Message from the Associate Director

A special thanks to everyone involved in the TxDOT RMC proposal development and submission process. The extra time and effort put in by RDO staff, researchers, and support staff is both recognized and appreciated.

RDO processed the submission of 70 proposals. Susan Adams, Denise Pineda, Nancy Stratta, Mary Leiven, Joanna Rakes, Erlinda Olivarez, Omegia Bean, Holly Sumrow, and Dan Harrington did a great job under tight deadlines. Bonnie Duke and Pam Rowe also helped with the proposal checking process.

SPP&E researchers acting as RSs and Co-RSs on proposals include Brian Bochner, Jeff Borowiec, Joe Zietsman, Jason Crawford, David Ellis, Alberto Garcia-Diaz, Robin Rabinowitz, Bill Frawley, Bill Stockton, Shawn Turner, Ginger Goodin, Harlow Landphair, Beverly Storey, Francisco Olivera, Steve Venglar, and Scott Cooner. Many other researchers and support staff helped on the proposals.

With this set of proposals in, it is time to start thinking about possible project statements for FY 05. Typically, project statements are due from universities in August.

Many project statements emerge from ongoing discussions with TxDOT personnel. The RMC meetings in June are a good time to talk with TxDOT staff about their issues and concerns.

Thanks again to everyone involved in the TxDOT RMC proposal process.

Thanks!
Katie

TxDOT Spring RMC Meetings

The 2003 TxDOT Research Management Committee Meetings have been scheduled for June 9-12 at the San Antonio Marriott Northwest. The tentative meeting schedule is as follows:

RMC 1 – Wednesday, June 11, 2003 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 12, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

RMC 2, 3, and 5 – Monday, June 9, 2003, 1:00 p.m. – Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

RMC 4 – Wednesday, June 11, 2003, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 12, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

The agendas for the meetings, including the research projects selected for presentation, should be available soon.
DRAFT TTI Rule on Cell Phone Usage

TTI has developed the following draft agency rule regarding the use of cell phones in TTI or state vehicles.

The draft rule states: “Research has shown that talking on a cell phone while driving can be very dangerous. As one of the nation’s leading transportation research centers, TTI seeks to set an example for safe driving. Therefore, any employee driving a TTI or other state-owned vehicle should not talk on a cell phone (even using a hands-free device) while driving. If you receive a call while driving let your voicemail answer it. If you need to make a call, find a safe place to pull over and stop (a shoulder is not a safe place to stop).”

TTI employees are encouraged to follow this rule while driving their personal vehicles as well.

Please let your Program Manager or Associate Director know if you have any comments or suggestions on this draft rule.

Calendar

May 27-30 – TxDOT Planning Conference, Irving, Texas
June 9-10 – TxDOT RMC 2, 3, and 5 Meetings, San Antonio, TX
June 11-12 – TxDOT RMC 1 and 4 Meetings, San Antonio, TX
June 12-14 – TexITE Summer Meeting, Richardson

Birthdays

April
John Wikander 4/2
Ethel Bunton 4/6
Aruna Nathu 4/8
Tim Forrest 4/13
Sung Ho Chang 4/16
Mary Cearley 4/16
David Ellis 4/20
Robin Rabinowitz 4/22
Bonnie Duke 4/24
Charles Bell 4/25
Jett McFalls 4/30

May
Kevin Hall 5/5
Mark Middleton 5/6
Cliff Spiegelman 5/15

Staff Activities

Joan Hudson has been accepted to the Civil Engineering Master’s degree program at UT. She will start class work in the fall.

Congratulations Joan!

Brian Bochner and Laura Higgins presented papers at the ITE Spring meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Brian’s paper was on ITE Smart Growth Transportation Guidelines. Laura presented a paper on The Roles of State DOTs in Smart Growth.
P2 April 2003
Steve Venglar 5/16
Tricia CoCo 5/20
Montie Wade 5/20
Ken Giusti 5/29
Diana Wallace 5/30