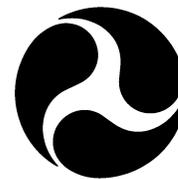


RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY TRANSPORTER

AUGUST 2001



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS

ITS Standards Program Sharpens its Focus

The ITS Standards program includes both development and deployment, but is moving aggressively toward deployment. However, the ITS Joint Program Office will continue with a broad-based standards program. The sharpened focus on deployment will entail making a few key areas a priority and aggressively pushing them toward deployment. Those priority areas include: signal systems, traffic management (center-to-center communications), dynamic message signs, transit, incident management, and environmental sensor stations/Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS).

As deployment becomes the focus, a host of deployment support options have become available, including training, case studies, lessons-learned reports, fact sheets, test reports, application area packages, and the ITS standards Web site. Technical assistance is available in the Peer-to-Peer program, which has standards experts available to provide assistance on an as-needed basis.



The ITS Standards program is sharpening its focus on a few key areas of priority—such as incident management—and pushing them towards deployment.

DOT field offices also offer ITS standards assistance, resource libraries, and access to additional technical resources. Additionally, the ITS Standards Forum provides an online moderated discussion group.

One of the new features is a Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) Standards application package, which includes information about the life cycle of ITS standards, a description of the rulemaking

process, an overview of the ITS standards testing program, and a copy of "Setting Standards for the Future." Much of the package information can be found on the Web site at www.its-standards.net. Application packages for all six priority areas will eventually be made available. The ITS Help Line is (866) 367-7487. For more information you can contact:
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The *Research and Technology Transporter* communicates FHWA research, development, and technology accomplishments, findings, information, and technology transfer opportunities. Its audience is transportation engineers and professionals in State and local highway agencies, State DOTs, Local Technical Assistance Programs, Divisions, Resource Centers, Core Business Units, academia, and the research community. The eight-page newsletter is published monthly by FHWA's RD&T service business unit. Editorial offices are housed at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. Comments should be sent to the managing editor at the address below. Field offices are encouraged to submit articles for publication via the appropriate agency technology leader from the editorial board listed below. The newsletter can be viewed online at www.tfhrc.gov. Subscriptions to the *Transporter* are free. Send your request to Judy Dakin at the address below, or send e-mail to judy.dakin@fhwa.dot.gov.

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Traffic Control with a Twist

The Lone Star State meets sunny California in an ambitious new undertaking in traffic operations. The Office of Research, Development, and Technology (RD&T) has embarked on a partnership with the cities of Houston and Los Angeles, the French Ministry of Transportation (INRETS), Harris County, Texas, the Houston Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the State of Texas to implement three new software packages.

Both Houston and Los Angeles will adopt two Federally-developed programs—the Traffic Estimation and Prediction System (TrEPS) and the RHODES traffic

adaptive control software—as well as CLAIRE, a software program developed by INRETS that can analyze traffic-control systems and produce strategies for mitigating congestion.

Houston will use the combination of software to help alleviate traffic problems caused by the reconstruction of I-10 and to provide warning and rerouting information in the case of flooding. Los Angeles expects to use the software to predict traffic conditions and develop congestion mitigation strategies.

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Software That Really Moves

Traffic simulation will never be the same. Now available is the newly updated Traffic Software Integrated System (TSIS) Version 5.0. TSIS is a collection of software tools for use by traffic engineers and planners.

TSIS includes a CORridor SIMulation model (CORSIM) that can simulate networks containing both surface streets and freeways; and TRAFED, a new product that allows users to easily create and edit traffic databases.

The software is available from the

McTrans Center at the University of Florida by calling (352) 392-0378, faxing (352) 392-3224, or e-mailing mctrans@ce.ufl.edu. You can also visit their Web site at mctrans.ce.ufl.edu. TSIS is also available by contacting PC-TRANS at the University of Kansas by phone at (785) 864-5655. You can visit their Web site at www.kutcc.ku.edu/pctrans. Information on the software is also available on FHWA's TSIS Web site at www.fhwa-tsis.com.

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INTERNATIONAL

Technology Transfer Conference Launched in Africa

The Tanzania Technology Transfer (T²) Centre organized the *First Road Transportation Technology Transfer Conference in Africa* (Africa T² 2001). The first of its kind in Africa, the conference was held from May 23–25, 2001, in Arusha, Tanzania, under the theme “Technology Transfer in Road Transportation in Africa.”

In opening the conference, Dr. Omar Juma, the Honorable Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, emphasized “the need to have in place a system or agency that will unshelve the technology, ideas, and best practices which are currently held within individual countries worldwide and disseminate them to road providers and users for improvement of road transport quality in the African continent.”

Conference topics included technology transfer programs, stakeholder involvement, labor based road construction and maintenance, road construction, materials and design, road safety, traffic management, and the highway development and management tool.

Over 200 participants attended the conference from Australia,



Moges Ayele presents to Vince Schimmoller the award given to FHWA by the Tanzanian T² Centre. Left to Right: King Gee, Program Manager, Infrastructure; Moges Ayele, Director, NHI; Vince Schimmoller, Deputy Executive Director; Susan Binder, Director, Office of Legislation and Strategic Planning and Acting Director, Office of International Programs; and Joe Toole, Director, Professional Development.

Botswana, Denmark, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



The conference was sponsored by FHWA, The Ministry of Works in Tanzania, and the World Road Association (PIARC). The Road

Management Initiative Unit of the World Bank and several local agencies and industries gave additional support.

At the conference, the Tanzania T² Centre recognized FHWA and

PIARC for their support in promoting technology transfer in Africa. Moges Ayele of the National Highway Institute accepted the award on behalf of FHWA. The FHWA Office of International Programs has worked closely with several sub-Saharan African countries to establish T² centers in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

For more information, contact Alfred Logie at (202) 366-9628, or at alfred.logie@fhwa.dot.gov, or **Leslie Wright** (202) 366-9227 leslie.wright@fhwa.dot.gov

ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

New TV Ads Available in the Fall

The U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and local stakeholders have identified an acute need to: 1) strengthen the public's understanding of the connection between their travel choices, congestion, and air pollution; and 2) through information exchange, media campaigns, and networking, educate the public about opportunities to have mobility and clean air.

As a result, the agencies developed "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air," a comprehensive public education and partnership building program to support regional, State, and community efforts to reduce traffic congestion

and air pollution. The goal of the program is to expand the public's knowledge and understanding of the effects that their individual, daily transportation choices have on air quality and traffic congestion. The program has provided communities with guidance and technical assistance for developing a successful outreach campaign, a set of broadcast and print promotional materials, and limited funds to support program implementation. "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air" delivers consistent, national themes that can be easily adapted and tailored to meet information needs in communities where traffic congestion, air pollution, and

public health are concerns for area residents.

The "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air" initiative has three main elements: community partnerships; high-quality marketing materials and resource

toolkit; and a national coalition, the Alliance for Clean Air and Transportation (ACAT). As a result of ACAT collaboration, DOT and EPA have been able to work

with the Ad Council to develop two television ads that promote environmentally sound transportation use (vehicle maintenance and tire inflation). The ads will begin airing nationally in September 2001 and may be requested for local customization. At the end of the public service announcements, the Ad Council will include the ACAT logo and the "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air" artwork and voice-over. This work will provide our State and local partners with two new, high-quality TV ads produced by the Ad Council, which will assist them in placing the ads on their community television stations at no cost. For more information visit the Web site www.epa.gov/otag/trag/tragpedo/italladd, contact Joann Jackson-Stephens at jackson-stephens.joann@epa.gov, or contact:

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At the end of the new ads, the Ad Council will showcase the ACAT logo.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

ITS Standards Forum Offers Online Tool For Users and Practitioners

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Standards Forum is an online tool designed to bring those deploying ITS, namely users and practitioners, into a dialogue about their experiences. It supports technology transfer, innovation, and continuous learning and process improvement. The targeted entities represent the broad spectrum of the transportation community, including State, county, and city agencies; metropolitan planning organizations; consultants and system integrators; vendors; and standards development organizations.

The forum is a moderated discussion, which is hosted through the ITS Cooperative Deployment Network (ICDN)—listed as “ITS newsletter” on the ITS Web site (www.its.dot.gov). The use of a moderator ensures that the forum operates with the greatest degree of information

available to participants, will bring potential customers to the standards consultant community, and will educate customers on how to receive the right

assistance. Take a look at the online forum today.

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The ITS Standards Forum is designed to bring ITS users and practitioners into a dialogue about their experiences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Eisenhower Fellowship Awards Announced For 2001

Ninety 2001 Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship (DDETFP) awards were made in the following categories: 21 Eisenhower Graduate Awards (11), 43 Eisenhower Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

Awards (30), 20 Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Awards (16), 1 Tribal College Award (0), and 5 Faculty Awards (6). The numbers in parentheses are the number of awards given in 2000. The total number of DDETFP awards increased 30% in 2001.

These awards are intended to increase the applicant pool for the transportation industry. Visit www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov for further information.

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International Cooperative Training Initiative: The Tanzanian Experience



Newly certified instructors from Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, with FHWA instructors.

FHWA, through the Office of International Programs in collaboration with African countries, has established Technology Transfer (T²) centers in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The major function of the T² centers is to transfer transportation technology from various sources to meet local needs.

To enhance technology transfer efforts, the Cooperative Skill Development Initiative was established by the FHWA Office of Professional Development, National Highway Institute (NHI), Office of International Programs, and the sub-Saharan T² centers. The purpose of the initiative is to identify priority training needs in Africa, and meet them through the training of instructors. This is to be

accomplished by training a cadre of instructors through the T² centers and extending the training capability to other sub-Saharan countries.

The first course under the initiative was conducted in conjunction with the *First Road Transportation Technology Transfer Conference in Africa*—held in Arusha, Tanzania, May 23–25, 2001. The course was conducted May 14–22 for participants from Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. It consisted of a three-day course on Instructor Development and a four-day course on Design and Operation of Work-Zone Traffic Control. Instructors who completed both courses were certified.

This was the first time NHI offered

its instructor development program to certify instructors outside the United States. Through this initiative, 10 participants received full NHI instructor certification, and 5 received NHI Master Trainer certification. They will demonstrate their enhanced instructional skills by conducting training in sub-Saharan countries.

“The instructor development program changed me right away,” said John Hwindingwi, manager of the Zimbabwe T² center. “I applied my new skills the next day at the conference by changing my presentation from information-centered to a learner-centered perspective.”

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New NHI Courses Available in Fall 2001

Computerized Traffic Signal Systems (course #133010) presents current technology and control options available for computerized traffic control, including microcomputer applications. The course covers the technical issues of a computerized traffic-control system and the steps necessary to develop and manage a system.

Introduction to Systems Engineering (Course #137024) offers an introduction to systems engineering for ITS project managers and project staff. It provides a high-level view of a broad and rich topic area, introducing basic concepts to individuals who are working on ITS projects.

Visit the NHI Web site at www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov for the course location nearest you.

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Did You Know?

Value pricing harnesses the power of the marketplace, and is a viable tool to help manage travel demand, reduce congestion, and improve transportation system operations and performance (see *Transporter* cover story, June 2001). General information about FHWA's value pricing policy can be obtained from the Office of Transportation Policy Studies, (202) 366-0570. Operational issues about value pricing are addressed by FHWA's Office of Travel Management (202) 366-6726.

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