2011 sure went by quickly! Even with the economic uncertainty and changes at TAMUS and TxDOT, it was a good year for TTI and the P&E. Thanks to everyone for the great job you did in 2011!

There have been a number of changes during the year. The reorganization to divisions in the P&E went smoothly. Ginger Goodin, Shawn Turner, and Joe Zietsman have done outstanding jobs as new Division Heads, as have Program Managers Phillip Reeder, Ed Hard, Linda Cherrington, Dennis Perkinson, Beverly Storey, and Juan Villa.

The transition to the new Office of Sponsored Research Services (OSRS) occurred in August and September. Susan Adams and RDO continue to provide excellent service. Staff from RDO, the Business Office, and OSRS are committed to making the new system transparent to researchers.

2011 also included changes in TxDOT leadership, a new Chancellor of the TAMUS, and a new Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering. We will continue to see changes at TxDOT as the vacant leadership positions in the new organization structure are filled.

The research in the P&E continues to focus on high impact and high visibility projects. As noted in this newsletter, the Urban Mobility Report and the new Congested Corridors Report continue to gain national coverage. The recently completed NCHRP Guidebook for Sustainability Performance Measurement for Transportation Agencies is being well received. The Environmental and Emissions Research Facility is gaining attention and new sponsors.

Thank you all for making 2011 a great year. I look forward to working with all of you to make 2012 an even better year! I hope you enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Happy Holidays!

Thanks!

Katie
Promotions

Congratulations to the following P&Eer’s who were promoted effective December 1, 2011.

Tim Lomax — Senior Research Engineer
Heather Ford — Administrative Coordinator
Doh-Won Lee — Associate Research Scientist
Jennifer Barry — Senior Office Associate
Fannie Davila — Office Associate
Kristen Maldonado — Research Services Coordinator
Staff Activities

Numerous P&Eer’s assisted with the 85th Annual Transportation Short Course held at the Brazos County Expo Center in Bryan, Texas, October 11-12. John Overman, Montie Wade, Joe Zietsman, and Katie Turnbull acted as program and session co-coordinators. Tim Lomax gave a presentation on establishing mobility investment priorities under the TxDOT Rider 42 of the General Appropriations Act. Linda Cherrington moderated the second half of the multimodal session and assisted with the session logistics.

Katie Turnbull presented a paper, Minnesota Urban Partnership Agreement National Evaluation, at the 18th ITS World Congress in Orlando, Florida on October 16-20. She also accepted the ITS Hall of Fame Award for former TTI Assistant Director, Bill Harris. Joe Zietsman gave a presentation on sustainable transportation and greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2011 Urban Mobility Report and the new 2011 Congested Corridors Report garnered local, state, and national news coverage. Tim Lomax conducted an interview with NBC’s Today Show on the Urban Mobility Report and Bill Eisele conducted an interview with The Weather Channel on the Congested Corridors Report. Both reports were covered extensively in newspapers throughout the country, including a front page article in USA Today. Tim, Bill, and Dave Schrank were all involved in talking with the media.

Joe Zietsman gave a presentation on the recently completed NCHRP Guidebook for Sustainability Performance Measurement for Transportation Agencies at the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research (SCOR) in Phoenix on December 13.

The Mobility Analysis Program and the Air Quality Program hosted 40 representatives from transit agencies throughout the state on December 16th. Maintenance staff from DART, the “T”, Capital Metro, Houston Metro, CARTS, Brazos Transit, TAMU, Corpus Christi, and VIA participated in the meeting. Staff from TxDOT, SWTA, and APTA also participated. The meeting began at the Environmental and Emissions Research Facility. Joe Zietsman, Jeremy Johnson, and Doh-Won Lee provided an overview of the facility and recent research projects. They demonstrated air conditioning and emissions testing using a TAMU bus. The group also got to see a crash test before heading to the Gilchrist Building for lunch, an overview of TTI by Katie Turnbull, and a summary by John Overman and Matt Sandidge of a recent project for Houston Metro and Capital Metro on CNC life-cycle costs. Linda Cherrington facilitated a discussion of maintenance research needs. It was a very productive day! Special thank goes to Bonnie Duke, Janelle Turner, Andy Garner, Duane Wagner, Shanna Yates, Cody Stewart, Rene Talamantes, and Dillon Goad for their help!

Photos by John Overman
Years of Service

October
Phillip Reeder — 10 Years

November
Heather Ford — 15 Years

Congratulations!

Jett McFalls has been appointed to the ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials, Committee D18 on Soil and Rock.

Beverly Storey has been elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Brazos Valley Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (BVITE). She will take office in 2012.

Kevin Hall, Reza Farzaneh and Steve Farnsworth completed the 2011 DELTA-T class. The class presented their project to the TTI Leadership Team on December 12. Kevin presented the project, along with Duane Wagner

Ipek Sener has been appointed as a young member to the TRB Committee on Effects of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) on Travel Choices.

Katie Turnbull has been designated a National Associate of the National Research Council (NRC). This new honorary title recognizes extraordinary service to the NRC.

Congratulations Jett, Beverly, Kevin, Reza, Steve, Ipek, and Katie!