guidance of Laura Higgins, is organizing a fun, exciting, and informative day. Stay tuned for more details.
Staff Activities

An article by Ginger Goodin, Managed Lanes: The Future of Freeway Travel, was published in the February ITE Journal.

Bill Stockton spoke at the TexITE Winter Meeting in Waco, February 3-5. His presentation was on the Toll Viability Model. Brian Bochner organized and moderated a session on ethics for traffic engineers.

Tim Lomax, Ginger Goodin, and Tina Collier participated in the TTI Media Training Workshop on February 18.

A big congratulation goes to Jett McFalls in his role as President of the South Central Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA). The Chapter hosted the IECA Annual Conference in Dallas on February 20-23. The conference recorded the highest attendance in the 38-year history of the event, breaking the previous record set by Las Vegas. Jeff moderated a session and presented a paper Soil Bioengineering Integrated with a Traditional Structural Stabilization Measure: A Demonstration Project in Hot Climate Areas (Ming-Han Li, co-author). Beverly Storey and Harlow Landphair moderated training sessions. The South Central Chapter won the 2004 IECA Partners for Excellence Award of Achievement for the work on the conference. In addition to Jett serving as Chapter President, Beverly Storey was elected to the Board of Directors.

Birthdays

March
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
Aruna Nathu 4/8
Tim Forrest 4/13
Sung Ho Chang 4/16
David Ellis 4/20
Robin Rabinowitz 4/22
Bonnie Duke 4/24
Charles Bell 4/25
Jett McFalls 4/30