Message from the Associate Director

Numerous internal activities continue to move forward at TTI. The TTI Strategic Plan and the Risk Management Plan have been finalized and are being submitted to the System. Efforts on internal communication, professional development, research diversification, employee recognition, and safety continue.

Holly Crenshaw is chair of a new TTI Safety/Environmental Procedures Task Force. The Task Force is charged with ensuring that all TTI employees are aware of and adhering to existing safety policies and procedures. The Task Force will also examine the need for additional procedures and policies and recommend new or modified procedures.

SPP&E representatives on the Task force are Diana Wallace (field data collection), Joe Zietsman (Portable Emissions Monitoring System), and Derrold Foster (Erosion and Sediment Control Laboratory). These individuals will be providing information to all SPP&E staff on activities of the Task Force.

The first series of five Research Development Seminars has been completed. The results from the on-line survey and comments received from researchers indicate that the seminars have been well received by TTI staff. Overall 89 percent of the respondents rated the seminars very good to excellent. Ratings for the individual seminars ranged from 83 percent very good to excellent to 96 percent very good to excellent.

Additional Research Development Seminars on international research opportunities and proposal development will be offered in the fall. The seminars will continue to be offered on a regular basis.

Please let me know if you have any topics you would like to see covered in the Research Development Seminars or if you have questions on other activities.

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities

**Ginger Goodin** spoke at the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) Violations Enforcement Summit in Boston, July 29-31. Ginger’s presentation was on *Verifying Vehicle-Occupancy for HOT Lanes*.

**Scott Cooner** gave a presentation on Cable Median Barrier: In-Service Evaluation Update at the TxDOT Design and Bridge Conference in Corpus Christi August 13-15.

**Jeff Borowiec** participated in the North Central Texas Council of Governments Aviation Summit on August 21. Jeff spoke on aviation labor needs and issues on a panel addressing aviation constraints.

**Katie Turnbull** and **Shawn Turner** participated in ITE Web Seminars in August. Katie’s presentation on BRT, HOV Lanes and Managed Lanes was part of the Managing Congestion with Bus Rapid Transit Web Briefing on August 1. Shawn’s presentation on Reliability as a Performance Measure was part of an August 22nd Web Briefing on Strategies to Address Congestion.

**Bill Eisele** has been appointed to the City of College Station Red Light Camera Citizen Board.

Welcome

**Andrea Herbst** is a new Assistant Transportation Specialist in the Transportation Modeling Program. Andrea has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University. She also completed course work for a Masters of Science in Agricultural Economics from Oklahoma State University. She has experience as a Graduate Assistant at OSU and was an undergraduate student worker at TAMU.

**Sangita Sunkari**, Programmer/Analyst II, has joined the Mobility Analysis Program from the TransLink Research Center. Sangita has been sharing her time between the two areas, but given the work load in the Mobility Analysis Program, she has moved to the SPP&E. She will continue to assist on TransLink projects.

Welcome Andrea and Sangita!
Congratulations!

Brian Bochner and Scott Cooner received awards at the 2007 ITE Annual Meeting, held in Pittsburgh August 5-8. Brian was elected to the ITE Honorary Membership. Scott received the Traffic Engineering Council Outstanding Paper Award. Scott’s paper was entitled *Operational and Safety Guidelines Around Schools in Texas.*

Congratulations Brian and Scott!

TxDOT Fall RMC Meetings

The preliminary schedule for the fall TxDOT RMC meetings at the La Quinta Inn and Suites Conference Center/Medical Center in San Antonio is available. More information on projects selected for presentation will be available soon.

RMC 1 and 5 — Wednesday, November 7, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 8, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
RMC 2, 3, and 4 — Tuesday, November 6, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (RMC 4 starts at 10:00 a.m.) and Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Promotions

The following SPP&Eer’s were promoted September 1, 2007.

Susan Adams — Director, Research Development Office
Scott Cooner — Research Engineer
Jett McFalls — Assistant Research Scientist
Justin Malnar — Research Services Administrator
Robert McLain — Assistant Transportation Researcher
Lisa Nimocks — Business Coordinator II
Yatin Rathod — Associate Transportation Researcher
Sharada Vadali — Associate Research Scientist
Montic Wade — Senior Research Engineer
Joe Zietsman — Director, Center for Air Quality Studies

Congratulations Susan, Scott, Jett, Justin, Robert, Lisa, Yatin, Sharada, Montic, and Joe!
BIRTHDAYS

September
Ginger Goodin 9/7
Joe Zietsman 9/16
Scott Cooner 9/20
Jimmie Benson 9/24
Todd Carlson 9/26
Laura Higgins 9/28

October
Phillip Reeder 10/3
James Ingalls 10/4
Toni Carelock 10/8
Ed Hard 10/11
Jess Junek 10/11
Christy Harris 10/14
Katie Turnbull 10/15
Patti Ellis 10/15
David Pearson 10/21
Mike Teal 10/25
Bill Eisele 10/26
Tina Collier 10/29

Years of Service

The following SPP&Eer’s passed anniversaries at TTI in July and September.

July
Mohamadreza Farzaneh — 1 year

September
Trey Baker — 1 year
Kevin Hall — 15 years

FY 08 Holiday Schedule

The Board of Regents approved the following holiday schedule for FY 08.

Thanksgiving Nov. 22-23
Christmas-New Year’s Day Dec. 24-Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 21
Spring Break March 13-14
Memorial Day May 26
Independence Day July 4

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 9 — TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF (TAPSS) ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 16-17 — TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, REED ARENA, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 17-20 — TEXAS APA CONFERENCE, ADDISON
NOVEMBER 5-8 — TXDOT RMC FALL MEETINGS, SAN ANTONIO
NOVEMBER 22-23 — THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

System Planning, Policy & Environment Research Group