Message from the Associate Director

September is the start of the new fiscal year. Thanks to everyone who got their TxDOT reports in to ITEC by the end of August. The fall will continue to be busy with new TxDOT projects starting, the Transportation Short Course, the fall RMC meetings, and other activities.

The Transportation Short Course will be held on the TAMU Campus October 14-15. A few changes have been made in the program this year.

The Opening Session Tuesday morning will feature the annual slide presentation, awards, and remarks by the Commissioners. The opening session will continue in the afternoon. The presentations for this session are still being finalized but are anticipated to focus on recent legislation and other current topics.

The breakout sessions will be both Wednesday morning (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon) and afternoon (1:30-5:00 p.m.). A session on toll roads has been added as a new topic area.

The Short Course provides a great opportunity to hear the latest on transportation projects and research activities in the state. It is also a great time to interact with TxDOT staff and other transportation professionals.

A few reminders on upcoming deadlines and events. Nominations for the TTI Awards program are due October 3. Planning for All TTI Day – December 11 – is underway. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.

The TxDOT fall RMC meeting schedule is out and is listed on the back side of the newsletter. The Austin location should make it easier to attend the meetings.

Planning for the Spring 2004 All SPP&E Day is starting. Laura Higgins is chairing the Planning Committee. Please let me or your Program Manager know if you would like to participate on the committee or have suggestions for the day.

Thanks!
Katie

Promotions

The following SPP&Eer’s were promoted September 1, 2003.

Jim Benson, Travel Forecasting Program, has been promoted to a Senior Research Engineer.

Rodney Jackson, Environmental Management Program, has been promoted to a Technical Assistant II.

Alex Ferrazas, Environmental Management Program, has been promoted to a Grounds Keeper III.

Dennis Perkinson has been promoted to a Program Manager of the Transportation Modeling Program.

David Pearson has been promoted to Program Manager of the Transportation Planning Program.

Montie Wade has been promoted to Program Manager of the Urban Analysis Program.

Scott Cooner, System Operation Management Program, has been promoted to an Associate Research Scientist.

Diana Wallace, System Operation Management Program, has been promoted to a Programmer/Analyst II.

Tammy Pietrucha, System Operation Management Program, has been promoted to an Office Associate.

Congratulations Jim, Rodney, Alex, Dennis, David, Montie, Scott, Diana, and Tammy!
September 2003

Staff Activities

Eun Sug Park, Mobility Analysis Program, presented a paper, Adjusting Pavement Performance Prediction Using A Bayesian Approach, at the Joint Statistical Meeting held in San Francisco on August 3-7. The meeting was sponsored by the American Statistical Association, the International Biometrics Society, and the Statistical Society of Canada.

Bill Frawley and Bill Eisele gave a presentation on Overview of Access Management Training within TxDOT, at the TxDOT Design Conference, August 11-14 in Corpus Christi. Mike Teal, Jim Schutt, and Kimberley May participated in two poster sessions. Their posters were on Context Sensitive Design Approach to Roadway Alignment on an Environmentally Sensitive Site and Design Approaches to City Entrances in Highway Right-Of-Way: A Case Study and Project Development in Corpus Christi, Texas at the Conference.

A number of SPP&E researchers participated in the ITE Annual Meeting in Seattle, August 24-27. Tim Lomax gave a presentation on Improving Texas Transportation Institute’s Mobility Indices. Joe Zietsman presented a paper on Application of Sustainable Transportation Performance Measures. Katie Turnbull presented a paper on The Evolution of the Houston HOV System. Robin Rabinowitz presented a paper on Local and Regional Transportation Efforts and Programs to Support Smart Growth. Brian Bochner presented a paper on Pursuing Compact and Efficient Land Use Patterns. Carol Walters gave a presentation on A Survey of Off-Street Loading Ordinances and Their Effectiveness.

Denise Pineda has been elected Vice President of the local American Business Women’s Association Leadership, Initiative, Networking, and Creativity Chapter.

Retirement

Doug Arntz, Environmental Management Program, retired from TTI at the end of August after 6 years of service. Doug assisted with conducting tests of various erosion control products at the Hydraulics and Erosion Control Field Lab. His hard work and commitment added to the success of the lab.

Congratulations Doug!

TxDOT RMC Fall Meeting Schedule

The dates and times for the fall TxDOT RMC meetings have been set. The meetings are at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin.

RMC 1 – Wednesday, November 5, 2003, 10:00 a.m. – Thursday, November 6, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

RMC 2, 3, & 4 – Monday, November 3, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – Tuesday, November 4, 2003, 8:00 a.m. RMC 4 will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

RMC 5 – Wednesday, November 5, 2003 1:00 a.m. – Thursday, November 6, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

Calendar

October 13-15 – 2003 Transportation Short Course, College Station, TX
November 3-6 – Fall RMC Meetings, Austin, TX
November 27-28 – Thanksgiving Holiday
December 11 – All TTI Day, Brazos Center, College Station, TX

Birthdays

September
Ginger Goodin 9/7
Nester Mendoza 9/8
Nancy Stratta 9/8
Fernando Rodriguez 9/9
Melissa Quatmann 9/9
Mary Hewitt 9/10
Joe Zietsman 9/16
Scott Cooner 9/20
Sterling Robertson 9/20
Jim Benson 9/24
Todd Carlson 9/26
Laura Higgins 9/28

October
Phillip Reeder 10/3
Elizabeth Delafield 10/7
Toni Carelock 10/8
Ed Hard 10/11
Christy Harris 10/14
Katie Turnbull 10/15
Patti Ellis 10/15
Jessica Lavy 10/19
David Pearson 10/21
Mike Teal 10/25
Bill Eisele 10/26
Tina Jackson 10/29
Clay Lipscomb 10/29