Traffic signs give drivers valuable information that they need to travel safely everyday. While each of us appreciates the importance of these signs, they are often neglected due to a lack of funding or time. The burden of traffic sign maintenance can be especially heavy for small communities. Realizing that this problem exists in areas across the state, TDOT has developed a grant program designed to improve highway safety in small communities across the state by offering assistance in the form of regulatory and warning signs for their roadways.

For towns with a population under 5,000 and counties under 30,000, TDOT has a grant program that offers up to $10,000 to be used for the purchase of traffic signs and mounting hardware. As a match to the state's grant funds, the local agency provides its own installation labor. There is also an option for grant recipients to purchase a package of recommended work zone traffic control devices, including drums, signs, and stop/slow paddles. Due to the safety emphasis of this program, street name signs are not eligible for the grant.

Once a city or county has been approved for the grant and placed on the waiting list, TTAP will perform a sign inventory in the community. The survey identifies the existing signs and includes recommendations for changes and additional signs in compliance with the Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The recipient is sent a list of signs that may be added or replaced and a set of maps identifying the location of each sign. The recipient is reimbursed up to $10,000 for the actual cost of all signs and hardware purchased from the list of eligible signs.

If you are interested in obtaining a traffic sign grant for your community, you may contact Diana Collins with the Tennessee Department of Transportation at (615) 253-2419. Applicants are awarded funding on a first-come, first-served basis. If applications for the current year exceed available funding, the remaining communities will be funded in the following year.

What it is:
TDOT Regulatory and Warning Traffic Sign Grant Program. The grant provides up to $10,000 per recipient.

Who is eligible:
Cities with a population of less than 5000, counties with a population of less than 30,000. Applicants must be in compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Program. Some previous recipients of the grant may be eligible; contact Diana Collins for details.

What is funded:
Regulatory and Warning signs and mounting hardware (posts, nuts and bolts, etc.). Street name signs are not covered under this grant program. The city or county must provide the labor to install the signs.

How to Apply:
Call Diana Collins with TDOT at (615) 253-2419.
is a publication of the Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP). TTAP is part of a nationwide effort financed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Its purpose is to translate into understandable terms the latest state-of-the-art technologies in the areas of roads, bridges, and public transportation to local highway and transportation personnel.

The views, opinions, and recommendations contained within this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of FHWA and TDOT.

Frank Brewer, Assistant Director, Training
Matt Cate, Senior Research Associate
Kent Bontrager, Research Assistant
Jenny Jones, RoadTalk Editor
Mollie Mitchell, Administrative Assistant
Jean Spangler, Course Registration
Julie Robinson, Course Materials

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Check Out These Websites
- Retrieve articles, news pages, or obtain industry related links at http://www.betterroads.com
- For information through the American Public Works check out http://www.pubworks.org
- For an information gateway for the transportation community visit http://jisweb.dot.gov/library/library.htm
- Looking for search engines, facts, maps, translation tools, etc. visit http://www.refdesk.com
- If you want to know how bridges work or how USB ports work or practically anything else go to http://www.howstuffworks.com
Highway Capacity Manual

by Frank Brewer

May 1, 2, 3, 2002 saw the presentation of the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) class. The class was conducted in Nashville. During this 3-day class the participants were provided insights into using the HCM. Ramps, weave sections, roadway widths, as well as shoulder widths were some of the factors discussed that affect highway capacity. As the audience was made up of TDOT personnel, city and county highway personnel, and highway consultants natural competition grew among the attendees. Dane Ismart, the instructor, provided ample agitation to keep the competition entertaining throughout the class.

At the completion of the class, Dane introduced a game called HCM Jeopardy. The categories pertained to the HCM. All responses had to be in the form of a question. The attendees were divided as to “The G People” (the government people) and “The Dark Side” (the consultants).

Going into the final round “The Dark Side” held the lead 4000 to 2100 with the category “Safety.” Being in second place “The G People” bet it all. Not to be outdone, “The Dark Side” matched the all or nothing-wager. As the answer was revealed each team busily discussed their response. Alas, they were both wrong!

Perhaps you know the correct question. Remember all responses must be in the form of a question. Ok, ready; “The safest mode of transportation.” Que the Jeopardy theme...

(Do you know the correct question? If not, you can find the correct question on page 6.)

MUTCD Revisions

by Karen Brunelle

Proposed Revision No. 2 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has been published in the May 21, 2002 Federal Register. The Federal Register notice (in PDF format) for this Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) can be accessed on the web via this link:


The text of the entire MUTCD reflecting all the proposed Revision No. 2 changes, and a “Change List” detailing each proposed change, can be accessed on the MUTCD web page: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov

The docket will be open for 90 days, until August 19, 2002.

Warning: The “change list” contains 258 pages!

(Editor’s Note: Karen Brunelle and David Martin are the instructors for our MUTCD workshops. Please check our training schedule to find the dates for the workshops in your area.)
About the Conference

The Seventh Southeast Local Roads Conference (SELRC) will be hosted by the South Carolina Transportation Technology Service (T'S). This is the first time the conference will be held in South Carolina. The local roads conference is targeted for county, city, and public works personnel but should also be attractive to federal and state highway personnel, contractors, vendors, consultants and all those whose work impacts the movement of persons and goods on local roads. It provides the opportunity to share success stories and innovative advances in transportation planning, traffic safety operations, roadway design, maintenance and construction.

The conference combines technical presentations with highway products exhibits to provide a forum for exchange of ideas within the local roads community.

The SELRC is a collaboration of the Federal Highway Administration and the southeastern LTAP Centers, which include AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, PR, SC, and TN.

Location & Accommodations

The conference will be held at the Wyndham Myrtle Beach Resort, which is located directly on the beach, and there is an excellent conference room rate of $65 per night, plus tax and a small resort fee. Additional information on the hotel is available at the T'S website, www.ce.clemson.edu/t3s. Register early for this popular conference. Each of the last two conferences, in TN and AL, had over 200 attendees.

You can make hotel reservations by calling them toll free at 1-800-996-3426, or directly at 843-449-5000. Request the Southeast Local Roads group rate. This conference room rate will be available until August 22, 2002 or until the room block is filled.

Registration Fees

$125.00 through August 22, 2002
$150.00 after August 22, 2002

The registration fee includes the reception Sunday evening, continental breakfasts, breaks, and the Monday luncheon. If your guest(s) would like to join us for the reception and breakfasts, please indicate this on the registration form. There is a $30.00 fee for each guest. You can register by completing the form on the last page of this brochure or you can register online at www.ce.clemson.edu/t3s. Advance payment is preferred, however, we will accept registration fees upon arrival at the conference.

PDHs Available

Participants in this conference will be able to receive nine (9) Professional Development Hours (PDHs) to support the annual renewal of professional registration requirements.

Exhibits

Vendor displays will cover a wide array of topics intended to make you familiar with the latest technological advances and products. If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor, please contact Debbie Lipscomb at 864-656-1456 for more information or to obtain an exhibitor registration form. Exhibitor space will be allotted on a first come, first served basis.

Cancellation Policy

The registration fee is not refundable if a registrant withdraws less than 10 days prior to the conference. Substitutions may be made at any time, please notify us in advance if possible. No shows will be liable for the entire conference fee. After August 22, 2002 a $25.00 cancellation fee will be assessed.

Participants with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities or dietary restrictions are requested to contact the T'S office at least two weeks prior to the conference so that proper arrangements can be made for any special need.

continued on page 5
## Tentative Agenda
### Sunday, September 22, 2002
- **9:00AM-2:00PM** Golf Outing
- **2:00PM-6:00PM** Registration (Hotel Lobby)
- **7:00PM-9:00PM** Reception (Dunes Ballroom—16th Floor—Spectacular View)

## Tentative Agenda
### Monday, September 23, 2002
- **7:00-8:00** Continental Breakfast with Vendors (Mezzanine)
- **8:00-10:00** General Session
  - Opening Remarks—FHWA’s Perspective
  - Full-Depth Reclamation Using Soil Cement, Greg Halsted & David Lahr, PCA
  - Geosynthetics and FHWA’s New Gravel Roads Manual, Ron Anderson, Tensar Earth Technologies
  - Applications of Rubberized Asphalt for Local Roads, Saroj Amirkhanian, ARTS, Clemson University
- **10:00-10:30** Break with Vendors (Mezzanine)
- **10:30-12:00** Concurrent Sessions

### 1A. Solutions for Residential Speeding Problems
- History of Traffic Calming in Mobile, AL
- So who’s street is it anyway?: A perspective of traffic calming from the state, local government and resident
- Lessons Learned in Traffic Calming

### 1B. Technology Transfer: Learning from Others
- Cost Effective Training: Click Listen & Learn
- Demonstration Showcase: Sharing Successful Projects with Peers
- Aggressive Pavement Maintenance Reconstruction Technologies

### 2A. Low Volume Roads
- Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low Volume Roads
- Automated Pavement Condition Assessment for County Roads
- A Successful Bridge Replacement Program for Alabama Counties

### 2B. ITS Applications for Local Roads
- Crash Site Management
- Monitoring Trucks on Rural Roads: The Virtual Weigh Station

### 3A. Alternative Modes of Transportation
- Development of a Traffic Impact Ordinance for a Small City
- Bicycle Information Initiative
- Pedestrian Pathways

### 3B. Safety and Parking Problems at the Local Level
- Highway Safety Features for Local Roads
- Parking Studies at the Municipal Level

## Tentative Agenda
### Tuesday, September 24, 2002
- **7:00-8:00** Continental Breakfast (Mezzanine)
- **8:00-9:30** Concurrent Sessions

### 4A. GPS and GIS Technology for Road Management
- Global Positioning System Basics
- GIS and Roadway Management
- GPS/GIS: A Local Government’s Perspective

### 4B. Issues of the Transportation Disadvantaged
- OJT Support Services Program for Low Income Persons
- Elderly and Handicapped Hurricane Evacuation in Small Urban and Rural Areas
- Community Inclusion Driver Strategy for Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas

- **9:30-10:00** Break (Mezzanine)
- **10:00-11:30** General Session
  - Intersection Safety, Rudy Umba, FHWA
  - Highway Rail Crossing Safety, Bob Winans, FHWA
  - LTPP and Computer Based Training (CBT) Products for You!, Mike Moravec, FHWA

Registration form for the conference is on page 8. Also note that if there is sufficient interest, a golf outing will be planned for Sunday morning. Please call Debbie Lipscomb at 864-656-1456 for more information.
**2002-2003 WORKSHOP CATALOG IS IN THE MAIL. THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF WHAT IS OFFERED.**

Image of a sign:

- **UPCOMING TRAINING**

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**Education and training opportunities** are available through the University of Tennessee Center for Transportation Research (CTR), Southeast Transportation Center (STC), and Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP). This listing of courses currently available includes both TTAP and TATE courses that are offered in conjunction with the University of Tennessee Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Tennessee Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Local roadway departments can benefit from all of the workshops. Because of this, we ask that you please share this listing with others who might be interested in our workshops. The Center for Transportation Research is always eager to meet your research and training needs. If you have a special course in mind or would like a course held on site especially for your employees, please contact Jean Spangler at 1-800-252-ROAD

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*CEU and PDH credit hours available.

Answer to HCM Jeopardy is: "What is an elevator?"

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Summer Paving Projects

by Kent Bontrager

It is that time of year again when the weather is warm, the days are sunny, and the local roads are ready for re-paving. Paving projects are large investments for state and local authorities. With these large investments state officials (TDOT) hire full-time inspectors to observe the paving process while under construction. These inspectors help coordinate between the contractor and the TDOT engineers. They also provide assurance the contractor is following the plans and specifications.

Local Authorities typically do not have the resources or the magnitude of work to warrant a full-time inspector. However, there are ways to help assure your projects run smoothly and within budget. First thing you need to do is designate a person to act as the project representative, this can be anyone who is willing to observe and ask questions. The project representative should try to work full-time during the construction. If it is not possible to have him/her work full time, then they should show up on the site a few hours a day preferably at variable times. During each site visit the representative should walk around and look at the project. The following is a list of things to observe during a site visit:

1. Collect all tickets (receipts) from truck deliveries. This will assure you pay for what the contractor uses. (You will have to set up your contract to pay the contractor by final quantities).

2. Measure the length and width of all new pavement. Make sure the pavement is the correct width no wider or shorter.

3. Measure the thickness of the pavement.

4. Ask for the mix design provided by the Asphalt Plant. Compare it to the TDOT specifications.

5. Take daily pictures during construction.

6. Make sure all surfaces are clean & dry before any pavement is placed.

7. Make sure no paving is allowed in bad weather.

8. If drawings & specifications have been generated for your project, make sure the contractor is following them.

Observing these few things can help assure a quality project and will help minimize cost overruns. The TTAP video library has additional information on pavement inspection. Call us if you want more information on what is available in our video library.

TALK TO TTAP

We are always looking for your comments, ideas and suggestions to help make the TTAP program more useful to you.

1. Please send me more information on the following articles mentioned in this newsletter.

2. Please list any additional training workshops you would be interested in attending.

3. Please list topics for videos you would like TTAP to obtain.

4. Please list any other ideas or suggestions on how TTAP could assist you.

5. Please list your name and organization to verify for TTAP’s mailing list.

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Are you currently on TTAP’s mailing list? ____ yes ____ no

Please fax your form to TTAP at (865) 974-3889 or mail to TTAP; Suite 309 Conference Center Building; Knoxville, TN 37996-4133.

FROM: ________________________________
**2002 SELRC Registration Form**

*You may register online via our website at [www.cee.clemson.edu/t3s]*

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**Send registration form by mail or fax, mail check to address below:**
Transportation Technology Transfer Service  
Civil Engineering Department  
114 Lowry Hall  
Clemson, SC 29634-0911

Toll free: 1-888-414-3069  
Phone: 864-656-1456  
Fax: 864-656-2670  
t3s@ces.clemson.edu