



## National LTAP/TTAP Association Annual Report July 2014 - June 2015

NLTAPA Members,

The NLTAPA Officers and Executive Committee members are pleased to provide you with this annual report for the period of July 2014 through June 2015.

### 2014/2015 NLTAPA OFFICERS

**President:** Valerie Pitts, KY KTAP

**President-Elect:** Johan Velat, Eastern TTAP  
(Chair of 2015 Conference Planning Committee)

**Vice President:** Matthew Enders, WA LTAP  
(Chair of the Partnership Workgroup)

**Treasurer:** Victoria Beale, OH LTAP

**Secretary:** Janet Leli, NJ LTAP

### REGION REPRESENTATIVES

**Northeast:** Janet Leli, NJ LTAP

(Co-Chair of the Joint Safety Workgroup)

**TTAP:** Byron Bluehorse, Alaska TTAP

(Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee)

**Mid-Atlantic:** Earl "Rusty" Lee, DE LTAP

(Co-Chair of the Joint Professional Development Workgroup)

**Southeast:** Jaime Carreon, FL LTAP

(Chair of the Communications Workgroup)

**Great Lakes:** Victoria Beale, OH LTAP

(Chair of the Training Resources Workgroup)

**South Central:** Laura Carter, AR LTAP

**North Central:** Denise Brown, ND LTAP

(Co-Chair of the Joint Professional Development Workgroup)

**Western:** Rebecca Mayher, AZ LTAP

### LIAISONS TO PARTNERS

**AASHTO:** Tim Colling, MI LTAP

**APWA:** James Martin, NC LTAP

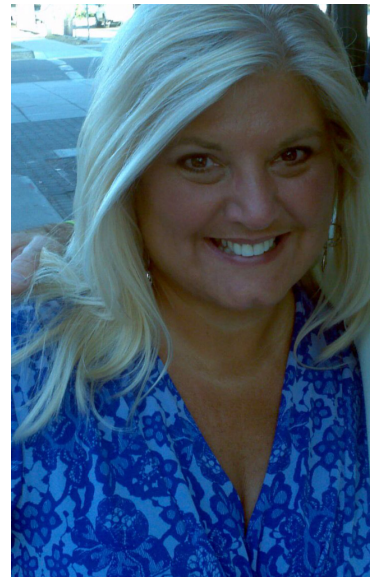
**NACE:** Lisa Harris, KS LTAP

### FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

*Valerie Pitts, KY LTAP*

*2014/2015 NLTAPA President*

Wow! That was a really fast year! It seems like only yesterday we were in St. Louis enjoying our legendary LTAP/TTAP fellowship and a great baseball game to boot, and for me I was excited to have the whole year in front of me. Now here we are in Savannah and while I'm still excited, the feeling is more bittersweet. Though the months have flown by in a flash I've truly enjoyed every moment leading the Association on your behalf.



There are numerous people that I need to thank for this great year. First I want to thank the Executive Committee Members. They have worked hard all year and I appreciate their willingness to dive in and do whatever it takes to get a task completed. I do want to give a special thank you to Jaime Carreon who, bless his heart, I can't believe he even answers the phone when I call, has answered my questions and helped me with numerous items like the EC Newsletter. Thanks Jaime!

I would also like to thank Jeff Zaharewicz, Cameron Ishaq and Mike Burk for all their hard work and support of the Program and the Association, not just this year but over the years. I've enjoyed working with you and share your enthusiasm and dedication to the Program. I feel the relationship between NLTAPA and FHWA is at an all-time high. We are working so closely on so many things that matter to you, the membership, and I hope that continues.

When we were together last July, I pledged to focus on three mission specific areas where I wanted to move NLTAPA forward: improving communications, increasing learning and networking opportunities, and widening participation from the membership. I'd like to report back to you now on where I think we are.

Communicating with our membership and partners has taken the priority for me. With the implementation of the EC Newsletter, my goal was to stay in touch with you to let you know that the EC is working diligently for you, the members, towards our goals for the year. It's meant to be a short and sweet monthly update, and I hope you have felt it useful and informative. We have also strengthened communications with our external partners – NACE, AASHTO, ARTBA and APWA – using Partnership Workgroup members as direct liaisons under the leadership of Matthew Enders.

The Joint Professional Development Program has been meticulously working on rebuilding and redefining the LTAP/TTAP Academy. Our Professional Development Workgroup is an integral part of the Joint Program and is helping to lead the way in designing new modules that will bring this important information to you in a new and accessible way. I'm most excited about this for our newer members but, even for some of us seasoned folks, it is going to be a great tool! Another goal was to provide topics at our annual conference that would appeal to everyone in a Center and not just directors and leadership folks. I think we are working hard to provide a valuable session that both meet the professional needs of Center staff and also provide the opportunity for peer-to-peer networking and knowledge sharing.

**Volunteer:** (noun) a person who performs a service willingly and without pay. That's what being involved in NLTAPA is! I have numerous volunteer obligations but none as rewarding as being an officer in NLTAPA. I've enjoyed the spirited debates, deep discussions and eventually, the work accomplished all to benefit you. More than ever, this association is dedicated to serving its members and focused on delivering results. That effectiveness depends on a steady stream of folks from the Center community getting together to push NLTAPA forward. You are those people, and I strongly encourage you to get involved at any level of the Association. With this being a member driven organization, the power to impact our membership and our future is in your hands!

I couldn't have been as successful in this role without the support of the Kentucky LTAP Center staff especially, Martha Horseman, our Director who has been very helpful and supportive of me this past year – thanks Martha! And thank you all for your support and words of encouragement, it meant a lot to me.

My final thank you is to my family, my husband, Roger (Mr. Wonderful) daughter, Kelsey and son Jacob. While

serving the Association on the Executive Committee I have missed a few basketball games, golf matches, and dog sitting duties and they have been very supportive of me. I'm very blessed!

I know the Association will continue producing great work and can't wait to see what the future holds.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Valerie  
2014/2015 NLTAPA President

## **NLTAPA WORKGROUP UPDATES**

The Association's main objectives are to build awareness about LTAP/TTAP in the transportation community, assist FHWA with developing strategies for the Program, and build the capacity of each Center to best meet the needs of its customers. The Association manages six workgroups to help accomplish this goal.

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

Over the past year, the NLTAPA Partnerships Workgroup has been focused on identifying and improving partnerships at the Center level with our partner organizations. Members of the workgroup spent time identifying potential benefits and collaboration opportunities with APWA chapters, NACE affiliates, and AASHTO members (state DOTs). This information was then shared with liaisons to our national partners to include in national partnership agreement updates. While the national agreement with NACE was recently updated, both the AASHTO and APWA agreements are several years old. Efforts to update both agreements through the NLTAPA Executive Committee are underway.

The workgroup, under the leadership of new co-chair Donna Shea (CT LTAP), has also been working with the National Transportation Training Directors (NTTD) to explore the possibility of a more formalized partnership. The NLTAPA Training Resources workgroup already works with the NTTD, leading to a discussion about the potential for more partnering opportunities.

Another workgroup activity is sending our NLTAPA liaisons to participate in those organizations' national meetings. This activity included sending Lisa Harris (KS LTAP) to participate in the NACE annual meeting in April, sending Tim Colling (MI LTAP) to participate in the AASHTO Safety Performance Committee meeting in June, and planning to send James Martin (NC LTAP) to participate in the APWA congress in August. Participation in those annual meetings has included serving as moderators and speakers, bringing LTAP/TTAP presenters to participate and share with

those organizations, and holding discussions with boards or executive committees.

In addition, our liaisons and workgroup are bringing representatives of our partner organizations to the annual meeting in Savannah. The workgroup has modified the format of the partnerships session to provide breakout groups with each partner representative to allow for more involved discussions about how Centers can best maximize opportunities to partner at the Center and national level.

The Partnerships workgroup plans to continue advancing new partnership agreements over the next several months, to determine the best ways to provide resources and opportunities to Centers, and to identify the most effective opportunities to engage with new partners.

## TRAINING RESOURCES

Your Training Resources Workgroup (TRWG) has been focused and productive over the 2014-2015 year. The TRWG team focused on building partnerships and deploying resources which centers can use in their daily operations.

A highlight of the TRWG's efforts over the past year was the T2 Handbook Webinar hosted on October 20th, 2014. The webinar featured the lead author of NCHRP 768: Guide to Accelerating New Technology Adoption through Directed Technology Transfer (T2),

Mark Hood, P.E., from Pennoni Associates, Inc. Engineer Hood presented a framework and guidance on how to use technology transfer to guide and accelerate innovation within state departments of

transportation (DOTs) and the local roadway community. The guidance assists agency personnel with any level of experience in adoption of new technology. Engineer Hood provided illustrative examples of innovations in organization and policy as well as design, materials and operations.

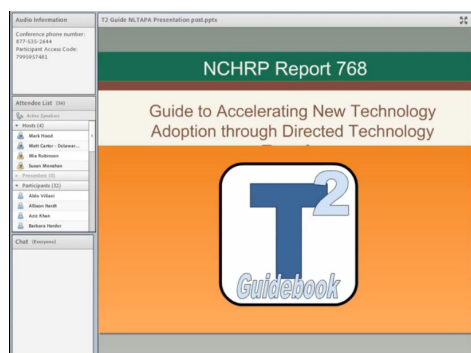
Approximately fifty participants joined the webinar live. If you missed the event and would like to view a recording of the webinar, please follow this link: <https://youtu.be/LD1ZEC4-MoE>. To view NCHRP 768, please follow this link: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp\\_rpt\\_768.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_768.pdf).

TRWG has also continued partnerships with the National Highway Institute (NHI), the National Transportation Training Directors (NTTD), the Transportation Coordination Curriculum Council (now known as TC3) and the Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Education and Training (ABG20). All partnerships were focused on continuing to build the capacity and availability of resources for all LTAP/TTAP Centers.

The partnership with NHI continued with three instructor development courses hosted by NHI specifically for LTAP/TTAP Center staff. The sessions were hosted in Michigan, Louisiana and Virginia. Participants became eligible to then apply to teach NHI Safety and other select courses based on their previous professional experience. Once accepted to teach an NHI course which a participant applied for, the new instructor can host sessions for the LTAP/TTAP center without the center being charged the NHI price point. To date, three participants have completed the entire NHI instructor certification process and their centers are now benefiting from having certified NHI instructors on staff. Two additional sessions of the NHI Train-the-Trainer course are being offered in 2015-2016 for LTAP/TTAP center staff. Please check the TRWG webpage on the National LTAP Association website for more details. (<http://www.nltapa.org/nltapa/workgroups/training-resources>)

The partnership with NTTD continued with attendance by TRWG member, Rebecca Mayher, at the Annual NTTD Conference in October of 2014. Rebecca presented at the conference generally on what the LTAP/TTAP centers are (for new NTTD members) and informed their membership of the work centers are completing, along with discussing ways in which centers can partner with the DOT Training Directors. A recommendation which was made for growing partnerships between individual centers and their respective DOT Training Directors was to reach out locally and work collaboratively to share instructors as DOT training is more soft skills focused and LTAP/TTAP centers have more technically focused training. The TRWG was happy to continue the partnership with NTTD and looks forward to expanding the synergies between our two groups in the future.

TRWG was well represented at the AASHTO TC3 meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February of 2015. The TC3 leadership discussed future plans for continuing the program and viably supporting it into the future within AASHTO. TC3 courses are being migrated from the NHI website to the new AASHTO eLearning platform. TRWG committed to continuing support of TC3 through course reviews and assistance with course development as subject matter expertise allows. The TC3 initiative has a long standing history of creating excellent eLearning courses focused on training for the technician level. TRWG looks forward





to continuing the partnership with the TC3 group now as a part of AASHTO.

TRWG continued a partnership between the LTAP/TTAP community and the National Academy of Science's Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Education and Training (ABG20). Members assisted with paper reviews, assisted with planning, coordinating and executing the sessions hosted and co-hosted by AGB20 and supported the delivery of AGB20's first ever webinar for the Transportation Education and Workforce Development community. The webinar was held on July 1st and featured speakers across the transportation spectrum discussing How Mobile Technologies Impact the Transportation Workforce. Over 120 participants joined the live presentation. If you missed the event and would like to view the webinar, please follow this link: [https://youtu.be/vg\\_pH1N2Zro](https://youtu.be/vg_pH1N2Zro).

TRWG is pleased to have accomplished so many efforts in support of all LTAP/TTAP centers during 2014-2015. We look forward to continued momentum into the new year!

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Communications Workgroup has been very busy this year working to improve the way the association disseminates information to the membership.

One initiative that was implemented by President Pitts is the publication of a monthly eNewsletter to the Association. This newsletter has been well received thus far and we feel it has provided important updates regarding NLTAPA business as well as a place for Workgroups and Regions to "show-off" what they have going on.

Another point of emphasis this year has been the website. We have worked closely with each workgroup by assigning a liaison to assist with any communication needs that may arise for their group as well as to help update their individual websites as needed.

The biggest news coming out of Communications is the successful completion of the NLTAPA Logo Contest. It was a great success having over 15 entries to the contest! We would like to again congratulate Ms. Stephanie Hubble from the MI LTAP Center who had the winning submission. The new logo will be unveiled during the

Annual Banquet at the Pirate House on Tuesday, July 21st.

This effort of choosing a new logo for the Association would not have been possible without strong participation from the membership as well as continued support from the EC. The approval of our new logo will prompt a cosmetic re-design of the NLTAPA website that we will undertake in the upcoming months. The website will also be updated with some new features that will increase usability for those that update the site as well as make it easier to find relevant information more quickly to all users of the site.

As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions for improving all items that come from our group. We also invite you to participate on our monthly conference calls. If you are interesting in joining and participating in the Communications Workgroup, please contact Jaime Carreon at [jacarreon@ufl.edu](mailto:jacarreon@ufl.edu).

## **JOINT NLTAPA/FHWA PROGRAMS**

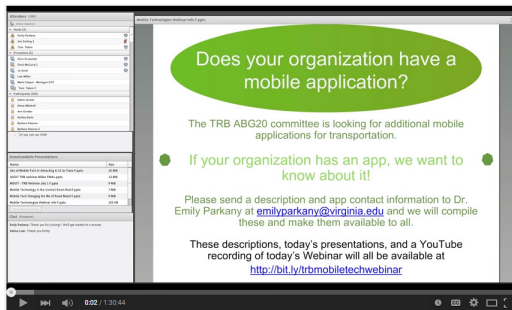
NLTAPA coordinates with FHWA on two joint programs.

### **JOINT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

The Professional Development Workgroup and Joint Professional Development Leadership Team have had a very busy year. The Savannah conference will open with the second "semester" of LTAP / TTAP U. This was very well received in St. Louis and will be a part of future meetings. The style remains the same with many short topics, instead of long presentations and information geared to all levels of experience of center staff, from our newest to the most senior. Savannah will also include a "sneak-peek" of the new LTAP / TTAP Academy. The Academy has been undergoing a complete overhaul and the entire workgroup has been contributing ideas and materials. The Academy will be an on-going effort, because the workgroup wants this to be done well instead of fast. The winter meeting saw another new professional development session, with an open discussion during lunch. The session provided an opportunity for new staff to ask questions, exchange ideas and learn from their counterparts in other Centers. This will also become a regular part of that meeting. The workgroup is always looking for new members of any experience level with the LTAP/TTAP programs.

### **JOINT SAFETY PROGRAM**

Through the NLTAPA/FHWA Joint Safety Program, the NLTAPA Safety Workgroup has been enhancing the capacity of the LTAP/TTAP centers in their roadway safety initiatives. Following the 2014 summer conference in St. Louis, MO, the workgroup hosted



several webinars to promote the sharing of best practices and proven safety countermeasures.

In November, we had a webinar on the broad topic of program-wide LTAP/TTAP Center Safety Activities. We looked closely at the program performance data on safety gathered from the PARs that shows how Center output has changed since the adoption of the strategic focus on safety. Some discussion items included the types of activities that are increasing both nationally and regionally; we also looked at what the data told us about needed tools and resources for Centers. Participants were able to share how their own programs have grown and/or faced challenges, as well as discuss how the Joint Safety Program could help in the future.

In February our webinar was devoted to Access Management. We reviewed two of the FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures for Intersections – Retroreflective Borders on Backplates and Corridor Access Management. The presentation, given by Jeff Shaw of the FHWA Office of Safety, covered the basics on the application of these countermeasures, their effectiveness in improving intersection safety, and use case studies to illustrate effective, successful implementation. We were able to post the recording of this presentation on [www.nltapa.org](http://www.nltapa.org) as a resource.

The Safety Workgroup continued to participate in the safety activities of our partners in support of the Joint Safety Program. Marie Walsh (LA) has been representing us with the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety and Tim Colling (MI) has been representing NLTAPA with the AASHTO Safety Performance Committee. Several members also attended and presented at the NACE conference in April. Our next partner meeting on the agenda is the AASHTO Safety Management Subcommittee meeting in September.

Our work continues with partnering agencies in support of initiatives such as Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) adoption in the states, as well as supporting safety data access and use among local agencies. These partnerships have proved to be a wonderful gateway for LTAP/TTAP Centers. We now have the opportunity to participate in the new AASHTO local roads task group, and we are looking for a volunteer to be actively represent us in their important work. This is another venue for supporting TZD and helping our local agencies advance their safety programs.

The Workgroup is always supportive of sharing information and technical resources throughout the LTAP/TTAP community. To this end, we have been posting items of interest to both the LTAP/TTAP discussion forum and the [www.nltapa.org](http://www.nltapa.org) website. We also take advantage of the opportunities when many of us are face-to-face to share the latest information from the roadway safety community with our members. For

example, we introduced the new FHWA- supported National Center for Rural Road Safety to members at the TRB/NLTAPA Winter Business Meeting. During the spring, we integrated a safety component into all of the region meetings. And, at the upcoming annual conference in Savannah, we have scheduled a half-day pre-conference session devoted to safety as well as three safety-oriented breakout sessions.

The workgroup is currently looking for someone who is based in a DOT center that would like to be our representative to serve on the AASHTO Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety- if you are interested, please let us know.

The timing of this update also allows us to introduce our newest member to the FHWA/NLTAPA Joint Safety Leadership Team that manages the Joint Safety Program. Nicole Frankl is joining Janet Leli (NJ) and Matthew Enders (WA) on the NLTAPA side, with Jeff Zaharewicz and Cameron Ishaq continuing to represent FHWA TPP. Nicole, the director of the Nebraska LTAP, is stepping in to allow Marie Walsh (LA) a reprieve from a very busy tenure with the JSLT. We offer a very appreciative and sincere thank you to Marie for all of her efforts!!!

## **NLTAPA REGION UPDATES**

### ***NORTHEAST***

The Northeast Region centers met May 4-6, 2015 in Mystic, Connecticut; the 2015 host was the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center. All eight centers were represented, with a total of 25 participants. The agenda began with updates from the FHWA Technology Partnerships Program and the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association. This was followed by a presentation by Stuart Thompson from the FHWA Office of Safety.

Time was spent sharing new activities and products during the “Center Show and Tell”. This component

has been well received during previous meetings and continues to provide colleagues with ideas and feedback. The 2015 Northeast Region Meeting was the first for new Vermont

director Kevin Gadapee. Kevin recently joined the program and is anxious to start implementing some new programs in Vermont. Also attending for the first time was Todd Eaton- Todd is the new circuit rider for VT LTAP; Stephanie Cottrell, training coordinator for NH



LTAP; and Melissa Foley, the new program manager for the Cornell Local Roads Program.

The Cornell Local Roads Program (NY) shared its results from their 2013 Training Needs Assessment Survey. One of the surprising trends in their responses was a significant interest in increasing computer skills (25% of respondents). Keeping in line with technology, New York also told us about their new work zone phone app. Connecticut shared their educational partnership with the New England chapter of the American Public Works Association. Working together, they have created a Level 1 Public Works Supervisor Certification that recognizes their LTAP Road Scholar program as an equivalent. Connecticut recently began a "Traffic Signal Circuit Rider" program with Connecticut DOT CMAQ funding secured for the next two years. The New Jersey LTAP discussed the success of its work zone equipment package program, something that was created from a previous region meeting "Center Show and Tell" session. The idea is based on a program originally run by New York. Another highlight was New Jersey's role in their state Traffic Incident Management training program, part of their state's Every Day Counts initiatives. Maine reported that they are continuing to update and train their locals in RSMS, which is Road System Management Software that allows towns to inventory their road network and collect data for decision making regarding rehabilitation, maintenance, and reconstruction. The most recent updates include signs and culverts. Maine is also running a new speed trailer loaner program for their locals. New Hampshire has added a "safety champion" level to their 3 level Road Scholar program. In order to encourage a heightened interest in safety, they have designed their program to designate those who have attended 20 hours of safety training as Safety Champions. The Rhode Island center has a new mechanics workshop they developed and it is based around using computers for mechanics. They are continuing with their public works academy and simulator training. Massachusetts' Bay State Roads Program shared their recent Massachusetts Innovation and Tech Transfer Conference, which was extremely well attended and will be running again in 2016. The Bay State Roads Program also hosted their DOT Research Peer Exchange.

One of the other aspects of this year's agenda was discussing adult learning tools and how to encourage participation and team building. We were all provided with two team building exercises to take back to our centers.

The 2016 Northeast Region Meeting will be hosted by the Rhode Island LTAP.

### ***TTAP***

This year the TTAP centers and FHWA TPP met in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for the regional meeting

at the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. The Sheraton hotel will be the site of the 18th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference in September 2015 and everyone is invited. During the regional meeting the Centers shared their activities and ongoing projects, the FHWA TPP team give their report, and the Centers discussed the upcoming tribal transportation conference and reviewed the first draft of the online course.

Overall the centers continue with a very busy schedule, hosting Safety Summits, conducting Road Safety Assessments, developing course material for new courses, hosting advisory committee meetings, developing partnerships with State Safety Offices and holding various workshops and webinars. For example, this past December the Southern Plains TTAP received ASAP funding to hold a Tribal Safety Champions workshop and presented at the Tribal Safety Peer Exchange.

Please join us in welcoming our newest directors, Rowena Yeahquo, NW TTAP located in Cheney, Washington and Todd Macalady, MW TTAP now located in Phoenix, Arizona. Both directors bring a range of experience in planning and project management.

The TTAP bids farewell to long standing TTAP colleague and friend Jim Self, SP TTAP. Jim will be departing at the end of July, we wish you the very best and will miss the quintessentially Texan sayings: "Y'all, Don't mess with Texas, Hissy fit" and of course but not least "Everything's bigger in Texas".

### ***MID-ATLANTIC***

After a great meeting in St. Louis, the region got together just outside Baltimore, MD. The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD was the site for the 2014 regional meeting. The MD LTAP Center was a wonderful host and ran an excellent meeting. We were joined by Jeff Zaharewicz and had lively the discussions of Center operations, training, safety and technology. And of course, there was time in the evening for the required socializing.

The region holds monthly conference calls which provide opportunities to exchange information, get a quick answer on something, and provide an opportunity to pass on information from the EC meetings. Also, the region was well represented in the annual Build a Better Mousetrap competition, with 3 of the 5 states in the region having entries and Pennsylvania receiving the first regional winner.

The region has also welcomed a new center director to the family. Beth O'Donnell is the new director of the Transportation Training Academy, the Virginia home of the LTAP Program.



## ***SOUTHEAST***

The Southeast Region, comprised of Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico, met for their 2015 Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA at the end of March.

The main focus of the meeting was preparing to host the Association for our National Meeting in July. During our 2-day event, we assigned tasks to each Center and toured the event venue and possible locations for our Monday night reception and Tuesday night banquet. We are looking forward to hosting all y'all and showing you what "Southern Hospitality" really means other than sweet tea and humidity!

In addition to planning for the Annual Meeting, we had presentations from FHWA TPP and the Office of Safety updating us on the latest items from their respective offices. This also included a great discussion of the best delivery method for resources among our Centers.

The 2016 Southeast Region Meeting will be held in Carolina Beach, NC and hosted by the NC LTAP Center.

## ***GREAT LAKES***

The Great Lakes Region states, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, had an incredibly busy year from 2014-2015, working to provide training and technical resources for our customers while improving efficiency and customer service. The following is just a highlight of center activities during this time.

### ***Wisconsin***

The Wisconsin center is currently focused on helping town and county officials understand and implement the new state Implements of Husbandry (IoH) and Agricultural Commercial Vehicle laws, which increased the maximum vehicle weight and axle weight allowed for agricultural equipment and created a locally administered permit program for oversize and overweight agricultural equipment.

This new law resulted from joint efforts by state and local government, agricultural industry representatives and agricultural equipment manufacturers. The center's focus has been on the most complicated and difficult part of the law for local officials to apply: the requirement for a "structurally based explanation" for any permit denial.

Starting in January 2015 IoH permit requests began rolling in and local officials are reviewing permit applications and deciding if the loads and the number of trips requested will result in either early pavement failure or a significant reduction in pavement life. Center staff has worked hard to give local officials

the structural basis needed for their permit decisions, such as conducting twenty-one presentations and two webinars on the engineering aspects of the IoH law for town officials and two presentations for county officials since September. It has been another busy year for Wisconsin LTAP!

### ***Minnesota***

In the last year, the Minnesota LTAP Center has developed two new online courses. Culvert Design and Maintenance highlights the important role culverts play in the drainage system by educating students on the elements of well-designed, well-built, and well-maintained culverts. It also covers the principles of culvert theory, design, location, planning, scheduling, permitting, and typical installations and outlines culvert inventory, inspection, repair, and rehabilitation methods.

Sign Maintenance and Management provides a concise, cohesive set of sign maintenance and management materials to employees of cities, counties, and municipalities. The course aims to help agencies develop and maintain plans and processes to meet MN MUTCD standards in their respective jurisdictions.

### ***Indiana***

This year, the Indiana LTAP center began producing GIS crash maps for counties; gained authorization to evaluate, award, and store continuing education credits; and developed and offered their first Information Technology IT Workshop to raise the level of IT understanding and utilization among locals.

The center also downsized the physical size of the resource library and increased its virtual library holdings. They have increased their training offerings, recording 6054 trainees LTAP workshops and receiving high evaluations on these trainings. In addition, their Road Scholar program has produced 110 Road Builder graduates and 29 Master Road Builder graduates.

By adding staff, association connections, sponsor activities, and technical equipment, the center continues to provide publications, support, and technical assistance and to local agencies. In addition, their Advisory Board meets quarterly and provides helpful oversight and guidance. Board members represent local elected officials, local engineers and superintendents, contractor community, associations, Purdue University, and the Indiana Department of Transportation.

### ***Illinois***

The Illinois Department of Transportation's LTAP Center has a very small staff and uses a cadre of instructors to offer a robust program of courses to local public agencies throughout the state. Their training program offers a range of classes in order to provide local agencies with information regarding various

technologies and keep them current with IDOT's standards.

The center's current focus is on safety training, and they work with locals across the state to bring them classes for flagger training/certification, OSHA requirements as they relate to safety in highway construction and maintenance operations, and agency specific areas focused on improving the effectiveness of local units of government to understand IDOT's specific requirements in areas such as motor fuel tax accounting and highway finance.

Center staff members have strong relationships with the Illinois Association of County Engineers, the Illinois Municipal League and the Township Officials of Illinois. They also work closely with APWA, holding leadership positions and contributing to the educational outreach activities of the APWA in Illinois.

### ***Michigan***

Michigan's LTAP recently launched online registration for all of their workshops and conferences, allowing LTAP staff more time to provide support and services to individuals who call in with more difficult questions or problems. They also began using I-Clicker technology during workshops: a remote control that acts as an audience response system, allowing instructors to involve attendees in the training session with multiple-choice questions. The instructor is able to share the results instantly and better educate the class using that information.

The center has hired two new in the past few months and added nine student interns who are working alongside staff to develop projects, produce support materials, and offer new ideas and energy to the center.

Michigan LTAP has seen an overall increase in attendance at their multi-day conferences. Some of the growth in attendance is based on the strength of the program's content; however, there is a positive impact on attendance since Michigan started requiring continuing education credits for Professional Engineer licensees.

The growth in such events has caused growing pains for Michigan LTAP but the center has overcome these challenges by investing in new AV equipment and switching to a new two-year planning method to secure the necessary tools and facilities to insure a smooth and educational event.

On March 12, 2015, Tim Colling, director of Michigan LTAP, spoke at the national Federal Highway Association (FHWA) Noteworthy Practices webinar on Michigan's Roadway Safety Partnerships and discussed the evolution of Michigan's crash data program, MDOT's Local Safety Initiative, and how

Roadsoft enables local agencies to collect and compile traffic crash data to analyze problem areas and advance safety goals.

### ***Ohio***

The Ohio LTAP Center wrapped up 2014 with a bang by hosting five Local Public Agency (LPA) Days throughout Ohio with positive feedback from attendees. The sessions provided updates for LPAs participating in the Local-let program, such as programmatic and environmental updates, along with an over view by field auditors of the "Top Ten Things" found on LPA audits.

The center had a great start to 2015 by finalizing and deploying a new Roadside Safety Field Guide app, which was modeled from the laminated pocket-guide of the same name and provides guidelines for the installation and maintenance of roadside safety hardware.

The center is also excited highlight the success of its new eLearning system, which has accepted over 1200 individual registrants to take online training modules, completing over 4500 online course sessions. All courses provided through eLearning are at no cost for all participants – government or private sector. The modules focused on the Local-let project administration have the highest completion rates and have received excellent feedback.

The center is looking forward to a great 2015-2016, with decreased fatalities and improved learning opportunities for all of our customers!

### ***SOUTH CENTRAL***

NLTAPA South Central Region, containing Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas held its Spring Regional Meeting on February 25-27, 2015 (see attached picture). The Texas Lone Star LTAP Center hosted the meeting at its Mesquite, TX TEEX/OSHA training facility. The meeting started on Wednesday with a new director's orientation for Tony Alotto, the new Texas LTAP Director and his staff. Later a dinner event was attended by all participants to network, get to know each other and enjoy some Texas steaks.

Thursday's agenda included updates from FHWA and the clearinghouse, EDC initiatives, bridge inspections, and centers sharing highlights of their individual states' activities; and the day ended with another dinner event for some local TexMex cuisine. Friday's agenda continued the Centers' sharing and the election of Tony Alotto as the new South Central Region representative to NLTAPA. The day was cut short by inclement weather, a freak snow storm in the Dallas area that either chased attendees home early, or delayed their departure.



The Arkansas Technology Transfer Center will recognize their first ROADS Scholar graduates at the Association of Arkansas County Judges Conference in October. The graduates received 24 hours of training which included infrastructure and worker/workplace safety training.

The Louisiana LTAP center has been busy: They have completed the fourth module in their Local Public Agency Core Training Program having presented 50 classes to 970 participants in the series since its initiation. They also completed a major outreach effort on Bridge Design and Inspection, including implementing a pilot project with DOTD and selected parishes to assemble and submitted required bridge documentation. This pilot led to a statewide effort with all parishes to locate and submit missing documentation and complete rating and/or verification for all local bridges. The effort is part of a Plan of Corrective Action between DOTD and FHWA to meet all Federal Performance Metrics. LTAP is also working closely with DOTD to deliver a bridge rating workshop; update the LTAP bridge inspection class to reflect new requirements; and revise the Roads Scholar Bridge Maintenance class to include new information on acceptable repair techniques and development of bridge maintenance programs.

The Texas Lone Star LTAP Center conducted its first annual Safety and Equipment Rodeo Roundup for approximately 300 attendees at its Bryan, TX Riverside Campus facility. Highlights of the day and a half session included safety and standards training, heavy equipment agility contests, construction, baking and consumption of two 8' pizzas, and a simulated pressurized gas line strike. Texas hopes to grow this to become a regional LTAP event in the future.

## ***NORTH CENTRAL***

North Central Region held their Annual Regional meeting May 26-27, 2015, in Ames, Iowa. Keith Knapp and his staff hosted the meeting. The conference was well attended with eight of nine centers from the North Central region present. Reports were given for all nine centers and included a report by Northern Plains TTAP, submitted by Dennis Trusty. The North Central Region will meet at the National LTAP/TTAP Conference, July 22, at 7:00 AM.

## ***Colorado***

The center is back to a one woman operation in Colorado! Renée Railsback, CO LTAP Director, has continued to redesign her Natural Disaster training program. She was asked to present at TRB on the Key Role of Low-Volume Roads in Emergencies and Disasters. In preparation for this session, she conducted additional research into common trends and challenges experienced by public works departments in responding to all types of natural disasters around the country. She has since developed it into a new program titled Public

Works Role in Emergency Response and has offered it at APWA Conferences around the state.

The Center received a Technology Transfer grant to purchase 2 additional sign retroreflectometers for its successful loan program. In addition, for the grant, Renée redesigned their Sign Inventory Management Systems training program and offered it around the state. The Center also submitted a 2015 STIC application for a Learning Management System. Other major committees and activities that CO LTAP participated in throughout the year include: CO SHSP Steering Committee - Rural Infrastructure & Data teams; APWA CO Chapter Board of Directors; CO State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) Executive Committee; EDC Initiatives and U.S. Forest Service Regional Conference speaker. The Center also began exploring social media by posting events and activities on Twitter.

## ***Iowa***

2015 is a year of rebuilding and transition for Iowa LTAP. The center has filled staff vacancies for existing positions and closed advertising for a new position in June. New staff have provided new ideas for workshops and the team continues to be a resource for technical assistance and trainings that Iowa LTAP has offered for many years. They are currently pursuing funding from alternative sources and expect to become more involved, as needed, with the efforts of the National Rural Road Safety in 2015. In addition this year, Iowa LTAP will explore alternatives to its newsletter distribution, work on training and growth work plans for staff, and continue with the development of an LTAP safety effort plan and road scholar program course alternatives.

## ***Kansas***

Roadway safety continues as a strong strategic priority for Kansas LTAP in 2015, with a number of initiatives developed as part of that priority. The team is actively involved in the State SHSP effort, including chairing the Local Roads Team, and serving on the SHSP Executive Council, the Older Drivers' Team and the Education Team. The center will begin a Kansas Safety Circuit Rider Program in October, in cooperation with KDOT, which will contract with regional safety circuit riders and target counties initiating local road safety plans.

In 2014, the center developed a pilot short course on Acquisition and Use of Crash Data and Information to Reduce Crashes on Local Roads. In addition, a new training series, which began last year, continues this year on "Low-Cost GIS Solutions for Cities and Counties," a hands-on series that will train in data acquisition, managing and manipulating the data, and applying the data to asset management tasks with free or low-cost GIS tools. A companion course was offered on "Applying GIS Solutions to create a Low-Cost Sign Inventory."

Kansas continues its strong publication development with newsletter content, fact sheets and field guides.

### **Missouri**

Missouri LTAP experienced another strong year for training in terms of the number of local government employees trained. Missouri rebranded their road scholar program as the MO-LTAP Scholars Program. In fall 2014, the center offered level 3 classes, which focus on supervisory skills and workforce development, as well as several Level 2 classes focusing on advanced maintenance skills and advanced safety topics offered throughout the year to serve the growing requests for continued training from the ever increasing number of Level 1 graduates.

The center developed several new classes, including Bucket Truck Operation & Safety, Confined Spaces, Fall Protection & Personal Protective Equipment, Forklift Operation & Safety, Introduction to Materials (Concrete, Asphalt & General Materials), and Trenching & Shoring. The team also designed a series of eight posters covering maintenance issues, safety, management and other related topics which they provided to all counties, cities and towns throughout the state. Center staff forged a new partnership with the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities to better inform the county clerks across the state on the class offerings and gain their support in promoting LTAP training within their county. The association is now represented by a county clerk on the MO-LTAP Advisory Committee.

### **Montana**

With their 31-year proven track record as an outreach program for the Montana transportation workforce, the Montana LTAP center has become a trusted resource for local agencies seeking training and technical assistance. Over this past year, the center has conducted 85 training sessions and eleven safety webinars on topics such as Skid Steer Safety, Leadership, and Temporary Traffic Control. The center's roads scholars program continues to be successful with 2,547 participants, 31 Roads Scholars, and 4 Road Masters.

The team also conducted several events including the 13th Annual Safety Congress, which covered work zone technician and traffic control supervisor certifications; the 25th Annual Equipment & Snow Rodeo competition, which included training on load securement and skid steer safety with hands-on training; and the MACRS 35th Annual Conference, which covered a range of topics from included gravel road stabilization to retaining excellent employees.

The center developed multiple MOUs with area colleges, covering an 11-county region in north central Montana including three Indian reservations and the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. They also made additional resources available on their electronic library database, hosted FHWA Every Day Counts dynamic webinars, and participated in the Asphalt Conference as well as the Montana League of Cities and Towns Public Works

Conference. The team continues networking with all transportation entities to ensure their constituents get the "best bang for their buck."

### **Nebraska**

Nebraska LTAP has had a very exciting year! The center moved to a new location that includes an on-site training classroom and will better accommodate its growing staff. They have continued to partner with NDOR; including expanding their course offerings for NDOR staff and locals, administering workforce development funds for locals seeking training, and facilitating partnerships in the areas of safety planning, metropolitan planning organizations, one- and six-year plans/SSAR reports, and EDC initiatives, to name a few!

The team is developing new training courses/programs in the areas of construction math, management skills, and construction surveying for locals. The center have revitalized its motor grader short course, delivered it to 30 classrooms across the state since January, and offered a train-the-trainer workshop to build a network of assistant trainers to sustain the motor grader program into the future. In addition, they have started a Mobile Simulator Classroom project, partnering with counties and private industry, to provide hands-on training to new operators throughout the state. They continue to provide standard classes and certifications and conferences to locals across the state.

Finally the center's Rural Transit Project received accolades this year. When the FTA visited our state last month, Nebraska had several communities that had increased their ridership by double digits.

### **North Dakota**

The center has launched several new trainings on Signing, Roadway Blading and Gravel Quality as 2015 focus areas and has developed a Sign Truck Show and Tell program that launched many local governments' signing programs to a whole new level. The team also developed and piloted a new basic signing class, Local Roadway – Signing 101 class, which will officially launch this fall.

In addition, the center launched a full scale motor-grader operator training – the first operator field/hands on training in the state – with a focus on quality gravel. The team is also continuing its statewide efforts to share technical information and encourage better gravel purchasing and better roadway treatments in face-to-face county meetings. The center is combining these efforts with information sharing on dust control and roadway surfacing criteria to help local leaders make better decisions that result in safer roadways.

The new initiatives have been very well received and add breadth to the center's already powerful program offerings.

### ***South Dakota***

Last October, SDLTAP, along with LTAP partners from ND, MT, WY, CO and NE, coordinated the largest ever Region Local Roads Conference in Rapid City with over 375 attendees from 21 states and Canada. The center also provided technical assistance to a SD Legislative Summer Study Commission on transportation funding needs in SD. Though this effort was long and exhaustive, it resulted in a projected \$17M to \$18M increase in funding for local transportation in SD.

In addition, the center began managing the annual SD Asphalt Conference, began participating in an NCHRP project team conducting a synthesis study of the extent of conversion of paved roads to unpaved across the nation, and completed a revision of the FHWA Gravel Roads Manual.

The center experienced barriers in being effective, such as a lack of customers who well connected to electronic media (making cyber delivery difficult) and incredible turnover in local agency management causing the team to constantly begin new training and assistance. Despite these challenges, the center saw a very healthy increase in training participants and number of participant hours, began seeing a growth in their followers on Facebook where they disseminate basic information to their readers, and noted an extremely broad customer reach this year – from the SD Governor's Office and Secretary of Transportation to a township in northern SD with a \$2,400 annual budget!

### ***Wyoming***

The Wyoming LTAP is expending its efforts in the infrastructural area. In 2014, the Wyoming County Commissioner Association (WCCA), Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) and the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) funded a project to develop a comprehensive database for Pavement Management System (PMS) of county paved roads. As part of that study, the center conducted a comprehensive data collection effort to collect roadway inventory data, pavement condition data and roadway thickness. The pavement condition data includes International Roughness Index (IRI), Rut Depths, Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and Present Serviceability Index (PSI). The pavement thickness was determined by using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) which estimated pavement and base thicknesses. In 2015, the Wyoming Legislature provided perpetual annual funding for this program.

### ***WESTERN***

The Western Region meeting this year was held in Vancouver, WA. Here are a few highlights from the Region for this past year:

### ***Alaska***

- Transferring library to the State of Alaska library system
- Switching to an electronic newsletter
- Hosting NHI courses via video teleconference (one live site plus two additional sites via video link)
- Alaska Tribal Technical Assistance Program Center
- Hosted the 17th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference in Anchorage, AK this year. Collaborated with Alaska LTAP and Center for Environmentally Sustainable Transportation in Cold Climates to host a Summer Transportation Institute covering various topics from pavement preservation, gravel road design and maintenance, dust control, soil basics and a tour of the permafrost tunnel.

### ***Arizona***

Provided 258 training sessions, 3,304 total participants for a total of 2409.5 training hours, completed 10 Safety Edge Open houses/Demonstration Projects and the center sent out a survey to our Stakeholders asking how they were doing as a center and feedback on what could be done better. The center received a total of 82 responses which were favorable on the services the center provides. AZLTAP will be taking the feedback and applying it to improve the centers operation.

### ***California***

- Experienced a significant increase in training sessions, hours, and participants (participants doubled over the previous year)
- Held a safety edge demonstration project
- Developed a new DBE training course

### ***Hawaii***

- Low light for year was sudden passing of former Hawaii LTAP Executive Director Costas Papacostas on May 9, 2015
- Highlight was partnering with Cement & Concrete Products Industry to provide Concrete Field Testing Technicians Grade 1 Certification, Annual Superintendents & Overseers Conference, Statewide Native Hawaiian Cultural Orientation Training

### ***Idaho***

Working to spread classes more broadly across the state to reach rural areas (7-8 people per class).

### ***Nevada***

- Developed 7 new courses over the past year including pavement design, communications, complete streets, and ADA design
- Replaced newsletter with "e-blasts"
- Beginning a local agency certification process for federal aid projects



## **Oregon**

Recruiting for a new safety circuit rider position (position funded by state DOT for 3 years)

Training sessions are up 39% over the previous year

Finalizing a "Roads Scholar" Level 2 program

## **Utah**

This last year Utah conducted a Scan Tour of 5 LTAPs in conjunction with their Local Government Program Manager at UDOT to see how other LTAP operated and see where what other programs were successfully using. The LTAPs that they visited were very diverse and had some very interesting programs. The five that they visited were Alaska, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, and North Dakota. They were surprised to see that each program had different approaches and their own personality and are looking at trying new tools in our program to see how effective they would be for them.

## **Washington**

In 2014 the Washington State LTAP Center partnered with counties to develop local road safety plans. The LTAP Center provided safety data, conducted workshops, hosted training classes, and gave technical support to counties statewide. Ultimately 31 of 39 counties completed a local road safety plan using their own staff, resources, and existing data. Priorities from those plans were awarded HSIP funds for a total of \$26.5 million in projects.

## **FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT**

*John Velat, ETTAP*

*2015/2016 NLTAPA President*

Before I was "volunteered" for the position of NLTAPA representative, my understanding of what NLTAPA did was limited to my exposure to business meetings at the national conference. That exposure didn't bring me much understanding of the value of the Association for my day-to-day duties, and I frankly wasn't too sure how my center or clients would benefit from my added duties as an NLTAPA representative. That limited understanding of the Association quickly changed as I began to work with the other volunteers of NLTAPA.



Volunteering for NLTAPA provides you with an opportunity to learn about how other people succeed, fail, and overcome challenges. You can learn how to serve your clients better, discover new skills, and share your own experience with those who will benefit from and appreciate your ideas. You will also learn about our

partners and sponsors, and they will learn more about you, your center, and your clients. Participating in NLTAPA workgroups, joint programs, committees, as representatives, as officers, and in other activities with our partners and sponsors provides you with learning opportunities that you can't get in a class or workshop. These new ideas, skills, and shared experiences provide tremendous benefit to you, your center and your clients.

As president, I will continue the great work done in the last few years to improve communication and cooperation between the Association and individual centers. Of course a big part of this communication comes from the openness that NLTAPA has fostered, but I found that the best way to foster communication is through volunteering and participation in Association activities, workgroups, joint programs, and partnerships.

I am honored to have been asked to lead the Association, but it is not a one-person job. The Association works because we have a talented and dedicated team of volunteers working and learning together. I hope that every volunteer that already unselfishly dedicates themselves to the Association and to your success at every center stays with NLTAPA, but I know from my own experience that we can make NLTAPA and every center even stronger with more and new volunteers. Join us, learn something, share something, and have some fun!

Your Association needs you!

John Velat  
Eastern TTAP