The Texas A&M Board of Regents appointed Dr. Margaret Katherine Banks Vice Chancellor for Engineering for the Texas A&M University System and Dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University, as well as the finalist for the Director of TEES, on September 30th. The Texas Transportation Commission selected Phil Wilson as the 19th TxDOT Executive Director on September 29th.

With John Sharp appointed Chancellor earlier in September, the top leadership positions at TAMUS and TxDOT have been filled. I thought it would be worth providing a short summary of each of these individuals as they are important to TTI’s future.

John Sharp joins the TAMUS from Ryan & Company, where he served as a principal with the largest state and local tax consulting firm in Texas. Sharp has served in the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. He was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission and elected State Comptroller. Sharp is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Southwest Texas State University.

Chancellor Sharp will be giving the Campus Welcome at the Opening Session of the Short Course next Tuesday. He will also be visiting TTI in November as part of getting acquainted with all parts of the System.

Dr. Kathy Banks will join TAMUS/TAMU in January 2012. She comes to Aggieland from Purdue University, where she has served as the Head of the School of Civil Engineering since 2006. She is also the Jack and Kay Hockema Professor at Purdue.

Banks has been successful at fundraising for the School of Engineering and has headed major research programs, including serving as Director of the EPA-funded Hazardous Substance Research Center. Banks began her career as an Assistant Professor at Kansas State University. She received her BSE from the University of Florida, her MSE from the University of North Carolina, and her Ph.D. from Duke University.

Phil Wilson comes to TxDOT from Luminant, an electric generation corporation headquartered in Dallas, where he served as Vice President of Public Affairs. He has served as Texas Secretary of State, Senior Staff to Governor Perry, and as an aid to U.S. Senator Phil Gramm. Wilson holds a B.S. from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University.

Mr. Wilson is not expected to attend Short Course next week. TTI researchers should have opportunities to meet him in the future at different events.

Now you know a little more about three people who will be key to TTI’s future. I am sure you will have the opportunity to learn more about them over the coming months.

Thanks!

Katie
**Staff Activities**

P&Eeer’s were responsible for organizing a successful Conference on Performance Measures for Transportation and Livable Communities in Austin on September 7th and 8th. **Tara Ramani** was the Conference Coordinator and **Katie Turnbull** was Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. **Linda Cherrington, Suzie Edrington, Shawn Turner,** and Gina Bass from the Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) at the University of Minnesota were on the Planning Committee.

The conference was sponsored by TTI’s University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM), and co-sponsored by TTI’s Transportation Economic Center (TEC), CTS, and TRB.

The conference was attended by 120 individuals from 22 states and the District of Columbia. Participants represented state departments of transportation, federal agencies, MPOs, transit agencies, universities, cities, counties, consulting firms, and other organizations.

The conference featured two general sessions with speakers from the Volpe Transportation Center, FHWA, FTA, EPA, and HUD. State Senator Kirk Watson was the keynote luncheon speaker. Breakout sessions on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning featured speakers from throughout the country. A panel provided comments at the closing luncheon on key topics covered during the conference and areas for further research.

The following P&Eeer’s gave presentations and moderated sessions at the conference:

**Ginger Goodin** moderated the session on Sustainability, Livability, Planning, and Policy Performance Measures.

**Tim Lomax** moderated the session on Urban and Rural Livable Communities.

**Linda Cherrington** moderated the session on FTA Livability Performance Projects.

**Joan Hudson** moderated a session on Bicycle and Pedestrian Performance Measures.

**Katie Turnbull** provided the opening welcome, the closing comments, and gave a presentation on Freight, Economics, and Global Competitiveness Performance Measures.

**Tara Ramani** gave a presentation on Sustainability Performance Measures for El Paso Transit Corridors.

**Beverly Storey** gave a presentation on Performance Measurement of Contact Sensitive Solutions in Urban Thoroughfare Design.

**Joe Zietsman** gave a presentation on the NCHRP Project on Sustainability Performance Measures and provided comments at the closing luncheon.

**Suzie Edrington** gave a presentation on Rural Transit Performance Measures.

**Shawn Turner** gave a presentation on National and International Bicycle and Pedestrian Data and Performance Measures.

**Matt Sandidge, Jonathan Brooks, and Kristin Novak** provided assistance in the breakout sessions.

Special thanks goes to **Karen Smith, Bonnie Duke, Janelle Turner, Kerry Fillip, and Martha Raney-Taylor** for their help with the program, conference registration, on-site assistance, and the web pages.

Photos by Joan Hudson and Katie Turnbull
Years of Service

Nick Wood — 1 Year
John Overman — 15 Years

Congratulations!

Tara Ramani has been promoted to an Assistant Research Scientist. Tara has taken on additional responsibilities in the Air Quality Analysis Program associated with overall project management and staff supervision.

Congratulations Tara!

The work of John Overman and Matt Sandidge has been recognized by the Capital Metro Board and staff members. John and Matt recently gave a presentation to the Capital Metro Operation Committee on a research project examining the cost-benefits of implementing CNG-fueled bus fleets. The presentation earned several compliments from staff and Board members, and a congratulations on a job well done from President/CEO Linda Watson.

Congratulations John and Matt!

Calendar of Events

TRANSPORTATION SHORT COURSE, BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO CENTER, BRYAN — OCTOBER 11-12
THANKSGIVING — NOVEMBER 24-25,
CHRISTMAS-NEW YEARS — DECEMBER 23-30
TRB ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 22-26, 2012, WASHINGTON, D.C.