If it is October, it must be time for the Transportation Short Course! The 84th Transportation Short Course will be held on the Texas A&M University Campus on October 12 and 13.

The opening session on Tuesday morning features the TxDOT slide presentation, a welcome from TAMU President R. Bowen Loftin, and comments by TTI Director Dennis Christiansen and TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz. It also includes remarks by Transportation Commissioner Chair Deirdre Delisi and the other Commissioners, the Short Course Awards, and the Extra Mile Awards.

The breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning focus on the different topic areas. Speakers include TxDOT personnel, TTI researchers, and individuals from other agencies, organizations, and consulting firms.

I hope you will be able to attend all or part of the Short Course. It provides a great opportunity to hear current information on projects, research, and activities at TxDOT. It also provides time to interact with TxDOT personnel and others.

It looks like the weather will be nice, which is always good, but it even more important this year. With the ongoing renovation of the MSC, the breakout sessions will be in Rudder, the Zone, Koldus, and the Hilton.

A special thanks goes to Linda Cherrington, Jeremy Johnson, and Diana Wallace for their extra efforts in using new HUB vendors. In addition, Carol Court and Heather Ford utilized State Works Wonders Program (Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped) organizations.

Just a reminder that TTI has a goal of 25% HUB purchases. Each program in the SPP&E also has this goal. Please be sure you coordinate any purchases with your Program Manager to ensure that goal is met.

A special congratulations also goes to Scott Cooner for his efforts at research diversification. Scott’s proposal to the FHWA Office of Operations on the project, Bottleneck Initiative — Unique Challenges Overcome, was selected.

As you will read in the rest of this newsletter, the fall continues to be a busy time for everyone. Thank you for all your extra effort and hard work!

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities

**Ed Hard** was an invited speaker at the Tennessee NGA Transportation—Land Use Initiative in Knoxville on September 15. Ed gave a presentation on *Texas Practice in Corridor Management* and described the outreach workshops held to facilitate TxDOT and local community partnerships.

**Bonnie Duke** and **Michelle Young** organized the SECC Bake Sale at the CE/TTI Building on September 16th. Thanks to the goodies baked by many SPP&Eer's and the appetite for sweets on the part of others, the sale raised $190 for the SECC.

**Joe Zietsman** participated in a workshop on Greenhouse Gas and Pollutant Impacts of Transportation Interventions in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the World Bank and the Clean Air Institute on September 14 and 15. Joe gave a presentation on *Mitigating Transportation Greenhouse Gases*.

**Jeremy Johnson** gave a presentation and attended the Sentech User Network (SUN) Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan on September 21-22. His presentation was *Development of a Testing Protocol for Idle Reduction Technologies*.

The SPP&E was well represented at the TRB 12th National Tools of the Trade Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, September 22-24. The Conference was sponsored by the TRB Transportation Planning in Small and Medium-Sized Communities. **Stacey Bricka** gave a presentation, *Data Alternatives in Support of Regional Travel Demand Modeling* and moderated a session on Travel Demand Modeling Methods and Tools. **Bill Frawley** gave a presentation, *MPO Planning Resources — An Internet-Based Tool*. **Katie Turnbull** gave a presentation, *Innovative Transportation Partnerships Between National Parks and Gateway Communities*. **Bill Eisele** gave a presentation, *Estimating Arterial Performance in Small and Medium-Sized Communities*. **Montie Wade** moderated a session on Data Analysis, Transferability, and Visualization in Travel Demand Models.

**David Ellis** gave a presentation on the TRENDS model at the TTI Advisory Council on September 16. The Council met in College Station.

**Juan Villa** served as the report facilitator on an International Technology Scanning Program, Understanding the Policy and Program Structure of National and International Freight Corridor Program. The scan was sponsored by FHWA, AASHTO, and NCHRP. The group met with agency and industry representatives in Brussels, The Hague, Rotterdam, Vienna, Budapest, Warsaw, and Berlin. They also toured freight facilities and freight corridors in the areas.
EERF Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Environmental & Emissions Research Facility (EERF) was held on September 17. Speakers at the opening included Chancellor Michael D. McKinney, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman Bryan Shaw, TxDOT RTI Director Rick Collins, TTI Director Dennis Christiansen, and Joe Zietsman, Director of the Center for Air Quality Studies. The Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Administrator, Al Armendariz, spoke at the luncheon. Congratulations to all on a great Grand Opening!

Welcome!

Xiaoyong (Felix) Deng, Senior Engineer and Director of the ITS Department at the Beijing Transportation Research Institute (BTRC), is a visiting scholar at TTI. Felix is working with both the Center for Air Quality Studies and the Mobility Analysis Program. He will be at TTI through December.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 12-13 — TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION
OCTOBER 19-21 — FALL TxDOT RMC MEETINGS, SAN ANTONIO
OCTOBER 27 — RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR, RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS AND THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)
NOVEMBER 25-26 — THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 23-31 — HOLIDAY BREAK

Birthdays

**October**
Phillip Reeder 10/3
Ed Hard 10/11
Christy Harris 10/14
Katie Turnbull 10/15
Patti Ellis 10/15
Janelle Turner 10/17
David Pearson 10/21
Bill Eisele 10/26
Tina Geiselbrecht 10/29

**November**
Eun Sug Park 11/7
John Lowery 11/7
Dennis Perkinson 11/13
Jennifer Barry 11/22