



National LTAP/TTAP Association Annual Report

July 2009 – July 2010

Annual Conference Edition

Hello NLTAPA Members,

The NLTAPA Officers and Executive Committee members are pleased to provide you our third annual Association report for the period of July 2009 to July 2010. As always, the Executive Committee and the volunteer work groups have been working hard. We are thankful for their service and hope the outcomes of their work will provide valuable tools to help each of you more effectively meet the needs of our local agencies.

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

*Daniel R. Cady, Nebraska LTAP Director
NLTAPA President 2009/2010*

It has been an interesting and fast moving 12 months as your President. The one year time frame as President is very short when you are trying to create change, establish new initiatives, and interact with industry to position LTAP/TTAP Centers to be sustainable into the near and distant future. It cannot be done by one person and, believe me, it is not!

There is a huge “Cast of Characters” for me to thank.

I want to start with the local partners of the Nebraska LTAP Center for allowing me to participate in the office of President. Thank you to the Director and Dean of the University of Nebraska Extension, Dr. Elbert Dickey. Thank You to the Director and State Engineer of the Nebraska Department of Roads, Mr. Monty Fredrickson. I then have to thank my immediate family Sally and the Nebraska LTAP staff for picking up the considerable slack I left while pursuing the interests of NLTAPA. Thank You Sally, Mary, Don, Bob and Dennis!

Then there are the Officers and Volunteers that make up the Executive Committee and the Workgroups. It is

really their efforts that provide the highlights to any president’s term in office and advance the wants and needs of all LTAP and TTAP Centers.

Officers

President-Elect: Ken Skorseth, SD LTAP (Chair of 2010 Conference Planning Committee)

Vice President: James Martin, NC LTAP (Chair of the External Communications Workgroup)

Regional Representatives

Region 1: Janet Leli, NJ LTAP (Co-Chair of Internal Communications Workgroup)

Region 2: Jim Self, OK TTAP (Co-Chair of the Professional Development Workgroup)

Region 3: Ed Stellfox, MD LTAP (Co-Chair of the Training Resources Workgroup)

Region 4: Valerie Pitts, KY LTAP (NLTAPA Secretary)

Region 5: Jim Grothaus, MN LTAP (Chair of the Partnership Workgroup)

Region 6: Marie Walsh, LA LTAP (Co-Chair of the Safety Workgroup, Co-Liaison to AASHTO)

Region 7: Renee Koller, CO LTAP (Co-Chair of the Safety Workgroup)

Region 9: Laura Melendy, CA LTAP (Co-Chair of the Professional Development Workgroup, NLTAP Treasurer)

Liaisons to Partners

AASHTO: Kevin Burke, IL LTAP & Marie Walsh, LA LTAP

NACE: Terry McNinch, MI LTAP

APWA: John Habermann, IN LTAP

Thank you as well to all the sub-committee members and ad-hoc partner sub-committee members that devote their time for the good of the association.

It has also been a great pleasure to work alongside the FHWA TPP and LTAP/TTAP Program Clearinghouse this past year. They have been dedicated to the sustainability of the Program and the funding for the program under the guidance of Amy Lucero and Mike Burk. I want to extend the thanks of the Association to Amy and Mike as well as Clark Martin, Cameron Ishaq, Roger Dean, Alison Black, Lisa McCluskey, Susan Monahan, and Sarah Crane. This crew has always been fully engaged with the mission of the LTAP/TTAP Program and the individual Centers. This past year we have also seen the TPP plus up by adding Fawn Thompson and Mark Sandifer to the TTAP and LTAP Teams respectfully.

Sustainability is a current buzz word that seems to point to green technology and “thinking green” in everything we do. The transportation industry is relentlessly seeking green technology in their processes and thought patterns. We as Centers need to align our processes and thought patterns along the same lines.

Sustainability to me is a very simple concept. It is the staple of life. I define it as being equipped to endure. It is Mother Earth being able to endure in the solar system or the human race being able to endure on Mother Earth. It is also equipping our Centers and Program with the essential things needed to endure in the surroundings in which we operate. That is truly the mission of NLTAPA as an association.

Join us if you are not yet a volunteer or mentor someone new to volunteer if you are one. I raise my glass (Guinness of course) and say “Sláinte”, health to this family I have been so proud to represent this past year.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Cady

Daniel R. Cady
NLTAPA President 2009/2010



WORK GROUP UPDATES

Promoting the Safety Focus Area

Safety Work Group

Co-Chair, Renee Koller, CO LTAP

Co-Chair, Marie Walsh, LA LTAP

Safety is at the core of most LTAP-TTAP center programs. The NLTAPA Safety Work Group continues to serve as a safety advocate nationally, and encourages centers to be stronger stakeholders in safety improvement programs in each State or region. In 2009 – 2010, the NLTAPA Safety Work Group held 12 Work Group meetings – 3 face-to-face and 9 conference calls. If you have not yet checked it out – the Safety webpage at www.nltapa.org was regularly updated with meeting announcements, minutes, and important safety reference documents for download.

We distributed 2 Safety Bulletins and updated the *LTAP Safety Briefing Sheet*. We coordinated 4 safety sessions and a Safety Poster session at the NLTAPA Conference in Oklahoma. Representatives of this committee have been invited to become members and regular participants in some of the leading national safety organizations and initiatives: AASHTO's Safety Management Subcommittee (SMS), AAHSTO's Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety (SCOHTS), FHWA's *Every Day Counts* Initiative, Highway Safety Partner Venture (HSPV) group and the *Toward Zero Deaths* (TZD) initiative. Members of the Work Group have also represented NLTAPA local road safety issues at several other key safety meetings nationally - 2009 *Safety Performance Function Summit* in Illinois; 2009 Governor's Highway Safety Association Meeting; 2009 Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS) *Summer Institute*; and the *Highway Safety*

Manual Task Force Meetings (ongoing). The NLTAPA Safety Work Group was key in initiating a *Local Roads Resolution*, ratified by AASHTO SCOHTS to help states better focus safety on local road issues, and worked with FHWA to identify and coordinate LTAP/TTAP members to participate on FHWA's *Local Road Safety Domestic Scan* of 7 states.

Other activities included participating on FHWA technical working groups for guidebook development, and serving as panel participants and reviewers on several NCHRP projects. We have continued to strengthen relationships with key partners, and have coordinated sessions for their member meetings and conferences including APWA, ATSSA, and NACE. As we enter a new year, we will be focused on developing a *Safety Toolkit* to benefit centers just beginning to develop center safety priorities, and we look to those centers with successful safety programs to help generate best practices. We would also like to stress the importance of becoming involved in your state's safety improvement programs to make sure local road safety issues are represented, and we're here to help in this initiative.

The NLTAPA Safety Work Group will continue to work to elevate the local road safety issue as one of national importance and necessary for inclusion in the different strategies being developed to reduce deaths on our nation's roads. The role of each Center is different in the safety effort. The Work Group is committed to assisting Centers in becoming leaders in their state safety programs. There are many other things we could be doing with our limited resources. We believe that everything we do should be focused on the ultimate goal of saving lives. This includes robust LTAP Centers with the capacity and funding to participate fully in the road safety effort locally and nationally. After all, the goal is zero deaths. If you haven't joined the committee yet, make time. You could be the difference in your state. Details on all recent Safety Work Group activities are listed on our *Safety Briefing Sheet* – distributed at the NLTAPA Conference or available online.

Internal Communications: Linking NLTAPA and the LTAP/TTAP Community

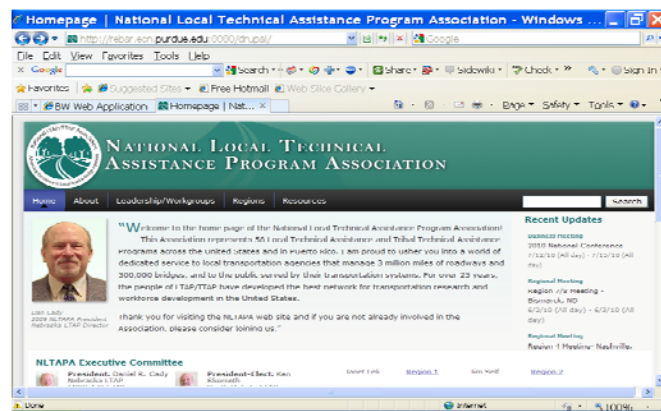
Internal Communications Work Group

Co-Chair, Janet Leli, NJ LTAP

Co-Chair, Lisa Harris, KS LTAP

Since the summer 2009 conference, the Internal Communications Work Group has primarily worked on two projects- the Association website and the NLTAPA Operations Manual.

A preview of the Association website, www.nltapa.org, was shown at last year's conference in Pittsburgh. After some feedback from the membership, the website was launched November 4, 2009. Since the unveiling of the website, the work group has been modifying the general content, posting meeting minutes, and assisting work group chairs with updating their individual pages.



Several members have been working on the NLTAPA Operations Manual over the last 6 months. Lisa Harris, Valerie Pitts, Janet Degner, and Janet Leli have been part of a group re-vamping the document, which is designed to provide guidelines for the functions and responsibilities of the Association. In addition, Internal Communications has created the Association logo and letterhead, and produces the annual report distributed at each summer meeting.

The next activity the work group will be involved with is fostering the use of the online forums that have been made available through the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse.

National Partnerships: The Big Three

Partnership Work Group

Chair, Jim Grothaus, MN LTAP

As the NLTAPA conference arrives I can't help but to think of the Big Three. I am not referring to ABC-CBS-NBC or Nicklaus-Palmer-Watson or even General Motors-Ford-Chrysler. I am referring to NACE-APWA-AASHTO. The NLTAPA partnerships are working in many ways.

In January 2010 at the TRB meeting President Dan Cady signed a new partnership agreement with Tony Kane from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Marie Walsh (LA LTAP) and Kevin Burke (IL LTAP) are representing NLTAPA in many different discussions; Traffic Engineering and Safety to name a few.

The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and NLTAPA continue to have a strong relationship. Currently, Terry McNinch (MI LTAP) is working with NACE as the NLTAPA liaison. In April of 2010 the NLTAPA Executive Committee met in Ft. Worth, TX for its spring meeting. Executive Committee members were able to attend many NACE activities and strongly encourage other LTAPers to attend an annual NACE conference in upcoming years. In my humble opinion, the NACE conferences have the most relevant technical topics that help our core LTAP customers.

John Habermann (INLTAP) has been the NLTAPA liaison working with the American Public Works Association (APWA) over the last year. Many LTAP centers are active with state chapters of APWA. Activities include: attending chapter meetings, hosting chapter websites, coordinating chapter meetings and/or conferences or publishing APWA chapter newsletters. At a national level NLTAPA representatives are active on APWA's Engineering and Technology Committee and Safety Committees.

As of today NLTAPA does not have any formal agreements with other associations. However, we cannot forget one of our most important-unofficial-official partners: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Without the support of FHWA many if not the majority of the activities that NLTAPA members are active in would not be able to happen.

Enhancing LTAP/TTAP Personnel Skills

Professional Development Work Group

Co-Chair, Laura Melendy, CA LTAP

Co-Chair, Jim Self, OK TTAP

Professional Development Work Group efforts followed the now well-established activities defined in the Professional Development Program. In July 2009, the second "Professional Development Round Tables" were held at the National LTAP/TTAP Conference in Pittsburgh. This pre-conference facilitated peer-to-peer discussion which was met with unanimously positive response from participants, and we made plans to hold the third in July 2010, at the National LTAP/TTAP Conference in Oklahoma City. In January 2010, the third "New Directors Forum" was held at TRB. Like the "Round Tables," this session was also conducted as facilitated peer-to-peer discussion, with all participants – old and new – agreeing that the time was well spent and that they learned something new. The work group participated in four "New Director Orientation" sessions during the past year: Utah LTAP in November 2009, New Hampshire LTAP in December 2009, Ohio LTAP in January 2010 and Arkansas LTAP in May 2010. Ongoing efforts included working with the annual conference committee, identifying topics of interest to be presented at the annual conference, and managing selection and presentation of the association's national achievement award.

The External Communications Work Group Continues to Help Tell the LTAP/TTAP Story

External Communications Work Group

Chair, James Martin, NC LTAP

The External Communications work group continued to update materials for LTAP/TTAP centers to use in outreach and educational activities and to highlight national successes of our program. With reauthorization pending, we all must do our part to educate decision makers about the importance and effectiveness of our program.

A promotional brochure that highlights the 25 years of service by the LTAP/TTAP centers was developed a couple of years ago and is available on the NLTAPA website. Also available on the association website, are Briefing Sheets that can be used as centers highlight the accomplishments of the program. All centers are encouraged to take advantage of these resources!

Workshop Development and Products

Training Resources Work Group

Co-Chair, Ed Stellfox, MD LTAP

Co-Chair, George Huntington, WY LTAP

Webinar training was discussed with being interest in being able to electronically capture and distribute the free NHI on-line courses. Ed Stellfox discussed this with Clark Martin and sees no reason they would not be able to accomplish this. The current NHI practice of making webinars free to municipal governments is praise worthy but some of the centers who function on class fees to make up for lack of funding see the free seminars cutting into needed fund raising opportunities. The Maryland center has had to cancel Asphalt resurfacing courses due to clients taking the free courses. The committee chair will meet with FHWA/NHI representative to discuss the problem. It was also brought up that maybe as LTAP Centers we need to do a better job of explaining the differences and benefits of our training and find ways to have this technology benefit and enhance our programs. This is a case of a good idea having unintended bad results.

Ed Stellfox brought up a problem with the new NTTR Training Resources database after reviewing it for a Training Resources Committee project. Incorrect information was found on mot of Maryland's Courses and Steve Jenkins from Montana was listed as a contact for Maryland. Ed asked the rest of the members to check their courses and let him know of any problems. Ed will meet with NTTR representatives to discuss the problems after checking with the Clearinghouse for any problems with their database.

At our last meeting, we discussed the need for a new Needs Assessment and generally felt it was still recent enough (less than two years) to be relevant. We decided to start looking at the top needs in the survey and researching the databases NTTR and LTAP for existing materials. Since George Huntingdon's Asset Management Subcommittee is looking into training the rest of the group will look at other topics within our respective expertise and interest.

Several of the members volunteered to take topics from the Needs Assessment priority list and look through the NTTR database for a list of resources to check whether those need can be met from this resource. Ed Stellfox will look at Pavement

Maintenance, Matt Carter has already looked at Work Zone Safety and Victoria Beale is researching Low Coat Safety Improvements.

FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

Ken Skorseth, South Dakota LTAP Program Manager

Incoming NLTAPA President 2010/2011



It is my honor to begin serving as the 2010-2011 NLTAPA President at the Thursday business on July 15, 2010. I will be assisted in the coming year by James Martin, North Carolina LTAP Director to be installed as the President-Elect and a new Vice President (to be announced at the NLTAPA Business Meeting).

The NLTAPA Officers will meet for a planning retreat in September prior to an Executive Committee meeting in Washington D.C. We will discuss and finalize NLTAPA goals and set the strategy for achieving those goals in the next year. I see the following areas needing primary focus by the NLTAPA EC and NLTAPA members:

- Continue to educate lawmakers and other stakeholders as to the mission, activities, and importance of LTAP/TTAP Centers to local transportation infrastructure managers and users in advance of the next reauthorization of the federal transportation bill.
- Build on our formal partnerships with NACE, APWA and AASHTO to achieve common goals in assisting local transportation agencies and explore collaborative relationships (other than formal partnerships) with other associations with common interests.

- Work to foster more cooperation and collaboration in the LTAP/TTAP community to become more efficient by sharing training and technical assistance resources.
- Advance the number one goal of FHWA to see the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP/TTAP) as a national leader in local transportation safety awareness and improvement. It is my intent to fully support the NLTAPA Safety Workgroup in their mission to provide leadership to the entire LTAP/TTAP community in highway safety.

In closing, it is my goal to communicate frequently with NLTAPA members, the FHWA and our key partners to foster cooperation and closeness in our organization.

Ken Skorseth

Ken Skorseth
NLTAPA President 2010/2011

REGIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 2010

Over the years, regional meetings have been a great way for Centers to share information and best practices. In recent years they have also provided an opportunity to communicate with the Centers about national LTAP efforts initiated by NLTAPA or FHWA and to get Center input on those efforts.

These highlights were prepared by the regional representatives. It is easy to see why LTAP has become such a valued partner to our local, state and national stakeholders.

Region 1.....

Region One met May 25-26 in Quechee, Vermont, at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center in the foothills of the Green Mountains. Seven of the region's eight centers had representatives present. Travel restrictions unfortunately prevented Maine from attending. Erik Wells from Vermont LTAP and

Andrés Roda from New Jersey LTAP were first-time regional meeting attendees.

While the event was kicked off with a round of miniature golf on Monday evening, lots of important topics to Center operations were discussed Tuesday and Wednesday. Highlights from the 2-day agenda included a demonstration on how to use "clickers" as a workshop training tool; and how to use social networking, such as blogging, to enhance your center's visibility. The Federal Highway Administration and the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse provided program updates, focusing on resources available to the Centers- such as the new forums, training resource database, and asset management training pilot. Each Center was provided time for "show and tell" and to explain their workshop planning process. Janet Leli presented the NLTAPA update, providing highlights from each work group and some information about works in progress and the 2011 national conference, which will be in Boston, MA.

A special agenda item was a fun and educational flume demonstration presented by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Attendees were able to participate in this hands-on demonstration that covered basic river and structure issues, such as hydraulics, erosion, and sediment control.

Next year's regional meeting will be hosted by New York.



Region 2.....

Region Two, consisting of the seven Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) Centers, met in Bismarck, North Dakota, May 4-6, 2010. The Northern Plains TTAP hosted the meeting. All seven of the TTAP Centers were represented. We welcomed the new Director of the Alaska TTAP, Mr. Byron Bluehorse to his first Region 2 meeting. Also attending were the usual suspects from our FHWA TPP office, the Clearinghouse, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Also attending was Tim Penney, the FHWA Tribal Transportation Coordinator.



The TTAP staffs and partners were welcomed by Dr. Harriett Skye, Vice President for Inter-tribal Programs at United Tribes Technical College. UTTC is the home of the Northern Plains TTAP.

The meeting focused on the following subjects and issues:

- Tribal Safety Management Systems.
- New Training Technology.
- TTAP Core Curriculum development.
- The TTAP Strategic Initiative.
- Center Operations/Best Practices.
- National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC) planning.

There were a number of initiatives carried out by various TTAP Centers during the previous year. These involved new training initiatives, such as a Construction Management course developed and conducted by the Colorado State University TTAP. There were also a three Tribal Transportation Safety Summits, in Washington, Minnesota, and Oklahoma,

hosted by the Northwest TTAP, Michigan Tech TTAP, and Oklahoma State University TTAP, respectively.

Region 3.....

Representatives from all the centers in region three met on June 7 via conference call. This was decided as the best method of meeting due to travel restrictions and budgetary restrictions in several of the states. The members discussed several ongoing and future projects.

First to be discussed was a joint effort by LTAP and FHWA Civil Right Division to present a train the trainer session for an NHI "ADA Pedestrian and Bicycle Design" workshop. FHWA would like to get this training out to the states and as many of the local governments as possible. The Maryland Center is currently aiding in the organization and facilitation of the workshop. Attendees from the region will be Ron Eck from West Virginia, Mark Hood from Pennsylvania, Juan Morales, Safety Instructor from Maryland and Matt Carter from Delaware. We hope to convince the Civil rights division to present a session for LTAP instructors from across the country.

Next discussion involved a joint effort of LTAP, FHWA, NACE and APWA to develop training films on key topics from the LTAP National Training Survey. FHWA is willing to fund a project and APWA will run the contract. A suggested title for the series is "This Old Road" using a similar format as the television show. Ed Stellfox from the Maryland T2 Center will coordinate the shooting sites in PA and Maryland and will travel with the video crews to serve as the subject matter expert. Pennsylvania LTAP has agreed to provide lists of contacts in municipal governments in the general area of southeastern Pennsylvania and northwestern Maryland. We are currently working with APWA to firm up the proposal and submit to FHWA for approval. If this project is successful we hope to produce more videos from our priorities list developed in the Needs Assessment.

The group also discussed the matter of regional representation. Ed Stellfox would like to stay in that position till the National Projects he is involved in have been completed. Kim Ferroni suggested a rotation of centers in the position indicating that Lou Ferretti

would be interested. A decision will be made at a future meeting.

Webinar training was discussed with Delaware being interested in being able to electronically capture and distribute the free NHI on-line courses. The current NHI practice of making webinars free to municipal governments is praise worthy but some of the centers who function on class fees to make up for lack of funding see the free seminars cutting into needed fund raising opportunities. The Maryland center has had to cancel Asphalt resurfacing courses due to clients taking the free courses. The regional rep will meet with FHWA/NHI representative to discuss the problem. It was also brought up that maybe as LTAP Centers we need to do a better job of explaining the differences and benefits of our training and find ways to have this technology benefit and enhance our programs.

The centers also discussed the reestablishment of the previously annual regional Roadway Management Conference. The Conference was cancelled last year as the region was hosting the National LTAP Conference in Pittsburgh. This year it was Delaware’s turn to host the conference but Larry Klepner, the program manager from the Delaware Center retired. We all felt that it would not be good to drop this large a conference on a new manager. Kim Carr suggested the possibility of having a one-day event in the Hagerstown area or doing in-state one-day workshops and that WV LTAP Roadway Management Workshop that was held in April in conjunction with the WVDOH. She also suggested that the face-to-face meetings and other coordination pertaining to the RMC made our regional more cohesive. Since not doing the RMC, perhaps a one-day face-to face regional meeting. All the centers agreed that monthly conference calls would be advantageous. Another problem discussed in this topic area was the fact that employees from the state agencies as well as many of the municipal governments had either travel or budgetary restrictions. Many agencies have had fifty to seventy five percent cuts in funding and training is always the first budget item to be cut. It was agree to table the discussion to a later meeting.

Region 4.....

The 2010 Region Four Annual Meeting was held May 12-14th in Nashville, TN and was hosted by the Tennessee Technical Assistance Program.

The group met and discussed various topics including; challenges and changes at each center during this economic down time, how each center adapted and what steps have they taken to provide quality training and assistance without increasing costs, LTAP’s role in retroreflectivity and pavement markings, and distance learning. The directors and operations personnel broke into separate sections some of the topics discussed by the operations group were charging late fees and cancellation policies, mail list maintenance, vehicle purchase versus rental. The Directors discussed funding and staffing issues.



Cameron Ishaq gave the FHWA TPP report and detailed the goals for this year which are continued focus on Safety, expand and improve LTAP/TTAP’s understanding of LPA, and to continue building a culture of knowledge sharing throughout LTAP/TTAP.

Valerie Pitts presented the NLTAPA update, the initiatives that the group is working on are reauthorization, strengthening partnerships, completing the operations manual.

A trip to the Belle Meade Plantation followed by the great atmosphere in downtown Nashville ended the meeting. Region 4 will meet in Alabama next year.

Region 5.....

Over the course of the FY 2010 Region Five had two 2-hour phone call to discuss hot issues that were evolving. These intense meetings were held on October 2nd and June 18th. The October meeting focused on center activities and a discussion on LTAP workplan development. In June we had a round robin discussion that included the highlight of a "New" web based date management system for students (IL LTAP). This meeting also included an FHWA presentation from Cameron Ishaq.

In conclusion, Region Five is excited for the upcoming NACE 2011 conference being held in Minneapolis, MN. It will give our region a chance to convene in person for the first time since June of 2007.

Region 6.....

Due to excessively full spring calendars and last minute scheduling issues Region Six did not hold an annual meeting. However, all of the Centers in the region have been busy serving their customers and participating in the national program activities. Sharing center activities and best practices is also a major part of any meeting that Region 6 has so the following highlights would have been on the agenda.

Oklahoma's LTAP (and the co-located TTAP) have put forth a tremendous effort in hosting the annual conference. From program planning to coordinating the details of all the conference activities the Oklahoma LTAP and the TTAP have worked together tirelessly while still performing their day jobs of serving Oklahoma's local and tribal customers. The region volunteered to help out but so far Oklahoma has had everything under control. In FY 2010 the OK TLAP conducted over 50 training sessions resulting in 20,000+ hours of training delivered. They even managed to develop and implement 2 new classes: Electronic Diagnostics and Asphalt Surface Treatments, and conduct the OSHA 10 hour training for the first time.

Arkansas's LTAP has a new director. Laura D. Carter took over as Director on November 1, 2009. Laura has worked for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for 32 years and has held

various positions prior to joining LTAP. She is working to continue the close association with the Arkansas Judges Association and the Municipal League and conducting MUTCD and retreflectivity classes. Since she's new please be on the lookout for her and say hello.

New Mexico has focused on their strong relationships with their stakeholders including the New Mexico DOT, FHWA Division Office, vendors and customers. The Center believes that the relationships are symbiotic and have transformed the Center into the "go to guys" for safety, work force development, infrastructure management and organizational development. Highlights of the New Mexico's year included Traffic Incident Management desgined for local and tribal first responders, a major soil stabilization project and training program and pavement management training coordinated with the RPO and MPO. The Center is also using more electronic technology to promote classes and to disseminate information. Exciting future activities including high visibility participation in the Second Annual Rodeo (cute!) and sponsorship of the Best of the Best Traveling Trophy. They are also working with the NMDOT to explore networking opportunities.

Texas reported that they have finalized the updated Texas Road Scholar Program that was developed in conjunction with the Advisory Committee. This new program was approved by the Texas County Commissioner's Education Committee as qualifying for 16 CEUs that are required each year. This is great since the County Commissioners supervise the Road Crews in about 200 of the 254 counties in Texas. Over 60 officials have already participated since February of this year and most were accompanied by their Road Crews. Talk about getting your elected official on board! TX LTAP has also hosted several of the "using a motor grader to maintain roads" workshop modeled after (the highest form of flattery) the program that Oklahoma's LTAP shared at a regional meeting in the past.

Louisiana's LTAP is busy maintaining its traditional LTAP program while participating more in DOT programs such as LPA, ROW, Rail Grade Safety, Traffic Engineering, Research and of course Safety. A major effort conducted in partnership with the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) and DOTs Traffic

Engineering office was a series of webinars introducing elected officials and non-engineers to the some of the major policies and guidelines that influence and govern traffic engineering decisions. LTAP and the LADOTD developed the technical agendas and then coordinated presenters including local participants. LMA provided the webinar system and the IT support. Topics ranged from planning and policy, speed management, signing, access management, intersection control and roundabouts. The series has been very well received and now these well developed modules are ready for use at other events. Louisiana’s LTAP has continued to participate in statewide safety efforts through the Local Road Safety Program. They celebrated this year as the first of the HSIP and HRRR project actually moved to construction and many more are to the “plan in hand stage.” In partnership with the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission the LA LTAP also planned and coordinated 9 impaired driving workshops for state and local law enforcement agencies and a major speed management train the trainer workshop. The Center is also heavily involved in implementing the SHSP and a co-leader of the Occupant Protection SHSP Focus area. So, slow down, don’t drink and drive and wear your seatbelt!

Region 7.....

Another successful year having all 9 centers represented at the region meeting! There were 20 participants – including one TTAP member and FHWA reps. These are the highlights from two flourishing days of comradery and 8 pages of minutes which are available online on the Region Seven website at NLTAPA.org.



- **Special Interest Topic** sessions were presented on *Gravel Road Maintenance Methodology*, *Preview to the Asset Management Focus Group*, *New Highway Safety Manual*, *Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS) Resources*, and *Run Off the Road Crashes*. Important resources such as the *Crash Modifications Clearinghouse*, *Saferoadsmaps.org*, and the *Rural Highway Safety Clearinghouse* were highlighted.
- **Wyoming LTAP** is encouraging people to view and comment on their *Gravel Roads Management Programmers Guide* and *Implementation Guide* under development. Covering eight maintenance tasks, the Implementation Guide addresses topics such as inventory, maintenance, scheduling, cost, condition data and performance monitoring. They can be accessed from their Center website under Special Projects > Gravel Roads Management, at <http://wwweng.uwyo.edu/wyt2/>.
- **Montana LTAP’s** move to the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) last year has provided mutual benefit for both LTAP and WTI. LTAP assisted in providing conference coordination for 2 Work Force Summits for WTI and WTI provided assistance in rewriting LTAP’s Work Plan and Budget for the DOT. Montana LTAP developed and offered 3 PASER pavement management sessions and has already updated their *Flagger’s Handbook* and training to reflect the changes of the 2009 MUTCD.
- **Nebraska LTAP** has been busy with state driven tasks, especially the LPA Program. The training is very extensive, requiring NHI, right of way, and Emergency Relief training, etc. They are also working with their DOT on a High Risk Rural Roads program. The sites are crash driven, and 100% of the money is dedicated to local roads. They also have a horizontal curve sign project going on three years now. They’ve given out 20,000 horizontal curve signs including chevrons, directional arrows, etc; and 76 counties have participated.
- **Missouri LTAP** had their first Roads Scholar graduates, and developed a database for their Roads Scholar program and center activities. They have significantly increased the number of training workshops offered from 41 to 115 in the past

couple of years, and offered their first video conference class. They have an equipment loan program for their sign retroreflector, radar board, radar gun, and material testing equipment.

- **Kansas LTAP** developed some new fact sheets, including *Does Your Road and Bridge Department Need Training?*, and revised their *Worker/Workplace Safety Handbook* which is also available online. They have accumulated case studies for their Road Safety Assessment Program, and developed a Road Management handbook.
- Keith Knapp was welcomed as **Iowa LTAP's** new Director just 2 days on the job. With over 2,000 participants, some of Iowa LTAP's recent training highlights included Low Cost Safety Improvements, Excavation, Mower Safety, Work Zone and Flagger, and Snowplow Operator training. They also have a *Public Employees Leadership Academy* that is funded separately. The training is geared towards new and aspiring supervisors. The program consists of 11 core modules, with modules ranging from 3.5 to 6.5 hours. The program is not specifically designed just for Iowa agencies, and can be viewed at http://www.intrans.iastate.edu/ltap/leadership_academy.htm.
- **South Dakota LTAP** has had great success offering more distance training. They have been working with ND LTAP and using the Transportation Learning Network (TLN) to offer the training. Some examples of the technical assists they've done recently have addressed: failing seal coats, paving problems, dealing with flood issues, and the Governor's emergency road repair project selection and prioritizing. South Dakota State University is closing the Engineering Resource Center where LTAP has been housed. LTAP will be safe, but they're not sure where the Center will be located. There has been a lot of talk in SD about turning asphalt roads back into gravel roads; gravel roads back to surface earth roads; and giving some graded roads back to landowners. Look for Ken's article [Back to Mud](#) in SD LTAP's newsletter.
- **North Dakota LTAP** has also been providing a lot of video training through TLN - they held 34 video conferencing sessions last year. They are now trying to use web-based training but meeting with some resistance. They are encouraging other states to get involved - the more states that are involved, the cheaper it is. They use Operitel's *LearnFlex* a Learning Management System to provide on demand training. It handles registration and tracks individual's class records. Right now, they have 5-6 modules, and they will discuss with the Clearinghouse about allowing all Centers access to the modules.
- **Wyoming LTAP** has been working a lot on the Wyoming Rural Roads Program. There are five steps: Crash Data Analysis, Field Evaluation, Rank to ID, Level II field work to evaluate and ID countermeasures, and Benefit/Cost Analysis. They manage 2 loan programs for their sign retroreflectometers and traffic counters. As mentioned earlier, they have been working on the *Gravel Roads Management Program* and encourage everyone to review their two Guides.
- **Colorado LTAP** has new DOT management allowing more program flexibility, and has transitioned to the new workplan format based on the four strategic focus areas. They hope to develop a *Roads Scholar II* program this year, and will be adding a pavement marking retroreflector and Safety Edge shoes to their current equipment loan program. They completed the 5th annual Agency Outreach Program visiting on-site with 29 local agencies promoting LTAP resources and distributing basic safety equipment. The Director has been busy as Co-Chair of the NLTAPA Safety work group, and is excited about the recent *Local Roads Resolution* they got signed by AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety (SCOHTS) to get states more focused on local road safety issues. LTAP/TTAPs are specifically named in the resolution.
- Members of the NLTAPA Executive Committee, FHWA and LTAP-TTAP Clearinghouse gave updates and suggestions for Center success; the group wrapped up with planning meetings for each of the region's **two** successful local roads conferences.

Region 9.....

Region Nine centers really had to rough it this year. Our regional meeting was held in April in an obscure and out-of-the-way location called Waikiki. Despite the hardship of holding the regional meeting in Hawaii, our group endured and held a productive meeting.

The meeting agenda included updates from the centers, FHWA, the Clearinghouse and the NLTAPA Safety Work Group; presentations and discussion of Road Scholar and Construction Career Day activities in the region; and an in-depth, focused discussion on Center Libraries. Region 9 centers have recognized the need to evolve their libraries, to take advantage of the electronic availability of so many publications and videos and to better leverage resources. A few hours were spent brainstorming ways to digitize center libraries, planning out how to get started, what should be included, and how it should operate. Consensus was that with so many publications available on-line, and the ability to convert paper and videotape resources to electronic media, a national e-library could serve our LTAP clients well, without so much reliance on hard copies held in each individual center library.



Pavement preservation, retroreflectivity, and safety continue to be the hot topics among our regions' local agencies and a focus of many of our training programs and newsletter articles. As the economy has impacted local agency employee travel to training, and as our financial resources continue to be squeezed, centers in our region are at various stages of considering adopting, in the midst of adopting, or have already adopted web-based technologies to replace some

face-to-face training. While "sustainability" is on our minds, only one center reported developing and delivering training on the topic: in April the Nevada LTAP rolled out a course called, "Application of Green Technologies in the Construction of Asphalt Pavements."