Florida’s Traffic Engineering and Safety Workforce Training Update
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Palm Bay Public Works teams up with the community in a neighborhood renewal
see Team Project on page 5

Contents

3 Free Safety Courses
3 Safe Mobility for Life
4–7 FACERS Award Winners
9 New FDOT Research Cards
10 High-visibility Safety Apparel Rules
12 Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers in Work Zones Rules
13 New PDSs
Save Money Without Sacrificing Training!

We at the Florida T² Center understand that your agency must cope with smaller budgets, but you still have employees who need training. Save time and money on travel by hosting a training at your facility. A minimum number of participants is required for a workshop to make, so piggyback the trainings with employees from other nearby agencies. The host agency provides a meeting space and assists in contacting the other agencies to help meet the minimum number of trainees needed. The T² Center instructor presents the training at your site, saving employee travel time and money. That can really add up!

Review the workshops available at t2.ce.ufl.edu and call David with your training needs at 352.392.2371 ext. 224.

Florida T² Center Strengthens Its Partnership with the Bicycle Safety and Education Programs

Over the years, the Florida T² Center has been very involved with bicycle and pedestrian safety, working closely with agencies, key individuals, and organizations to educate bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists about safety issues and promote safe practices. Recently, the opportunity to share office space and further enhance this involvement arose.

Former University of Florida’s (UF) Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education (FTBSE) Program Director, Dr. Linda Crider, new Director, Dan Connaughton, from UF’s College of Health and Human Performance, and Laura Hallam, Florida Bicycle Association Executive Director, will be housed at our location in Gainesville. Linda will assist Dan as she provides bicycle/pedestrian education training and oversees Bike Florida, in addition to conducting Safe Routes to School training as a nationally-certified trainer. Together these experts bring their knowledge and passion for bicycling and pedestrian issues to our team so we can continue making a positive impact on safety.

Welcome aboard!
Free Registration for Select Safety Courses

Does your agency qualify?

Thanks to a Florida Department of Transportation Safety Office grant, qualifying local agencies can receive tuition waivers to attend one of the following courses: Road Safety Assessments (RSAs) for Local Governments, RSAs for Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs), Low Cost Safety Improvements for Rural Roads, Intersection Safety, and the soon to be released Introduction to the Florida Greenbook. Course sessions are being scheduled now for the fall, so contact Jaime Carreon jaime@ce.ufl.edu at 352.846.3593 ext. 234 to see if your agency qualifies for this assistance. You can also visit t2.ce.ufl.edu/workshops.asp for scheduling information and course descriptions.

The Safe Mobility for Life Program

Preparing Florida for the Future

By 2020, one in four Florida residents will be over the age of 65 and half of those will be 75 or older. To meet the needs of this aging population as well as younger drivers, the Florida Department of Transportation has developed Florida-specific training for planners, engineers, public works personnel, local elected officials, and other associated professionals.

The one day workshop, “The Safe Mobility for Life Program: Preparing Our State for the Future,” focuses on mature drivers and pedestrians, and presents options plus alternative solutions to the planning, design, and operation of Florida roadways and transportation facilities.

Training goals are to share applied knowledge and encourage roadway enhancements that benefit mature drivers when planning, operating, and designing for safer state and local roadways. The workshop is based on the Federal Highway Administration’s Highway Design Handbook for Older Drivers and Pedestrians.

Twelve classes are being scheduled at various locations around the state. No fee will be charged but registration is required as seating is limited. To date, the following locations have been scheduled:

- August 26, 2008 Punta Gorda
- September 10, 2008 Brooksville
- November 5, 2008 Sebring
- February 11, 2009 Vero Beach
- April 22, 2009 Bushnell

Call the T² Center at 352.392.2371 ext. 223 or visit t2.ce.ufl.edu/workshops.asp for more details or to register.
FACERS Awards

The Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents (FACERS) recognizes excellent service in Florida’s public works agencies. The FACERS awards are the most prestigious professional recognition in Florida for transportation and public works personnel. The awards are Public Works Employee of the Year, Team Project of the Year, Rural Engineer of the Year, and Urban Engineer of the Year. Visit www.facers.org for more information.

FACERS Awards and Qualification Criteria

All FACERS award nominees receive written notification and congratulations upon nomination. Winners receive statewide recognition at the FACERS annual conference and their accomplishments and photos are featured in Technology Transfer Quarterly.

Every individual employed within a Florida city or county public works agency is eligible for the Public Works Employee of the Year Award.

Public agency teams comprised of employees within a Florida city or county public works agency are eligible for the Public Works Team Project of the Year Award.

Rural Engineer Award nominees must have performed services in a public agency serving a population of less than 100,000.

Urban Engineer Award nominees must have performed services in a public agency serving a population of 100,000 or more.

Nominations for calendar year 2008 projects are now being accepted through April 20, 2009. Go to www.facers.org to nominate a project, team, or individual. Nominees are not required to be a FACERS member.

Public Works Employee of the Year

Ms. Cindy Bell
Senior Accounting Executive
Hillsborough County Public Works Department

Ms. Cindy Bell manages the Hillsborough County Public Works Department fiscal section, which is responsible for budgets. Her section reviews and approves pay applications and works closely with the Capital Projects Management Section and the Management and Budget Office to develop the annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program budget.

Thomas Fass, P.E., Projects Management Section Manager, nominated Bell. He stated, “In my 23 years of public service I have never worked with someone with such dedication and commitment to ensuring the safeguards of public funds.” In the past two years, Hillsborough County’s CIP program has grown from $40 million annually to a program that exceeds $80 million. Bell and her team absorbed the increased workload without any additional resources. Fass says, “Frankly, without her insight and attention to detail, this task could not be completed.”

Bell is unrivaled in tracking project requirements. She has a handle on available funding, whether impact fees, ad valorem, gas tax, or Capital Improvement tax dollars. She reviews all contracts, budget amendments, and work orders for accuracy and compliance with the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioner and Procurement Department policies.

In terms of reviewing pay requests, there is no one better at ensuring the tax payers’ best interests are maintained. Her attention to detail is exacting, and errors are corrected without fanfare. Bell is quick to determine discrepancies in billing codes, man-hours, quantities, and salaries. Recently, an issue with a testing lab arose. On the surface, had the discrepancy not been uncovered, it would have appeared as if fraud was occurring. Through Bell’s detailed analysis, the problems with the lab were identified and addressed, and the lab was given the opportunity to rectify the problems. Instead of being terminated for their billing errors, they were able to correct their mistakes and maintain their services in support of Hillsborough County’s accelerated CIP program.

Bell continues to provide dedicated and exemplary service. Through her leadership, she has set a standard of highest quality in public service for all of Hillsborough County.

Congratulations, Cindy, for your outstanding contributions and being named FACERS Public Works Employee of the Year.
Liberia Avenue and Neighborhood Revitalization
City of Palm Bay Public Works Department
Jim Proce, Public Works Director; Bob Combs, Jr., Police
Department; Chad Shoultz, Assistant Public Works
Director; Bill Watkinson, Public Works Maintenance
Supervisor; Bob Cartier, Public Works Maintenance
Supervisor; Barrington Brown, Public Works Engineer;
Michael Hammer and Michael Carr, Engineering
Inspectors; Stuart Gourlay, Crew Leader, Maintenance
& Construction Crews; Janice Everson, Congregations
for Community Action; Shirley Broomfield, Congrega-
tions for Community Action; Norm Gleason, Congre-
gations for Community Action; Pastor Harvey Riley,
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church; Robert Loring, Planner;
Rochelle Lawandales, Planning Consultant; Glenn

Powell’s Subdivision, and its main thoroughfare, Liberia
Avenue, in Palm Bay had been plagued with poor drain-
age resulting in frequent flooding, aged and failing infra-
structure, run-down housing and a plethora of code vi-
lations, along with severe crime, prostitution, and drug
dealing. Residents had little trust in local authorities.

Enter the Palm Bay Public Works Department. The Public
Works Director met with groups to determine needs and
approach. Understanding sensitive issues, partnership,
and communication with the community became priori-
ties, so staff walked the streets with residents to learn
about existing issues.

A pilot project was implemented and supervised by commu-
nity residents, local civic organizations, and city staff.
They also signed a Covenant for Our Community docu-
ment, resulting in support and securing help from the
residents to plan landscaping, lighting, street furniture,
community entryways, and signage. Community part-
tners included local churches, the Congregations for
Community Action, a charter school, and civic organiza-
tions. The City Council, County Commission, the Bay-
front Community Redevelopment District, and the State
Attorney’s Office participated. Police, fire, planning,
parks, public works/engineering, code enforcement, and
economic and neighborhood development groups also
became involved. Finally, the media provided positive
coverage.
Project improvements included a large drainage system, an attractive retention pond, rebuilding the road network, and an interior road designed to interrupt traffic patterns. Traffic calming devices, lighting, landscaping, right-of-way conversion into a linear park, sidewalks, and parking were also designed and implemented. Additional improvements included a zero-depth water feature, landscaped picnic areas, and the acquisition and cleanup of a rundown grocery store (through code enforcement liens). The area was renamed from Powell’s Subdivision to Driskell Heights, further emphasizing the extreme makeover.

The $2 million, multi-year and multi-phase project used traditional municipal funds, grant funding, transportation impact fees, and Bayfront Community Redevelopment Agency funds.

Positive aspects include active neighborhood watch units, improved emergency services response, and crime reduction (26 percent drop in the first year). Community meetings continue to monitor all neighborhood activities. Code enforcement violations, litter, and vandalism have been eliminated through an Adopt-a-Road litter program and the Clean Up Blitz Program (CLUB) (recognized by Florida League of Cities); and patrolled by the Beautification Enhancement Strike Team (BEST).

The Liberia Avenue Neighborhood Revitalization Project exemplifies what can occur when local government engages in partnerships with its citizens. Palm Bay Public Works Department Team leadership and willingness to think creatively led to substantial changes. Together, they transformed a neighborhood from a place of blight and crime into a place that residents are proud to call home. This was not only a project for the community, but a project by the community.

Rural Engineer of the Year
Bart Arrington, P.E.
DeSoto County Engineer
DeSoto County

Bart Arrington became the Desoto County Engineer during a period when the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Desoto County had numerous joint and Local Agency Program (LAP) projects underway, and even more projects pending. The project list included state-funded, small county outreach, small county road assistance widening and resurfacing projects, as well as many federally-funded transportation enhancement, sidewalk, and landscaping projects. All required specific agreements and stipulations for their design, construction and inspection, depending on the funding source.

Arrington, having recently joined Desoto County from a private engineering firm, met the many challenges of state and federal requirements for funding and constructing projects on county roads. During times of rising highway costs and funding shortfalls, Bart always kept Desoto County’s best interests in mind. He worked with the FDOT representatives to resolve many issues and to provide the significant oversight and coordination to complete these projects, according to requirements.

Bart’s leadership and professionalism became more apparent when he was appointed interim County Administrator, all while maintaining his county engineering responsibilities. Bart’s efforts, as well as his staff’s, in accomplishing many highway-related improvements for Desoto County citizens, are highly admirable, especially given the devastation that continued to impact the county as a result of the 2004 hurricanes.

Bart’s superior performance led three FDOT District 1 staff to nominate him: Susan King, Rural County Community Liaison; Karen Miracola, Joint Projects Agreement Manager, and Michelle Peronto, District I LAP Administrator.

Congratulations, Bart, on your dedication and superior performance!
Urban Engineer of the Year

William (Roger) Cox, P.E., Pavement Management Team Leader
Hillsborough County Public Works Department

The Hillsborough County Pavement Management Team has experienced unprecedented success under the leadership of William (Roger) Cox, P.E., Pavement Management Team Leader.

Cox developed a superb pavement maintenance program to ensure that the right roads receive the right treatment at the right time. In 2007, the team virtually eliminated all backlog work from 2006 and executed a record-setting pavement season of over $19.4 million in construction. In prior years, the execution rate was below $5 million.

Major resurfacing projects included Waters Avenue and Linebaugh Avenue. Linebaugh alone took over $2.2 million to complete. Work was conducted at night and called for an on-the-fly contract renewal so the contractor could continue to work. The team managed three resurfacing contractors and two roadway contractors, and produced over 45 work orders to accomplish the project.

Cox and his team volunteered to manage the Fletcher Avenue railroad crossing project. This high-visibility project was originally slated for a different team, but due to the construction timeline, the other team could not accommodate the schedule. The Pavement Management Team stepped up to handle the project with technical aid from the original project manager. Team members met personally with each property owner affected by the construction to obtain right-of-entry permits to ensure that all businesses would have adequate access. This resulted in zero business damage claims on a very tight construction schedule. In FY06, the team responded to 40 administrative referrals. In FY07, this number was reduced to 10. While not a totally scientific measure of a program’s success, it is indicative of a program that is meeting the needs of the citizens of Hillsborough County.

Cox also personally oversaw the migration to the new pavement management process and the development of an inspection vehicle. He oversaw the purchase, installation and training for the new MicroPAVER software. The team managed the implementation and development of the new MicroPAVER database, which will be populated with pavement condition codes. In addition, the development of the MicroPAVER Mobile Data Recorder (MPMDR) is well under way with the acquisition of the mobile workstation and custom field data collection software that will maintain and update the pavement condition codes.

Cox also shares his expertise with peers concerning best management practices for pavement management strategies. He is very active in the community, giving his time in support of engineering outreach such as The Great American Teach-In and Wow, That’s Engineering for Girl Scouts, for which he received a Society of Women Engineers (SWE) regional award. Roger also developed educational videos on What’s an Engineer? in support of Engineer Week.

Roger’s accomplishments are impressive and indicative of his commitment to the profession as well as his dedication to public service.

Other FACERS Award Nominees

Transportation and public works agencies have numerous unsung heroes. The FACERS awards offer an opportunity to recognize some of the outstanding projects and efforts these public servants provide to the citizens of our communities and state. Choosing winners does not diminish the marvelous work conducted by so many. This year’s nominations were again excellent and the Florida Transportation Technology Transfer Center wishes to share some of the many projects and efforts that were submitted. As space permits in our newsletter, we will feature a brief synopsis of the FACERS awards entries that were received. FACERS and the Florida T² Center hope sharing their stories will provide a small thank you for a job well done and also inspire others to share. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the FACERS awards!
### New Publications

- **Planning for Natural Disaster Debris**  
  US EPA  
  p8022.01

- **Improved Reporting & Performance Measures Would Enhance Evaluation of High-Visibility Campaigns**  
  GAO  
  p8023.01

- **Bridge Evaluation Quality Assurance in Europe**  
  USDOT/FHWA  
  p0001.01

- **Hydraulic Resistance of Small-Diameter Helically Corrugated Metal Pipe**  
  K-TRAN  
  p0002.01

- **Long Term Pavement Performance Computed Parameter: Moisture Content**  
  FHWA  
  p0003.01

- **Report on Use of Particle Composite Theory to Model Concrete Asphalt Mixes**  
  FHWA/KANSAS, DOT  
  p0004.01

  FHWA/KANSAS, DOT  
  p0008.01

- **Recommendations for Improving LEED Transportation and Parking Credits**  
  VICTORIA TRANSPORT POLICY INSTITUTE  
  p0009.01

- **Intermodal Surface Public Transport Hubs: Harnessing Synergy for Success in America’s Urban and Intercity Travel**  
  CAPITAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
  p0015.01

- **Climate Change: Expert Opinion on the Economics of Policy Options to Address Climate Change**  
  GAO  
  p0016.01

### New DVDs

- **Venomous Snakes of the Southeast: Identification, Safety, and Exclusion**  
  UF IFAS EXTENSION  
  d0030.01

### New Videos

- **Executive Overview of Metropolitan Transportation Planning**  
  NHI  
  v1055.01

- **ArborMaster Training Videos Series III: Chainsaws – Safety, Maintenance, and Cutting Techniques**  
  ISA  
  v1056.01

### New CDs

- **Evacuation Station: The Use of Public Transportation in Emergency Management Planning**  
  ITE  
  p0017.01

- **Dual Mode Vehicle and Infrastructure Alternatives Analysis**  
  FHWA TXDOT  
  p0021.01

- **Impact of Rising Fuel Costs on Transit Services: Survey Results**  
  AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION  
  p0023.01

- **Roadmap to Gridlock: The Failure of Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Planning Executive Summary**  
  CATO  
  p0024.01

- **Statistical Analysis of Alcohol-Related Driving Trends, 1982-2005**  
  NHTSA, USDOT  
  p0025.01

### New at the T² Media Center

Our Media Center offers more than 7,000 publications, 1,000 videos, and 150 CDs and it’s easy to borrow materials from the T² Center. To request any of the items on these pages, please mark ☐ the items you want to borrow and fax with the FaxBack form on the inside back cover to 352.392.3224. You can also request a full catalog on CD, or browse the electronic catalog on our website: t2.ce.ufl.edu or call 352.392.9537 ext. 1544.
**Giveaways**

Make your choice(s) and use the FaxBack form to request these free items.

- Highway Safety Resource CD T² Center, 10 COPIES
- Implementing Local Agency Safety Management, 16 COPIES
- Innovative Intersection Safety Improvement Strategies, 4 COPIES
- Slow Down, Move Over, 50 COPIES
- Strategies for Success: Combating Juvenile DUI, 3 COPIES
- Final Rule on Work Zone Safety & Mobility, 16 COPIES
- Slow Down, Pay Up, or Crash: Safe Work Zones Video, 19 COPIES
- Slow Down, Pay Up, or Crash: Safe Work Zones CD, 41 COPIES
- Bike 'N Ped Driver Ed kit, 20 COPIES

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**FDOT Summary of Final Reports—New Topics Available**

The Florida Department of Transportation (fdot) publishes summaries of final reports from their research program. If you are interested in a faxed copy of any of these summaries, simply check the box to the left of each title, fill out the FaxBack form on the inside back cover, and fax both to us.

- BD549-22 Toolbox for Transit Event Investigation
- BD545-61 Impact of Lane Closures on Roadway Capacity
- PR499902 Instrumentation Data Interpretation
- BD550-05 Linking Crash Patterns to ITS-Related Archived Data, Phase II
- BD545-70 Travel Time Reliability Models for Freeways and Arterials

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**New Research Cards Are Available**

The FDOT Research Center issued more project information cards. The projects include:

- Updates to Favorite Vehicle Occupancy Program Available
  BD015-14 Vehicle Occupancy Data Collection Methods (Phase II)
- Stormwater Reuse Ponds Offer Cost Effective Irrigation
  BD521-03 Regional Stormwater Irrigation Facilities
- Freeway Truck Lane Restrictions Improve Traffic Flow
  BD543-10 Evaluating the Effectiveness of Various Truck Lane Restriction Practices in Florida – Phase II
- Computer-based Test for Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspectors
  BD550-10 Safety Examiner Workforce Certification Test
- Loop Detector Data Tested for Use in Traffic Warning System
  BD550-05 Linking Crash Patterns to ITS-Related Archived Data (Phase II): Real-Time Crash Risk Assessment Models and Evaluations of ITS Strategies

To request cards, contact the Media Center at 352.392.9537 EXT. 1544 or mediacenter@ce.ufl.edu or use the FaxBack form on the inside back cover.
High-visibility Safety Apparel to Become a Federal Requirement

High-visibility safety apparel has been required for all flaggers per the 2003 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), but only recommended for all other workers in temporary traffic control zones — until now.

To help make work zones safer and provide additional safety to everyone on the roadway, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently finalized its proposed Worker Visibility Rule, Part 634 to Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The rule states “all workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed to either traffic or to construction equipment within the work areas shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.”

States and other agencies shall comply with these provisions no later than November 24, 2008.

High-visibility safety apparel means personal protective safety clothing intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and night-time usage, and meet the performance Class 2 or 3 requirements of the ANSI/ISEA 107–2004 publication, “American National Standard for High-Visibility Safety Apparel and Headwear.”

The selection of Class 1, 2, or 3 apparel is based on proximity to traffic, the speed of traffic expected in a work area, and whether attention can be paid to traffic while working.

Class 1 Apparel

Class 1 apparel is required for workers near traffic that does not exceed 25 mph, when the worker gives full attention to approaching traffic, and the environment is not complex. The main difference between Class 1 and 2 is the amount of fluorescent background material and retroreflective material used on the clothing.

Class 2 Apparel

Class 2 apparel should be worn when inclement weather conditions require greater visibility, a complex background is present, worker’s attention is diverted from approaching traffic, and when the worker performs tasks near vehicles exceeding 25 mph. This apparel provides 360 degrees of torso visibility with horizontal and vertical retroreflective stripes.

Class 3 Apparel

Class 3 covers more of the body than Class 2 and is for workers whose high-task loads are performed where traffic exceeds 50 mph. The worker must be easily identifiable as a person throughout a full range of body motions. A Class 3 vest usually contains sleeves, and can be accompanied by pants or other apparel.

This ruling may be viewed in its entirety on the electronic-CFR website: ecfrgpoaccess.gov
The Center for Transportation Training provides Construction Training Qualification Program (CTQP) training for transportation construction crew members involved with building and maintaining our state’s highways. View the current class schedule and register for the courses listed below by visiting ctt.ce.ufl.edu or calling 352.846.3593 EXT. 1.

### Aggregates
- LBR Technician
- Qualified Sampler Technician

### Asphalt
- Asphalt Mix Design
- Asphalt Paving Level 1
- Asphalt Paving Level 2
- Asphalt Plant Level 1
- Asphalt Plant Level 2

### Concrete
- Concrete Batch Plant Operator
- FDOT Concrete Field Inspector Specification
- FDOT Concrete Laboratory Technician Specification

### Earthwork
- Earthwork Construction Level 1
- Earthwork Construction Level 2

### Geotech
- Drilled Shaft Inspection
- Pile Driving Inspection

### Project Management
- QC Manager
- Final Estimates Level 2

### Upcoming Conferences

**APWA International Public Works Congress and Exposition**

August 17–20, 2008
New Orleans, Louisiana

Free one-year APWA membership with Congress registration (for non members).

[www.apwa.net/Meetings/Congress/2008/index.asp](http://www.apwa.net/Meetings/Congress/2008/index.asp)

**ITE 2008 Annual Meeting and Exhibit**

August 17–20, 2008
Anaheim, California

[www.ite.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp](http://www.ite.org/AnnualMeeting/default.asp)
Use of Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers in Work Zones

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) added Subpart K to 23 CFR 630, which includes the final rule on the use and payment of uniformed law enforcement officers. Regulations apply to all Federal-Aid highway projects and are intended to reduce the likelihood of fatalities and injuries to road users and highway workers. State agencies are also encouraged to implement them with other projects. The regulations become effective December 4, 2008.

A training course has been developed that provides basic knowledge to promote the safe and effective use of law enforcement in work zones. Course attendees will learn the role of law enforcement officers in work zones; proper practices and procedures related to the use of law enforcement officers in work zones; the component parts of a typical work zone; and standards and guidelines related to temporary traffic control in work zones. Attendees will receive a participant’s guide and pocket guide. Requirements for the training of law enforcement personnel are included in Subpart J 23 CFR 630.

This course is available through your Florida T² Center. Call to schedule an exclusive class at your location or register for a public class 352.392.2371 ext. 223. Space is limited, so call today.

Materials are also available to download at this website: safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/training/.

Rural Highway Safety Clearinghouse

Looking for training or materials specifically for transportation in rural areas? The Rural Highway Safety Clearinghouse is for you. The clearinghouse facilitates research, training, and outreach activities related to rural transportation safety.

Funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the clearinghouse is an easy to use website that provides links to safety publications and other resources grouped by safety topics, including the four E’s: education, emergency medical services, enforcement, and engineering. Additional topics include data, statistics, driver behavior, safety planning, seat belts, and work-zone safety.

The site will collect and market best practices as well as the latest findings in rural safety research. It also encourages sharing information about rural safety publications and other resources. To access the clearinghouse, visit www.ruralhighwaysafety.org.

Online Library

Road Safety at Work

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s online library houses resources from around the world related to the prevention of road traffic injury and death while on the job. The online library for employers and workers contains information on best practices such as engineering controls, policies, administrative procedures, and road safety. It also includes materials about program implementation and evaluation, as well as statistics about worker injuries and fatalities on roads. Visit www.geolibrary.org/library/default.aspx?CategoryID=627.
Performance Contracting for Construction

Pilot Project Becomes a Product Demonstration Showcase

Our country's transportation infrastructure faces two significant challenges. Much is reaching the end of its design life and needs to be reconstructed, and traffic and congestion levels are steadily increasing. To help meet these challenges, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Highways for LIFE are promoting Performance Contracting for Construction (PCFC) as a promising alternative contracting method to build highways and bridges safer, faster, and better. It saves time and money and improves contract management.

PCFC is based on project outcomes being clear and mutually understood. This method allows State and local departments of transportation (DOTs) to better define and communicate to contractors what they specifically want to achieve in their projects and to hold contractors accountable for agreed-upon outcomes. Contractors perform profitably and competitively without compromising quality while sharing the rewards from a well executed project.

Michigan DOT plans to expand its use of PCFC due to anticipated declines in capital funding through fiscal year 2011 and coupled with increasing construction and maintenance requirements. Michigan DOT and its contractors are hoping that PCFC can offer a more flexible and cost-effective way to accomplish specific goals, reduce administrative costs and maintenance requirements through the use of warranties that require contractors to guarantee their materials and workmanship.

A Product Demonstration Showcase, scheduled for September 20, 2008, will feature Michigan's performance contracting pilot reconstruction project of approximately 5 1/2 miles of roadway and replacement of two bridges. For more information, contact Jaime at 352.846.3593 ext. 234.

Exit Strategy

I-85 Exit Ramp Innovations Demonstrated

On May 1, 2008, a Product Demonstration Showcase was conducted in West Point, Georgia, to share the state's use of several combined technologies on a new I-85 exit ramp near the Alabama border. Engineers and consultants from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Highways for LIFE program and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) partnered on this $80.9 million project. GDOT engineers gave detailed presentations to approximately 50 attendees and conducted a field trip to the site to highlight the benefits of using Design/Build contracting, prefabricated bridge elements, and performance incentives for contractors.

Design/Build technology, already familiar to many states, involves contracting both design and construction to a single builder, which is cheaper and allows both processes to continue simultaneously. Using prefabricated elements for the ramp, rather than custom design and construction, has hastened the design and implementation. GDOT also created incentives for the contractor, based largely on crash cleanup and safety, in order to minimize congestion and the project's overall intrusiveness on normal highway activity. In addition, speed band monitoring was demonstrated during the presentation on a live web link. By using these technologies, GDOT engineers are expecting to save between 12 and 18 months of total construction time. One participant from a neighboring state, when asked about the event, called it "very effective…[it] answered a lot of questions."

Visit www.pdshowcase.org or www.flhwa.dot.gov/hfl/innovator/issue06.cfm or email pdshowcase@ce.ufl.edu to learn more about these cost-saving innovations.
Free Software Downloads

Looking for some software that may help your agency? Listed below are four programs available for free download related to the transportation industry.

Microcomputer Data Management System (MDMS)
This program is designed for county road or city street departments and tracks labor, equipment, and material costs for each road or street, project, and district. It also tracks equipment repair and fuel costs for each piece of equipment.

Minor Structure, Culvert & Cattle Guard Management System
Users are encouraged to think of the program as three separate and independent programs packaged as a single application. One module can be used to inventory and manage small bridge-type structures and box culverts, another is for culverts and pipes, and a third is for cattle guards. The program can also be used to manage all three structure types as it provides for the inventory of a wide variety of structure types and geometric data.

Roadway Sign Inventory & Management System
Designed to meet the needs of county road and city street departments, this program provides a procedure for collecting and recording initial sign inventories and serves as a vehicle for maintaining the inventory and managing the system. The program was updated in February 2008 with special attention to the need for more detailed sign retroreflectivity assessments. The program provides for both observed and electronically obtained sign reflectivity assessments.

Rural Roadway Inventory & Management System
This program, sometimes referred to as a pavement management program, includes three modules – one for asphalt pavement, another for concrete pavement, and a third for gravel roadways. In addition to roadway geometric data and pavement distress assessments, Version 3.0 includes an added feature that calculates estimated per-mile values based on criteria provided by users.

These packages were developed and are supported by the LTAP center in North Dakota. Russ McDaniels, Computer Services Manager for ND LTAP, will even provide free phone support. Users with questions or problems are encouraged to email him at russell.mcdaniel@ndsu.edu or call him at 701.328.9858.

Download the packages at t2.ce.ufl.edu/manageapps.htm Please be sure to check the website periodically for free updates.

Good Stuff!

Check out Safety News & Notes

Safety News & Notes is a bi-monthly email newsletter full of very useful information. Although the target audience is agricultural workers, much of the information directly relates to public works and transportation employees. It includes publications and materials from a number of organizations with links to publications, fact sheets, and videos (in both English and Spanish).

For instance, in the May/June issue, the safety subjects covered a wealth of applicable information on tractor safety for disaster recovery, eye protection, landscape maintenance with mowers, and chainsaws and trimmers. Check out www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/snn/snn-08-06.html for current issue. Past issues are archived at www.flagsafe.ufl.edu

Safety News & Notes is prepared by Dr. Carol J. Lehtola, Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist and team leader for the Prevention and Preparedness: Agricultural Safety & Disaster Management Program, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Contact Dr. Lehtola at clehtola@ufl.edu if you would like to receive this newsletter.
Today’s Date______________________________

Name ____________________________________ Agency ____________________________________

Address__________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip _______________________

Please check your affiliation below:

☐ City
☐ County
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>MAIL COPY</th>
<th>FAX COPY</th>
<th>EMAIL COPY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media Center Items (pg. 8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Cards (pg. 9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giveaways (pg. 9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDOT Summaries (pg. 9)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADA/Accessibility Requirements for Hwy Design and Pedestrians</th>
<th>Hot-Mix Asphalt Pavement Evaluation, Preservation and Rehabilitation</th>
<th>Pilot/Escort Flagging Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 11, 2008 Palm Coast</td>
<td>Aug 19 - 20, 2008 Sanford</td>
<td>Aug 15, 2008 Ft Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13, 2008 West Palm Beach</td>
<td>Sep 4, 2008</td>
<td>Sep 4, 2008 Cocoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Maintenance of Traffic</td>
<td>Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic</td>
<td>Oct 11, 2008 Tallahassee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27 - 29, 2008 Pompano Beach</td>
<td>Aug 11 - 12, 2008 Ft Myers</td>
<td>Oct 17, 2008 Ft Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 10 - 12, 2009 Tampa</td>
<td>Sep 9 - 10, 2008 Tampa</td>
<td>Nov 7, 2008 Milton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26, 2008 Pompano Beach</td>
<td>Oct 7 - 8, 2008 Gainesville</td>
<td>Dec 1, 2008 Tampa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21, 2008 DeLand</td>
<td>Oct 9 - 10, 2008 Ft Myers</td>
<td>Dec 12, 2008 Ft Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9, 2009 Tampa</td>
<td>Oct 28 - 29, 2008 Leesburg</td>
<td>Dec 17, 2008 Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 13, 2009 Tampa</td>
<td>Nov 18 - 19, 2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27, 2008 DeLand</td>
<td>Nov 6, 2008</td>
<td>Sep 11, 2008 DeLand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Evaluation of Public Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Safe Mobility for Life Program: Preparing Our State for the Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2, 2008 Gainesville</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 26, 2008 Punta Gorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 4, 2008 Pompano Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 10, 2008 Brooksville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 5, 2008 Sebring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 11, 2009 Vero Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 22, 2009 Bushnell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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