Message from the Associate Director

August saw the official retirement of a number of top TxDOT personnel. Wes Held, Executive Director, Al Luedecke, TP&P Division Director, Billy Parks, Corpus Christi District Engineer, Gene Adams, Executive Assistant, and Robert Wilson, Design Division Director, all retired at the end of August.

Mike Behrens has been named the new TxDOT Executive Director. Mike served as the Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations under Wes and was District Engineer in Yoakum before moving to Austin. Mike has named Nancy Handrick as his Executive Secretary.

A new TP&P Director is expected to be appointed in early September, with the new Design Division Head to follow. David Casteel, the Childress District Engineer, was named to replace Billy Parks in Corpus Christi earlier in the summer. Craig Clark is the new Childress District Engineer.

Wes, Al, Billy, Gene, and Robert have been strong supporters of the research program. They will be missed by TTI researchers who had the opportunity to work with them over the years.

Mike and David have been actively involved in the research program for many years. We are looking forward to working with them in their new capacities, as well as the new TP&P Director.

Thanks!

Katie

Promotions

Ming-Han Li, Environmental Management Program, has been promoted to an Associate Transportation Researcher. Ming-Han recently passed the Texas Landscape Architect exam and he is now a Registered Landscape Architect in the state. He has taken on additional responsibilities on TxDOT RMC projects.

Jim Schutt, Environmental Management Program, has been promoted to an Assistant Research Scientist. Jim recently completed his Masters degree in Range Science from Texas A&M University. Jim continues to serve as Principal Investigator on a number of TxDOT projects.

Todd Carlson, Urban Analysis Program, has been promoted to an Associate Transportation Researcher. Todd has completed his Ph.D. course work at the University of Texas at Arlington and has taken on additional project responsibilities.

Bonnie Duke, SPP&E, and Christy Harris, System Operation Management Program, have been promoted to Administrative Coordinators and Ethel Bunton, Transportation Planning Program, and Cynthia Lowery, Environmental Management Program, have been promoted to Lead Office Assistants. All four have taken on additional responsibilities in the past year.

Congratulations Ming-Han, Jim, Todd, Bonnie, Christy, Ethel, and Cynthia!

TTI Administration has promoted Bill Stockton to an Associate Agency Director. Bill has taken on more responsibilities with ITEC and other agency activities. He continues to lead major research projects, including the Model Border Crossing effort.

Congratulations Bill!
Staff Activities

A number of SPP&E researchers gave presentations at the ITE Annual Meeting in Chicago this month. Researchers also participated in meetings of the Coordinating Council, Councils and Task Forces. The following SPP&E staff gave presentations at the meeting:

Grant Schultz – Utah’s First Modern Roundabout Interchange, St. George, Utah

Sias Zietsman – Measurements to Improve the Performance of the Existing Road Network

David Schrank – The Keys to Estimating Mobility in Urban Areas

Brian Bochner – Pro Perspectives on Smart Growth and Smart Growth Transportation Guidelines

Carol Walters – Can Traffic Engineers Reduce Driving Stress? and moderated a session on Truck Trip Generation

Bill Eisele has been selected to participate in 2002 Class of Leadership Brazos. Congratulations Bill!

Welcome

Mark Ojah has joined the Economics and Policy Program as a Research Associate. Mark has Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Geography and a Certificate in Logistics from the University of Manitoba. He has worked at the University of Manitoba Transport Institute and completed an internship with a logistics company in Mexico City. Mark will be working on the TxDOT Coordinated Border Port of Entry project.

Aruna Nathu has joined the Urban Mobility Program on a full-time basis as a Technician I. Aruna has been a student worker at TTI since 1998. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at Arlington. Aruna will be managing the data collection students workers, reducing and summarizing data, and providing technical support to researchers.

Korey Curtis has joined the Urban Mobility Program on a full-time basis as a Technician I. Korey has been a student worker since 1999 and is completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at the University of Texas at Arlington. Korey has also worked for TxDOT. He will be responsible for programming, placing, retrieving, and maintaining automatic traffic counters and other data collection equipment.

Welcome Mark, Aruna, and Korey!

Calendar

October 15-17 – TxDOT Short Course, College Station
November 5-8 – TxDOT Fall RMC Meetings, San Antonio
December 5 – All TTI Day, College Station

Birthdays

September
Ginger Daniels 9/7
Nester Mendoza 9/8
Nancy Stratta 9/8
Fernando Rodriguez 9/9
Josias Zietsman 9/16
Scott Cooner 9/20
Sterling Robertson 9/20
Jim Benson 9/24
Todd Carlson 9/26
Laura Higgins 9/28

October
Rachel Miller 10/4
Toni Carelock 10/8
Ed Hard 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