



National LTAP/TTAP Association Annual Report

July 2010 – July 2011
Annual Conference Edition

Hello NLTAPA Members,

The NLTAPA Officers and Executive Committee members are pleased to provide you with this annual report for the period of July 2010 to July 2011.

FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

*Ken Skorseth, South Dakota LTAP Director
NLTAPA President 2010/2011*

First of all, it has been a great pleasure serving the LTAP/TTAP community across the country as NLTAPA President over the past year. As previous presidents have stated, how quickly a year goes by when one is juggling routine responsibilities at the home center and striving to preside over national business at the same time. It has been a rewarding experience and a bit frustrating at the same time. I would like to have done more.

Before making general comments about the past year from the president's perspective, it seems appropriate to review the three primary goals of our national association and then reflect on how we are doing. Quoting from the home page of our NLTAPA Web Site: *"The Association's main objectives are to [1] build awareness about LTAP in the transportation community, [2] assist FHWA with developing strategies for the Program, and [3] build the capacity of each Center to best meet the needs of its customers".*

Here are some reflections on the past year's activities on how we are meeting those objectives. Have we built awareness of LTAP (and TTAP) in the transportation community? Yes! We have done so in the past and it has accelerated in the current year. I would go further to say we have done a great job – sometimes to the extent of promoting more than we can handle. We are "at the table" in many arenas in local transportation now. We are even leaders in some

areas such as local road safety, unpaved road management and we are a recognized conduit to reach local hwy officials in many states. We may even become the "de-paving" experts in the future. At the meeting of the Low Volume Road Committee during TRB this year, this topic was mentioned as a theme for the 2012 meeting. When the question was asked, "Who has information on this?", an LTAP Center was immediately mentioned by a Committee member as a resource for information on that topic.

What about assisting FHWA with developing strategies for the Program? We have made progress in this area. Time has been assigned in every Executive Committee meeting for interaction with a representative(s) of FHWA. A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was held in 2011 with five LTAPs and one TTAP member present to exchange ideas with FHWA on how to advance mutual objectives. Having Jeff Zaharewicz in place as the new LTAP/TTAP Program Manager for FHWA has brought back a direct contact between NLTAPA and FHWA. This is very helpful and Jeff is becoming familiar with the program. This will allow us to work more closely with FHWA in the future. We also recognize the challenges of developing strategies for a very diverse local transportation community – from very sparsely populated regions with an extensive local road system to densely populated areas with fewer miles of local roads but vastly greater needs in safety, asset management and even congestion management. I believe we are making progress in working together.

Finally, is NLTAPA assisting in building the capacity of each center to meet its customer's needs? We have made some progress here, but more needs to be done. Good day-to-day sharing of ideas and requests for information is available for all to use via our T2.All

Discussion List (discontinued on or about Aug. 1st) and our NLTAPA Discussion Forums via the Clearinghouse website. We must encourage more use of this resource. Along with that, the website has 2688 course or presentation titles in the Resource Database as of 7-7-11! Granted there is overlap in many of these, but it is a vastly improved pool of resources for all to use to meet customer needs. We are very grateful for the support of FHWA and ARTBA's service to us in maintaining this service to the LTAP/TTAP Community at large. I believe our greatest need is to help each other more in shared training and technical assistance.

I would like to close with some positive comments. The NLTAPA Executive Committee (EC) and Officers have done an excellent job of meeting commitments this year. I would encourage all of the community to thank your respective EC representative as well as James Martin and Jim Grothaus for their service. The commitment of time and effort to serve in these jobs must never be overlooked or unappreciated. Our national secretary and treasurer have not missed a deadline for submitting minutes and reports this year! Our financial accounting and management has never been better. While I cannot thank everyone who has helped me so much this year, I feel compelled to thank our outgoing NLTAPA Treasurer, Laura Melendy, for her outstanding work and Valerie Pitts, NLTAPA Secretary, for her invaluable assistance to me. Thanks also to the entire EC. The NLTAPA Officers and EC committed to better communication with the community at large during our meetings this past April. I have begun putting out a monthly update as president and have received many notes of appreciation for that. We have set a goal to continue to communicate better in the future.

Again, the past year has gone very quickly. I have even greater appreciation for those who have filled this position in the past and for those who will do so in the future. The burden of national service and leadership falls on a relatively small pool of people. Their service is so much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ken Skorseth, NLTAPA President



2010-2011 Officers

President: Ken Skorseth, SD LTAP

President-Elect: James Martin, NC LTAP (Chair of 2011 Conference Planning Committee)

Vice President: Jim Grothaus, MN LTAP (Chair of the External Communications Workgroup)

Treasurer: Laura Melendy, CA LTAP (through 7/2011)

Regional Representatives

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

Region 2: Jim Self, OK TTAP (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: John Habermann, IN LTAP (Chair of the Partnership Workgroup)

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

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

Region 9: Nick Jones, UT LTAP

Liaisons to Partners

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

NACE: Dan Cady, NE LTAP

APWA: Martha Horseman, KY LTAP

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Promoting the Safety Focus Area

Safety Work Group

Co-Chair, Renee Koller, CO LTAP

Co-Chair, Marie Walsh, LA LTAP

The NLTAPA Safety Work Group had another busy year working to drive down fatalities. Our committee of over 30 participants held 11 work group meetings between July 2010 and June 2011 – 2 face-to-face and 9 conference calls. If you haven't visited lately, our Safety site at NLTAPA.org is updated regularly with meeting announcements, minutes, and important safety reference documents for download. We've also started to work with the Clearinghouse to develop a one-stop Safety events calendar. Thank you to everyone that completed our Center Safety Best Practices and Circuit Rider Program Surveys last fall. The results were very useful in safety partner meetings to develop the Safety toolkit and *National Strategic Focus on Safety*. We encourage all Centers to re-evaluate their Safety programs through use of this resource and try to implement new programs that will have an impact on reducing crashes and fatalities on local roads. We are excited about projects being developed by our partners, FHWA, and the Office of Safety's new Local and Rural Safety Cross Office Work Group (COWG). We participated as technical working group members on the FHWA *Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool* project, which promises to be a very useful alternative for local agencies to make safety improvement decisions.

AASHTO has continued to be a prominent focus of ours for local road safety awareness; and they have been very open to including NLTAPA on several of their committees – the *Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety* (SCOHTS), SCOHTS *Safety Management Subcommittee* (SMS), and Highway Safety Manual & Workforce Development task groups. We had six LTAP-TTAP participants at the SCOHTS SMS meeting in Kansas City, MO last year, and out of this meeting developed relationships that allowed us the opportunity to help develop SCOHTS' *Strategic Safety Plan*. The 2011 SCOHTS SMS meeting is coming up September 28-30 in Cincinnati, OH - we encourage you to contact us if you are interested in attending this meeting as an NLTAPA rep. We are working to determine how NLTAPA can more effectively

participate in the SMS task groups that focus on areas of interest to the local community, such as work force development, data and performance measures, the national safety strategy, as well as the HSM implementation efforts.

Another very successful meeting this year was the NCHRP's *Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Peer Exchange* in Austin, TX. This is the second time NLTAPA has been an invited guest and NCHRP/TRB sponsored nine LTAP-TTAP participants to attend! This peer exchange proved to be very informative to all who attended – as well as an invaluable opportunity to interact with our state safety partners. Our participants, led by Lisa Harris of the KS LTAP, have worked to synthesize their experiences for sharing with the entire LTAP-TTAP community. Best practices from the SHSP peer exchange will be presented during the Boston conference in the Safety Bulletin and Poster Session. NCHRP also recognized the need for NLTAPA input for a pilot "train the trainer" HSM training program. Todd Morrison of KY LTAP participated along with Laura Slusher, Indiana's new LTAP safety circuit rider. Laura and Todd provided important feedback to the HSM training development effort on the needs of LTAP and locals.



The Safety Work Group collaborated with the FHWA Resource Center (RC) to develop a *Highway Safety Manual (HSM) LITE* training course focusing on useful aspects relevant to Centers and local agencies. If you missed the HSM Lite webinar broadcast in July, you have another opportunity to catch it when it's presented live at the Boston conference on Thursday.

We'd like to express our sincere appreciation to Hillary Isebrands, FHWA RC, for all her time and work on this training program.

Committee members were invited guests at several national safety conferences this year. One in particular – the Safety WG – was asked to present on local roadway safety design needs at the *TRB AFB20 Roadside Safety Design Committee* summer workshop in Cleveland, OH. Thanks again to Todd Morrison of KY LTAP for his successful participation at this meeting and his insightful take-aways. Work with the *EDC Safety Edge Committee* continues. After a very successful *Safety Edge Open House* hosted by FL LTAP, the 7 LTAP-TTAP centers with loaner shoes were eager to return and implement the program with their locals. Hopefully you had an opportunity to pop-in at our Pre-Conference Safety Workshop on Monday. The Safety Work Group coordinates several Safety sessions at the national conference each year that address hot topics and best practices for local & rural road safety – don't miss 'em! *Distracted Driving* and the National *Towards Zero Deaths* campaigns are two other initiatives we continue to be heavily involved in; and remember – our nation cannot reach its Towards Zero Deaths goal without focusing on local & rural roads. This is where we need your help! As you develop your next Center Work Plan – take a hard look at your current safety programs and not only include those that are “wanted” but those that are “needed” as well.

If you have an opportunity, *warn* (I mean welcome) Bruce Drewes as he steps up to help Co-Chair the Safety Work Group when Renée moves onto NLTAPA Vice-President. There is so much going on in the area of road safety that impacts the locals and LTAP-TTAP at the national, state and local levels. The NLTAPA Safety Work Group is working to organize into sub-groups that will allow us to more efficiently and effectively respond to ongoing requests for NLTAPA involvement and input. There are many opportunities to help out in big and small ways. The transportation community is beginning to look to LTAP-TTAP as a real resource to help reduce crashes and save lives. Thanks to all for your efforts in your states and at the national level. We believe that NLTAPA is making a difference and encourage you to participate in the Safety Work Group and help us to do even more. Have a great year!

Internal Communications: Linking NLTAPA and the LTAP/TTAP Community

*Internal Communications Work Group
Chair, Janet Leli, NJ LTAP*

The Internal Communications Work Group has been maintaining the Association's website, preparing electronic and printed communication to the LTAP/TTAP community, and also conducted a survey in early 2011.

The Association website, www.nltapa.org, has been updated throughout the last year to reflect event announcements, changes in Executive Committee membership, changes to Center personnel, the NLTAPA Annual budget and work plan, and region and work group updates. Region representatives and Work Group Chairs have administrative access to their own pages and are able to post updates as needed. Executive Committee meeting minutes and the summer and winter NLTAPA Business Meeting minutes have been posted on a regular schedule.



In April of 2011 the Work Group developed a survey for the LTAP/TTAP Centers to complete. The focus of the survey was to gain insight on how the Executive Committee could better communicate to the membership and how tools such as the website could better convey the activities of the Executive Committee and its work groups.

The survey was completed by 76 respondents from 39 LTAP Centers/1 TTAP Center. This included a good cross section of personnel- Directors, Managers, Training Coordinators, Communications Staff, Instructors, Engineers, Safety Circuit Riders, Administrative/Office Assistants, and Librarians. The results of the survey were presented to the full Executive Committee at the April meeting held in conjunction with NACE. At that time, several strategies

were identified to respond to the memberships' general request for more information. Initial activities have included periodic messages from the NLTAPA President to the community via T2.ALL and the Forums, as well as the development of a quarterly electronic NLTAPA newsletter that will be making its debut very soon. Some other changes that you will be seeing are a FAQ section to the NLTAPA website and some additional resources and links. We hope the FAQ section will help clarify what types of information you will find on the Association website, and what types of information you will find on the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse website. There is continual discussion with the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse staff so that efforts are not duplicated and that information is posted in the appropriate place.

As a reminder, the T2.ALL list serve will be closing on August 31. If you have not already signed up for the Discussion Forums housed on the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse site, please see a Clearinghouse member for assistance in doing so.

National Partnerships: The Ties Grow Stronger

Partnership Work Group

Chair, John Habermann, IN LTAP

It is with great pleasure that this report brings good news in regards to our partners, National Association of County Engineers (NACE), American Public Works Association (APWA), and American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This report outlines the ongoing exchanges between NLTAPA and our partners, plus additional work that has helped strengthen our bonds.

I would first like to welcome Brian C. Roberts, the new National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Executive Director. Brian brings with him the same excitement for the LTAP mission as did Tony Giancola. We hope the best for Tony as he transitions into his new phase of life. The Partnership Workgroup and the NLTAPA Executive Committee appreciate his strong support all these years. We look forward to working with Brian Roberts. Dan Cady, NE LTAP has been very instrumental this year in being our point person for NACE. Thank you, Dan.

Martha Horseman of KY LTAP has successfully stepped into her role as the APWA liaison for the Partnership

Workgroup. NLTAPA currently has a seat at the table for APWA's Education Committee (Heath Pickerill, MO LTAP), Engineering & Technology Committee (David Orr, NY LTAP), and the Winter Maintenance Subcommittee (Ben Jordan, WI LTAP). APWA also saves room on their Annual Congress program for an LTAP selected topic. This year George Huntington, WY LTAP has agreed to present the Asset Management material that he and the Workforce Development and Products Workgroup have been assembling the last two years. I would just like to remind the membership that APWA has a very rigorous selection process when placing sessions on their Congress Agenda. For them to trust us with selecting a topic and speaker says a lot about the strength of our partnership. Thank you goes to Martha, Heath, David, Ben, and George for your contribution to NLTAPA and this workgroup.

Marie Walsh, LA LTAP and Kevin Burke, IL LTAP have continued to keep tabs on the heartbeat and many initiatives going on with AASHTO. Marie has continually made sure that her work with AASHTO gets transferred over to the Safety Workgroup activities. AASHTO has at any given time lots of activities planned and ongoing. The safety work NLTAPA is participating in with AASHTO has breathed fresh air into the partnership. Our mutual desire Towards Zero Deaths http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tzd/docs/tzd_summary_v3.pdf has added tremendous energy to our partnership. Thank you Kevin and Marie.



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

External Communications Work Group

Chair, Jim Grothaus, MN LTAP

Since February 2011, the NLTAPA workgroup has convened in four one hour conference calls. These were held on February 4th, March 11th, April 1st (no fooling) and June 10th. NLTAPA External Communications Workgroup Members include but are not limited to (yes, you can still volunteer): Jim Grothaus (MN LTAP), Andres Roda (NJ LTAP) and Louis Ferretti (PA LTAP). Our Goal is to Represent Centers to FHWA, our external partners, elected officials, national associations, and the transportation community.

We are currently working on the following initiatives:

- Develop and distribute 2011 NACE Conference summary articles to the NLTAPA membership (complete)
- Develop and distribute the 2011 membership list of the U.S. House and Senate Transportation Committees to the NLTAPA membership (complete)
- Develop and distribute annual letter to external partners on behalf of Association (in progress)

Here are a few statistics from 2009's LTAP Performance Assessment Report that makes the LTAP/TTAP program standout. Feel free to use this data when you engage in a conversation with your local representatives or the next time you run into one of our external partners. The LTAP/TTAP program delivers over 5,000 training sessions per year to over 140,000 participants. Over 835,000 hours of training is delivered on an annual basis. Additionally, LTAP/TTAP's centers distribute approximately 364,000 newsletters annually and all with just approximately 3.2 FTEs per center.

Finally, here are a few FAQ's and tips regarding educating partners and elected officials:

Frequently Asked Questions

"Is it OK to friend legislators and elected officials on Facebook?"

- **A:** It's fine to friend legislators and lawmakers, however you should be careful with candidates. If you friend one candidate, you should friend them all. Avoid "liking" candidates, because this could be seen as your organization favoring one candidate over another.

"Is there a fine line to recognizing an elected official for sponsoring certain pieces of legislation?"

- **A:** When it comes to thanking people for their legislative actions, if you are thanking them after the legislation has passed, then it doesn't count as lobbying. If you are thanking them for supporting legislation before it has passed, it will count as lobbying.

Tips for Educating:

Dos.....

Do know who represents you. Keep phone numbers and addresses handy. **Do identify yourself by name and organization** when talking with an elected official. **Do explain why the issue is important to you personally.** If possible, link the issue to a personal experience or a situation in the elected official's area. **Do get to know your elected officials.** Make an effort to appear at town meetings and other events, and be sure they hear you ask at least one question.

Do join forces with other types of groups that may be able to support you. Do wear many hats. When educating legislators, identify yourself as a parent, businessperson, or fellow church/club/team member.

Don'ts.....

Don't make enemies. Today's city council member can be tomorrow's governor. **Don't ever lie to or mislead a legislator** - trust is essential for a working relationship. **Don't overwhelm a legislator with too much information or paperwork.** They don't have time for it. **Don't forget to thank someone who was helpful.** Whenever possible, let your membership know how helpful the person has been. **Don't use terms or abbreviations that may be unfamiliar** to an official without explaining their meaning.

Educating Communicating the Issues	Lobbying The Issues + "The Ask"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Successes ▶ Need for services ▶ Demand for services ▶ Personal experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Successes ▶ Need for services ▶ Demand for services ▶ Personal experiences ▶ Specific legislative language ▶ Request for \$\$

Make sure you know the difference. Make sure you know what you are allowed to do for your unique situation.

Training Resource Products Update

Training Resources Work Group

Co-Chair, Ed Stellfox, MD LTAP

Co-Chair, George Huntington, WY LTAP

Starting with the results for the 2008 Needs Assessment, we have been pursuing the top two stated types of training resources, Video/DVDs and Slides/PowerPoint.

Videos/DVD

APWA/NACE/LTAP/FHWA Training Video Project

Last year the Chairman worked with APWA, NACE and FHWA on a proposal for updating ageing video resources. The proposal included developing new scripts for four proposed videos. APWA would take the lead and establish contact with a video production company they use for their training purposes. NACE Contacts would provide access to the work to be videotaped. LTAP would provide subject matter experts to provide onsite aid in the tapings as well as help with the scripting. This project is still under consideration.

Joint MD T2 and DE T2 Video Update Project

With the APWA/NACE/LTAP/FHWA project in waiting, Training Resource group members Matt Carter, DE T2 and Ed Stellfox, MD T2, decided to start a video project of their own. After procuring a commercial class camcorder (thanks to Mark Sandifer, FHWA) we set out to tape various types of work and produce training videos. Since Pavement Maintenance was No. 3 on the

Needs Assessment, arrangements were made with Cecil and Baltimore counties as well as DelDot and various Delaware municipalities to provide access to their projects. We also obtained permission to tape work done by several contractors in the Asphalt Recycling, Asphalt Surface Treatment and Asphalt Resurfacing lines. Currently, Matt has taped:
Microsurfacing with a continuous machine – June 2011
Warm Mix Asphalt (parking lot) – June 2011
Traditional paving – July 2009
Slurry Sealing over chip seal (Cecil County) – 2009
Safety Edge demo - 2010

And, Matt has the following scheduled:

Fog sealing asphalt shoulders of SR1 – end of July

Microsurfacing – truck mounted – end of July

Traditional paving or WMA on a mainline – end of July

Chip sealing (Cecil County) – August

Slurry seal over fabric (Cecil County) - pending

MD T2 is scheduling around Ed's schedule with Full Depth Reclamation scheduled for August. The project will be based on work in the Mid Atlantic Region but we will be able to modify the training videos using video clips provided from any of the other regions who are willing to provide video from their particular area. The Workgroup will make available slides and video clips used in the development of the training videos as well as any outtakes. (See attached for project particulars)



Slides/PowerPoint

Asset Management Course

Asset and Pavement Management was No. 1 on the needs assessment. Co-Chair George Huntington undertook a project to develop an Asset Management training program. For years, several Centers have been actively involved in assisting their local agencies with

asset management, notably the NH, MI and UT LTAP Centers. These Centers developed programs that are used by many local agencies

In 2008 NLTAPA's Training Resources Workgroup, conducted a survey polling LTAP/TTAP Centers about their training product needs. Asset and pavement management topped the list. As a result of this survey, FHWA (OPCD now TSS, NHI, and the Office of Asset Management) partnered with AP Tech, particularly Katie Zimmerman, to develop a course called Transportation Asset Management for Local Agencies. This course is now available to all Centers. So far it has been taught in Colorado, Illinois and New Jersey. Plans are in the works to present it elsewhere.

Course Review Process

Co-Chair George Huntingdon and member Victoria Beale worked to develop a procedure for the Training Resources Workgroup to review course materials from NHI or other sources. The procedure was reviewed and accepted by the Workgroup. This process should assess the materials applicability, relevance and usefulness to LTAP/TTAP Centers. It should help the Workgroup develop recommendations as to how the materials should be modified to be more useful for the Centers, and it may recommend how the Centers should use them. The Workgroup will assess the needed training in groups that have the appropriate experience.
(See attached Procedure)

Converting NHI Courses

The Workgroup received the materials for the NHI Safety Courses and will proceed with "Low Cost Safety Improvements" NHI 380076 with help of the Resource Center first.

Mark Sandifer (FHWA) talked to Pat Hassan, Resource Center Team Manager for Safety and Design. Pat had his people look at assisting us with converting NHI Courses to the LTAP audience and figured it would take about the same amount of time as the Highway Safety Manual (HSM) conversion they just did: Preparation/Coordination with LTAP throughout process: 4 - 5 days; Converting materials (2 day course to ½ - 1 day course): 2 - 4 days; Pilot and then update materials: 4 days, Total time is 10 to 13 days spread over several months.

This would help our group by having them take the first shot and saving us an immense amount of time

that we don't have. Mark said they will be able to help us out with at least one course conversion per year.

FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

*James Martin, North Carolina LTAP Director
Incoming NLTAPA President 2011/2012*

Hello LTAP and TTAP Family,

I address you as family because I believe we are just that! It will be my privilege to serve as your President over the next year. This year will be full of challenges and surprises, but I am confident that with your help we will take those on successfully.

For those of you who don't know me, I have been involved in North Carolina LTAP since 1988. I have been director of the NCLTAP since 1991. So I am one of the older rats in the barn, as they say. I have several other responsibilities at the Institute for Transportation and Education at NC State University, but nothing else that I have done over my career has been personally more rewarding than LTAP. We provide training, education and technical assistance that our local governments desperately need. Seeing the sense of accomplishment on the faces of our Road Scholar awardees makes all the effort worthwhile. Without LTAP, locals would be at a loss in many ways in regards to their transportation systems. I dare say that we produce more "bang for the buck" than most other federal programs.

One of the most important jobs is to continue working closely with our friends at FHWA and our Partners at NACE, AASHTO and APWA. The Federal Transportation Reauthorization Legislation is looming. The future of the LTAP program is just one of the little details in a voluminous piece of legislation. I will strive to keep our partners informed of the value that we provide to local and tribal governments across the country. We all shall work for a stronger and sustainable LTAP program for the foreseeable future.

As President, I pledge to continue the good work of those that have come before. And I will work to ensure that the LTAP program has a bright future for many years to come.

Thank you!

James Martin

REGIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 2011

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 1 met May 17-18 in Lake George, New York, at the Fort William Henry Conference Center. All of the region's eight centers had representatives present. First time regional meeting attendees were Geoffrey Scott, Lois Chaplin, and Barbara Lockwood from New York LTAP and Ted Green from the New Jersey LTAP.



This year's agenda included reports from the Federal Highway Administration, LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse, NLTAPA, and multiple presentations related to training techniques, communications, and center operations. One of the significant discussion items was the FHWA expansion to the program's Safety initiative. Centers were supportive of this activity and will be looking for additional information and resources at the National conference.

In the last year, a lot of new programs and activities have begun in the northeast region. Vermont LTAP shared their YouTube page and explained some of the pros and cons to creating and maintaining their site. New Hampshire explained their experiences with

setting up and populating a Facebook account for their program. Connecticut has begun a Center blog. Rhode Island reported that they are still very involved with workforce development and also facilitating some cooperative salt program use between the DOT and municipalities. Maine has their RSMS program completed and ready for distribution. Pete provided a ten minute demo as well. New Jersey reported on some recent technical assistance activities, including a retroreflectometer loan program and road safety audit assistance. New York has several new staff and has created a strong bike/ped program, including a bicycle loan "Bike Share" resource.

The region spent some time reviewing the plans for the summer 2011 national conference. Chris, Dan, and Janet shared some of the agenda items and asked for assistance in logistics items. The 2011 conference is receiving support in different ways from around the region. Registrations are being processed by New Jersey. David Orr of New York is facilitating a poster session, and Connecticut, Vermont, and Massachusetts are all working on presentations.

Vermont LTAP will have a new Director by the summer conference. After a prosperous career, Sally Collopy will be retiring and pursuing another career: Christmas Tree farming! We wish Sally all of the best and welcome her successor, David Antone, to the LTAP/TTAP community.

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

Region 2.....

NLTAPA Region 2, the seven Regional TTAP Centers, met in Nashville, Tennessee, May 3-6, 2011. The meeting was organized and hosted by the TTAP at Colorado State University at the newly restored Gaylord Opryland Resort. The Gaylord will also be the site of the 2011 National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC), scheduled for November 14-17.

The agenda this year included updates and information from the FHWA TPP Staff, ably represented by Mike Burk, Clark Martin, Fawn Thompson, Jeff Zaharewicz, and Cameron Ishaq. Other Federal partners attending were Tim Penney, Tribal Liaison in the FHWA Office of

Policy, and Craig Genzlinger from Federal Lands Highway. Tim provided an update on tribal transportation policy and funding issues, and Craig addressed Tribal Safety Management Systems. Susan Monahan was on hand to provide an update from the LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was represented by two members of the staff of the Eastern Region of the BIA, headquartered in Nashville. They were Katrina Jones, Acting Regional Road Engineer and Eric Wilcox, Management Analyst, Office of the Regional Director.



Other subjects and issues covered in the meeting included:

- The TTAP Strategic Initiative
- TTAP Curriculum development
- Center Operations/Best Practices
- Innovative Funding for Centers
- National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC) Planning

The meeting was also graced by the presence of a TTAP alumnus, Cheryl Cloud. Cheryl was formerly with the TTAP at Michigan Tech, and is now the Tribal Liaison with the national Scenic Byways Resource Center. Cheryl discussed the mechanisms for developing and operating a Scenic Byway.

In addition to discussions and presentations related to Center operations, the TTAP Centers added elements of Professional Development to this year's meeting. Two training sessions were conducted.

A.T. Stoddard from LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc., presented training for the TTAP staffs on "Developing, Enhancing, and Sustaining Tribal Transit Services. This training was based on a research project sponsored by the Transit Cooperative Research

Program (TCRP), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of The National Academies.

Giovanni Migliaccio, Ph.D., University of Washington Department of Construction Management presented a training session on how to interpret and use the "Guidebook for Successful Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination Strategies between Transportation Agencies and Tribal Communities". Dr. Migliaccio developed the guidebook under a grant sponsored by the TRB Native American Transportation Issues Committee.

While the TTAP staffs and their partners largely concentrated on Center operational issues, training, and business, they also managed to visit some of sights and attractions of Nashville. To be sure, this also involved the business of the TTAPs, as part of the planning process for the upcoming NTTC. This onerous work involved visits to the world famous Ryman Auditorium, original home of the Grand Old Opry, and to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. The work also included an evening at BB Kings' Blues review, just for research purposes, of course.

Region 3.....

Region 3 has a conference call the first Monday of every month. We discuss everything from training needs to federal programs like "Every Day Counts". We plan to meet at the national conference (although PA is unable to attend). A face to face region meeting will be held in Harrisburg October 17-18, 2011.

Recently we have discussed:

- HSM 101 Training for the Highway Safety Manual
- Obtaining training materials from NHI
- Annual meeting in Boston
- Having a face to face meeting
- Most popular courses:

- DE: 90% DeIDOT needs
 - HSM- 60 people express interest
 - Largest attendance has been Winter Workshop by/for DeIDOT

- MD:
 - Winter Maintenance, Chainsaw Safety, "nuts and bolts" stuff

- VA:

- Work Zone certification based on VDOT mandate
- Hosting NHI classes
 - VDOT pays registration, even for locals
 - Have been cancelling some engineering classes.

- APWA classes
- Michigan's web training
- MD and DE are looking at video development
- DOT travel to national meetings
- NACE desire for more pavement preservation training
- APWA/NACE/LTAP joint video grant proposal
- ARTBA wanting website feedback www.artba.org
- AASHTO anti-icing CDs available through the Clearinghouse
- Cargill Deicing Technologies providing free training and speakers for deicing issues
- LTAP/TTAP Clearinghouse Database

Region 4.....

Once again the Region 4 Annual meeting followed a natural disaster, last year the flooding in Nashville, this year the devastating tornadoes in Alabama. As with most natural disasters, the local governments are the ones who are affected the most. We were fortunate enough to have Richie Beyer, Elmore County, Alabama County Engineer come spend some time with us to discuss issues important to locals and possibly holding the Southeast Local Roads Conference once again. Richie also shared how his county is working with the State of Alabama on the Every Day Counts Initiative. Every state was represented at our meeting where hot topics of e-newsletters versus print, transfer and late registration fees, using social media, email marketing and how to lower costs and still produce quality training were discussed at length. Safety programs and training was also a topic of discussion and how each Center is integrating safety into their programs, not only worker safety but roadway safety as well. Most all Centers are involved in the Every Day Counts initiative in some way and sharing of how each Center is involved at different levels was a full morning discussion.

There was some discussion on the use of Center Libraries and the decline in use of printed materials,

videos, etc. and the ability to find quality, up-to-date videos is a challenge. The Region was very receptive to the Clearinghouse's proposed national library.

The highlight of the meeting was hearing from each of the Centers on their challenges, success stories and failures. Of course, the opportunity to network and fellowship with one another is always the better part of the meeting.

Region 4 will meet in South Carolina next year.



Region 5.....

The best way to sum up the year for Region 5 is to highlight collective efforts in our work with NLTAPA and our partners. Region 5 members hope to have a conference call sometime during the Fall.

The following have been our major contributions:

- Jim Grothaus, MN LTAP, has served on the NLTAPA Executive Committee as vice president along with contributing to the External Communications Workgroup.
- Kevin Burke, IL LTAP works on the AASHTO partnership on behalf of NLTAPA. And he too accepted a post on the Safety Workgroup.
- Tim Colling, MI LTAP accepted an invitation for an international scan to New Zealand, Australia and Europe to gather and share information on preserving and maintaining transportation assets, as well as policy, guidance and performance measures with regard to transportation assets. Tim also serves as a member on the Safety Workgroup.

- Ben Jordan, WI LTAP, participated on calls and travelled to the State of Washington to contribute and learn from the Winter Maintenance Subcommittee of APWA.
- Lisa Calvert, IN LTAP, continued on the Internal Communications Workgroup and helped with our most recent survey.
- Laura Slusher, IN LTAP joined the Safety Workgroup this past year and participated on a peer-to-peer exchange with LA LTAP and Iowa LTAP.
- Victoria Beale, OH LTAP, continued in her capacity on the Workforce Development and Training Workgroup.
- John Habermann, IN LTAP, served as the Partnership Workgroup Chairman and Region 5 representative on the NLTAPA Executive Committee.

As you can see, every state in Region 5 is active on some level with the work of NLTAPA. Region 5 has yet to meet as a group to discuss and debrief each other on all our activities. A conference call is planned for this fall to visit and share concerns and experiences. Thank you Region 5 for your strong support of NLTAPA.

Region 6.....

Region 6 held its annual meeting on January 4-6, 2011 in Texarkana, TX. As the name implies, Texarkana minimizes the need for out of state travel for several of our states. The meeting was attended by LTAP representatives from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and special guests from Mississippi that attended the safety train-the-trainer part of the meeting. New Mexico, our 5th state was unable to attend because of travel restrictions. In addition to LTAP we welcomed FHWA participants Jeffery Zaharewicz, Cameron Ishaq, Rosemarie Anderson (Office of Safety), Hillary Isebrands (Resource Center Technical Service Team) and Gary Delporto (OK Division Office). Susan Monahan from the Clearinghouse also participated and we were also happy to have Sylvia Medina, the TX DOT LTAP Program Manager join us.

The meeting kicked off with a one day train-the-trainer/pilot of FHWA's new Road Safety 365 class coordinated by Rosemarie Anderson. Since this

introduction, Texas has already presented the Road Safety 365 class and Louisiana and Arkansas have classes scheduled for later this summer. LTAP's participation in state and local road safety efforts were a major point of discussion during the meeting. The states in our region all have different organizational structures and different expertise and focus. These differences made for some lively discussions about the recognition of the importance of safety as well as the resource limitations of the Centers to fully address the local road safety situation.

FHWA provided their input on the agency perspective on safety, reauthorization, national LTAP program management and the increased emphasis on road safety. The Every Day Counts program was also discussed and the Centers enthusiastically discussed the peer exchanges and endorsed the relevant technologies. Hillary Isebrand provided a great overview of the resources available to the LTAPs and local customers through the Resource Center and tips on how to access assistance. Region 6 welcomed Jeffery Zaharewicz, the new TPP LTAP Program Manager, to his first ever LTAP Regional meeting. The whole experience was new to him but he held his own and decided to stick with LTAP after meeting all of us!



We enjoyed our state sharing opportunities which again highlighted the difference in focus and activities among our centers. Texas has supported the national safety efforts by hosting the FHWA class, Low Cost Safety Improvements, the Road Safety course and Road 365 courses. They also received a grant to develop and implement work zone safety training classes in Spanish which they have made available to the neighboring states free of charge. Classes were offered in Arkansas and are being scheduled in Louisiana. Arkansas has continued its supervisor training and has had extra requests for training on recognizing drug use in the workplace. Oklahoma held

its unique training class on Wild Land Fire Training which has been enthusiastically embraced by the local agency personnel who have been called on during recent emergency situation. Oklahoma is also proud of its hands-on Work Zone Safety training using a driving track and live (staged) traffic. Doug Wright, the long time LTAP Director was promoted to Director for the Center for Local Government Technology. Mikey Hinkston has taken his place as LTAP Director.

Louisiana has hired a full time road safety engineer, Jason Taylor, who will be attending the LTAP conference as a first timer this year. Justin will help the Center expand its safety services. The Louisiana LTAP mourns the loss of our Program Manager, Spencer Boatner, who passed away unexpectedly in late May. His enthusiasm and commitment to LTAP are greatly missed.

New Mexico continues to provide services based on the needs communicated by its customers. Demand for their heavy equipment training continues to be consistent. The New Mexico LTAP Director summed up these challenging times for his LTAP based on a quote from the classic cartoon character, Pogo. Pogo maintains the outlook that we can take to heart, "we are confronted by insurmountable opportunities."

Region 7.....

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Nebraska
June 1-2, 2011

On a sunny couple of days in June, thirty learned bodies representing 100% of Region 7 LTAP centers gathered together at Mahoney State Park in Nebraska for enlightenment and idea sharing with merriment at the "Home of the Testicle Festival". A plethora of resources resulted from each center sharing their recent successes and challenges. One common theme was implementation of different **learning and content management systems** like the *Transportation Learning Network* (TLN), *Drupal*, *Moodle*, and *Articulate E-Learning*. Many of these programs allow for the use of interactive training calendars, web seminars, catalog lists, online registration, downloadable video courses, ftp sites, social media, and more. Our guest speaker, Dr. Dan Cotton from the University of Nebraska Lincoln, presented on the opportunities through *Cooperative Extension* - taking research and putting it

into presentation format for distribution. *eXtension Interactive Learning* extends the reach of Cooperative Extension through the development of a national network providing access to objective, science-based information from land-grant universities. Dr. Cotton emphasized the importance of being a "contemporary knowledge worker" better connected to our customers through internet resources.

There has been increased use of webinars and distance learning. Suggested **webinar service providers** included *Instant Presenter*, *AnyMeeting.com*, *ElearningGuild.com*, *Elluminate*, and the *Adobe Connect* seminar room. Some new and unique **training programs** being offered include Dump Truck Safety, Local Project Administration, Education & Effectiveness of Local Elected Officials, 14-module Leadership Academy, Hazmat Awareness & Chemical Suicide Prevention, Local Asset Management, and Earthwork Technician Certification - with some centers developing higher level *Roads Scholar* programs. *Alternatives to Paving: Turning Asphalt Back to Gravel* has been a hot topic at several conferences, training classes, and webinars throughout our region.

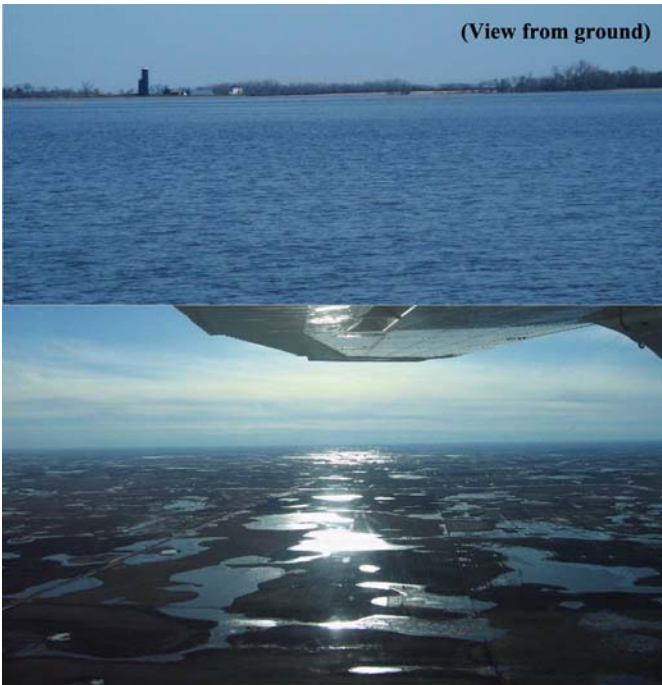


Ken Skorseth announced that he will be working with FHWA to update the frequently referenced *Gravel Road Maintenance & Design Manual*. Other **local road resources** used by centers are the *SD Rural Road Design, Maintenance, & Rehabilitation Guide*; *KS Road Management Handbook*; and *MN DOT Best Practices for Traffic Sign Maintenance/Management Handbook* – each of which is easily accessible online. Local technical assistance and **special projects** implemented by our centers include distributing ball bank indicators

at AASHTO design workshops addressing designing curves; grant application assistance; dynamic curve sign projects; setting speed limits on unpaved roads; recycled asphalt pavement in gravel roads; traffic graphics control planning kits; audience response evaluation clickers; and agency outreach programs. Several of our centers manage some form of **equipment loan program** - loaning out Dynamic Cone Penetrometers, Safety Edge Shoes, Sign & Pavement Marking Retroreflectometers, Speed Radar Displays; Traffic Counters; and Material Inspection Equipment.

Dan Cady promoted a 402 Safety Initiative – **C.A.R. Alliance for Safer Teen Driving** – that was begun after his grand-niece Cady Anne Reynolds was killed by a young distracted driver that had run a red light. Dan distributed brochures highlighting the significance of this awareness effort, and encourages all centers to consider his nephew as a promotional speaker on this topic.

Many states in our region are dealing with an exponential decline in local road conditions due to the worst flooding on record. Contrary to what this aerial photo implies, this is normally South Dakota farmland with no natural lakes! Kudos to South Dakota LTAP staff who successfully testified before the State Senate & House Transportation Committee for increased highway funding for locals.



At the National LTAP-TTAP conference in Boston, Region 7 will be voting on a new NLTAPA Executive Board representative, and Renée Koller is running for Vice-President. As we're sure is the case with many of you - several of our Region's centers discussed opportunities and implications of recent and upcoming staff changes. Please join us in welcoming *Josh Jones* to the Wyoming LTAP!

Our region supports the national Program focus on Safety and our Centers look forward to finding new ways to create opportunities to enhance their role as the "one-stop shop" for locals. We will close with a quote from our Region's very own illustrious NLTAPA president – Ken Skorseth – *"Funding will not lead to improved road conditions, but looking for low-cost solutions can."*

Region 9.....

The Region 9 meeting this year was held in beautiful Sedona, Arizona. In attendance were Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, and Utah. We have had several states unable to travel outside their state boundaries due to the travel restrictions that have been in effect for the last 2 years. We missed Washington, Oregon, and California. We were sad to hear that Laura Melendy would not be with us any longer after the wonderful job she has been doing representing our region and as treasurer of NLTAPA. She will be missed and we wish her the best in her new pursuits and the rest of us are now hearing footsteps.

It was good to hear, however, that Annie Boozer's Arizona program has been taken out of temporary semi hibernation and has an active program going once again. Even though she is not yet fully staffed she is about 2/3rds there. She has 3 levels of Road Scholar operating and a full schedule of workshops. All of the workshops are on demand only and they have contributing agencies pay annual contributions with no at the door fees. This is a little different than most of those in our region.

Utah just finished a Request for Qualifications process with UDOT that lasted through the last three months and was successful in a competition for services with another state university. The office was awarded a five year contract with one year reviews. Course programming and arranging had to be put on hold until

the end of the process, and are now proceeding once again and trying to make up lost time. They have just finished a visit to each county in the state with UDOT to train and educate elected officials of all the cities in each county. This year road safety and sign retroreflectivity were emphasized.

Idaho has just finished a state wide Safety Fest that incorporated all agencies within the state, which has been an extremely successful event for them. Bruce Drewes has been very happy with the excitement that it generates within the state regarding safety training of all kinds.

Alaska LTAP discussed the challenge that their state has is getting to the different parts of the state since many areas have no road connections and are accessible only by plane. They are involved with a successful engineering student training program to make sure that there is a future sufficiency of trained engineers throughout the state.

Nevada showed the progress on a very innovative bridge construction project that the region visited two years ago with our region 9 meeting. Lisa Cody is expanding the LTAP influence in different areas of the state.

Hawaii always has the challenge of traveling between islands when trying to contact and train their transportation groups in all areas. Costas also discussed the makeup of his Advisory Board and discussed how term limits on members could be handled.

As with all regions, the economy is challenging LTAPers with higher costs for services and lower revenues at local governmental agencies which are minimizing training and travel. We are finding innovative ways in getting the information to transportation practitioners.



Please visit the NLTAPA website for information on...

- Regional Representative and Executive Committee Contacts
- NLTAPA Executive Committee and Business Meeting Dates
- Past Meeting Minutes and Handouts
- Helpful Links

Thank you for attending the 2011 National LTAP/TTAP Conference in Boston, MA.....we will see you next year in Texas!