



ROADTALK

VOL. 20/N O. 2/SUMMER 2006

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 

TTAP Loses a Family Member

by TTAP Staff



The TTAP family lost one of its own with the unexpected passing on May 27, 2006 of former Director and longtime workshop instructor Bill Kervin, P.E. He was 54 years old.

Those who were fortunate enough to have worked with Bill over the years know that we have lost a patriot and professional who loved his family, his friends, his country, and a good practical joke. Bill had recently returned to Knoxville after an 18 month deployment to Iraq with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Bill served as TTAP director from 1992 through 1994. His career included positions as Director of Public Works for both the City of Athens, TN and for Knox County, TN. He also worked for several engineering consulting firms, including most recently the Knoxville office of CH2M Hill. Bill leaves behind a legacy of service to the engineering profession, having served as president of the Tennessee chapters of APWA and ITE.

Bill will certainly be missed. Our hearts go out to his wife Kathy, daughter Holli, and other members of the extended family.

Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider Aims to Reduce Local Rural Road Crashes

by Matt Cate, P.E.

TTAP is happy to announce that, under the sponsorship of TDOT's Office of Incident Management and the Federal Highway Administration, we will soon begin the Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider Program. This program, based on a highly successful pilot program launched in 2004 by the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Safety, seeks to reduce the number of fatal and injury accidents occurring on local rural roadways. By working hand-in-hand with county highway superintendents, county mayors, sheriffs, and other local agencies concerned with roadway safety, the Safety Circuit Rider will help to identify low-cost safety solutions that can be implemented at the locations where crashes are actually occurring.

continued on page 4

Sign Grant is Returning!

by Stephanie Vincent

Paul Degges, TDOT's Chief Engineer, is pleased to announce that the Sign Grant Program has been redesigned and the Department will accept letters of application for next year's program until October 31, 2006.

Eligible participants will be those cities or towns with populations of 5,000 or less and counties with populations of 30,000 or less that are not part of a Metropolitan Planning Organization. Communities will be chosen on a first come first serve basis provided that they fall within the parameters of the Program and are in compliance with Bridge Compliance Standards.

continued on page 8

In this issue...

TTAP Loses a Family Member	1
Member	1
Safety Circuit Rider	1
Sign Grant is Returning	1
Goodbye and Hello	2
TATE Graduates	3
Grant Available - Safe Routes School Program	3
Materials Available	5
Training Schedule	6

ROADTALK

is a publication of the Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program (TTAP). TTAP is part of a nationwide Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) 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.

Dr. David B. Clarke, P.E., Director
Frank Brewer, Training Coordinator
Matt Cate, P.E., Technical Assistance Coordinator
Linda Capps, Technician
Jenny Jones, RoadTalk Editor
Mollie Mitchell, Administrative Specialist
Wilma Wilson, Course Registration
Julie Asbell, Course Materials
John Tidwell, P.E. (retired), Safety Circuit Rider

Call Matt Cate
1-800-252-ROAD
or email
mcate@utk.edu
if you need technical
assistance!
Remember, it's
FREE!

From the Director

It's hard to believe that we're almost through summer. My, how the time does seem to fly! I hope you all are getting a great deal of needed work done. We haven't had much rain so far in east Tennessee, and that's been helpful in many ways.

We've had a lot of exciting things going on at TTAP since I last wrote. I was glad to see some of you in Chattanooga at the Southeast Local Roads Conference in late May. TTAP was privileged to host that event, and Matt Cate, Jenny Jones, Frank Brewer, Linda Capps and Julie Asbell really worked overtime to see that you all had a great program. You'll read in this issue of *RoadTalk* about the planned return of the popular TDOT Sign Grant Program. That's excellent news, as proper signing is essential to safe efficient operation of our roads and streets. You'll also read about a new program, the Safety Circuit Rider. This initiative, sponsored by TDOT and FHWA and operated by TTAP, focuses on reducing motor vehicle crash related deaths and injuries on Tennessee's local roads. The circuit rider will make training and technical assistance available specifically to target safety problems. A similar program has been very well received in Kentucky. I won't jump the gun and say more since this issue has an article providing more detail. Finally, we're also getting ready for the fall training season, which will be here soon.

Our mission at TTAP is to help you. Please feel free to contact us for technical assistance, training, or information. Let us know what you need for us to do. That's what we're here for. Work safely and have a great rest of your summer!

David

Goodbye and Hello

by Jenny Jones



TTAP says congratulations, best wishes and goodbye to Annette Jones. For many of you, Annette has been your point of contact with TTAP, as she answers our phones and handles all course registrations. In September, Annette is getting married and moving to Winter Haven, Florida. Please join us in wishing Annette, husband to be (Dave Dickey), and their combined families all the best as they start a new beginning together in Florida!

Please welcome Wilma Wilson to the TTAP group! You will delight in hearing Wilma's voice when you call the TTAP office. She is originally from Scotland but lived in Australia for 25 years. When her daughter and her family moved to Tennessee, Wilma and her husband decided to join them. Wilma's email address is Wwilson28@utk.edu.

TATE Graduates

by Frank Brewer

We are pleased to announce summer has brought us two new Tennessee Academy for Transportation Engineering (TATE) graduates:

Rick Knoll (*Operations Specialist 3*) of *TDOT Region 4, Jackson* and

James Barrett (*Transportation Technician 1*) of *TDOT Region 4, District 41, Unit 4033, Camden/Paris office*.

The Tennessee Academy for Transportation Engineering (TATE) is an educational organization dedicated to giving engineers, planners, designers, and technicians the skills necessary to improve highway safety and reduce traffic congestion in Tennessee and the Southeast through the application of basic and advanced transportation and traffic engineering principles. TATE was planned and designed to provide training and resources to round out the knowledge base of its participants. The participants are transportation professionals from city, county, or state transportation agencies.

Completing TATE demonstrates a significant investment of time and effort. The curriculum includes two required workshops (Traffic Engineering 1 and Traffic Engineering 2) plus additional optional workshops to acquire a total of 144 Professional Development Hours (PDHs). In order to receive credit for the course toward the certificate, the student must pass a written test at the

course site. A few of the workshops are:

- ▶ Intersection Design
- ▶ MUTCD
- ▶ Signal Timing
- ▶ Signs & Pavement Marking
- ▶ Roadside Design
- ▶ 2-lane Geometric Design
- ▶ Traffic Calming
- ▶ Context Sensitive Solutions

are the varied topics of TATE.

We want to congratulate Rick and James for their dedication and perseverance towards this end.



James Barrett (right) with his supervisor Jerry McElroy



Rick Knoll (right) with Darrell Piercey, Assistant Director, Region 4

Grant Available - Safe Routes to School Program

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will introduce a new grant program this year focused on increasing levels of walking and bicycling to school among elementary and middle school students.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is a federally funded program authorized by transportation legislation passed in 2005. In addition to improving children's safety and health, the program is designed to reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Building on local initiatives, the SRTS program will fund the planning, development and implementation of infrastructure projects as well as education and outreach activities. Examples of eligible infrastructure projects include sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, and pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements. Importantly, the program will also provide money for activities to encourage safe walking and bicycling to school, including public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders, traffic education and enforcement around schools, and student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Tennessee will receive approximately \$10.7 million over 5

continued on page 5

In 2004, 366 (28%) of Tennessee's 1,288 traffic deaths occurred on local roadways. This number is especially alarming when considering that only 13% of travel (in terms of vehicle miles) takes place on rural local roadways. Unfortunately, major local roadway improvements are difficult to implement due to ever-tightening budgets and extensive road networks. However, a few well-chosen treatments may help to substantially improve safety at "hot spots" with relatively little cost to the local agency.

The Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider program will be available to all rural counties across the state. Initial priority will be given to counties with higher than average crash rates and a commitment to performing low-cost safety improvement projects. Once a county has been chosen to participate in the program, the circuit rider will present a one-day workshop to address some common safety topics such as traffic signs and markings, work zone traffic control, and roadside safety. Following the workshop, we will sit



As seen in these "before" and "after" pictures from Morgan County, Kentucky, a little brush removal can often produce dramatic results.

Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider Program Contacts:

Gary Ogletree

TDOT

Office of Incident Management

Tel: 615-350-3308

Email: gary.ogletree@state.tn.us

Matt Cate, P.E.

TTAP

Tel: 1-800-252-7623

Email: mcate@utk.edu

down with highway, law enforcement, and emergency response officials to review recent crash records within the county.

Team members will visit potential high frequency crash locations to identify elements contributing to crash occurrence and suggest

treatments to prevent future crashes. In many cases these improvements may be as simple as adding or improving traffic signs or trimming and removing trees and other vegetation. In all cases the projects will be completed with full buy-in from local officials. If additional safety improvements are identified, but cannot be completed due to budgetary restraints, the safety circuit rider will work with the county and TDOT to identify potential funding sources.

Assuming the position of Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider will be John Tidwell, P.E. (retired). John has had a long career in the field of highway safety, with positions at public and private organizations, including the Federal Highway Administration, North Carolina State University, and the University of Tennessee.

If you are interested in participating in the Tennessee Safety Circuit Rider program, or if you know of a county that could benefit from this program, you may get more information from Gary Ogletree with TDOT's Office of Incident Management (615-350-3308, gary.ogletree@state.tn.us) or Matt Cate with TTAP (1-800-252-7623, mcate@utk.edu).

years for the Safe Routes to School program. TDOT will officially launch the Tennessee Safe Routes to School Program in the Fall of 2006 with a call for applications. Watch TDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program website for updates.

TDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Website:

(<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm>)



Materials Available



TTAP regularly receives CDs and publications from a variety of sources. As part of TTAP's mission to provide information on the latest materials and techniques being used in the transportation field, we make these materials available to you, the city and county transportation officials of Tennessee. We have multiple copies of some materials, while others can only be loaned for short-term use. A complete listing can be found on our website <http://ctr.utk.edu/ttap/>. If you have an interest in any of the materials listed below, please call 1-800-252-ROAD or (865) 974-5255.

Publication Title	Source	Date
Common Roadside Invasives (FHWA-EP-02-003)	FHWA	
Covered Bridge Manual (FHWA-HRT-04-098)	FHWA	2005
Deep Patch Road Embankment Repair Application Guide	USDA	2005
Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities (GPF-1)	AASHTO	2004
Guidelines and Recommendations to Accommodate Older Drivers and Pedestrians (FHWA-RD-01-051)	FHWA	2001
Safety Evaluation of Red-Light Cameras (FHWA-HRT-05-048)	FHWA	2005
CD/DVD/Video Title		
Anti-icing/RWIS Training	AASHTO	2003
Dangerous Travelers: Controlling Invasive Plants Along America's Roadways	US Forest Service	2005
Design of Traffic Control Plans	FDOT	
Forest Roads and the Environment	US Forest Service	2005
Lifelines: Your National Forest Roads	US Forest Service	2005
Managing Pavement Edge Dropoffs...to Improve Safety and Reduce Tort Liability	FHWA	2005
Mobile Workzone Operations	TX LTAP	
The Flagger	WA DOT	1986
Traffic Control & Safety Through Construction/Maintenance Work Areas	AASHTO	
Traffic Control for Urban & Utility Workzone (Part 1: Guidelines, Part 2 Methods)	ATSS	1978
Traffic Plan to Live By: Intersection Work	TECS	1994
University Students Safety & Security Resources	APTA	2005



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 Wilma Wilson at 1-800-252-ROAD.

***CEU and PDH credit hours available.**

Title	Date	Location	Instructor/s
Chain Saw Safety Demo	August 29	Chattanooga	Tim Ard
Chain Saw Safety Demo	August 31	Jackson	Tim Ard
*MUTCD 101 How to use the MUTCD	September 7	Chattanooga	Matt Cate
*MUTCD 101 How to use the MUTCD	September 11	Knoxville	Matt Cate
*Signal Timing	September 13	Knoxville	Tom Urbanik
Confined Space Entry	September 14	Knoxville	Walter Idol
Drainage Rehabilitation	September 18	Jackson	Dave Clarke
Roadside Design	September 26	Nashville	Matt Cate
*Signal Timing	September 27	Nashville	Tom Urbanik
*MUTCD 101 How to use the MUTCD	October 3	Jackson	Matt Cate
Backhoe/Loader Training	October 9	Jackson	Bevin Elliott
Backhoe/Loader Training	October 10	Chattanooga	Bevin Elliott
*Signal Timing	October 11	Jackson	Tom Urbanik
*Intersection Design	October 17	Jackson	Alan Childers
TDOT Funding	POSTPONED	October 24	Knoxville
TDOT Funding	POSTPONED	October 26	Jackson
Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging	October 26	Jackson	Frank Brewer
Trench Safety Competent Person	November 2	Chattanooga	Walter Idol
Confined Space Entry	November 7	Chattanooga	Walter Idol
Road Safety Audit / Review	November 9	Chattanooga	Matt Cate
Trench Safety Competent Person	November 14	Knoxville	Walter Idol

continued on page 7

Upcoming Training, continued from page 6

Title	Date	Location	Instructor/s
*Geo Tech Design/Earthwork: What makes a Good Sub-grade	November 16-17	Nashville	Eric Drumm
Road Safety Audit / Review	November 28	Knoxville	Matt Cate
Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging	December 5	Chattanooga	Frank Brewer
*Signs and Pavement Markings	December 6	Nashville	Matt Cate
Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging	December 7	Knoxville	Frank Brewer
*Traffic Engineering 1	December 18-20	Nashville	Wegmann/ Chatterjee/Han

**This course is part of the curricula for the Tennessee Academy for Transportation Engineering (TATE). Upon successful completion of the required curricula of short courses and elective courses, the student will be awarded a certificate from the University of Tennessee TATE.*

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

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

Do you wish to be on the 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: _____

Tennessee Transportation Assistance Program
Center for Transportation Research
The University of Tennessee
Suite 309 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4133
Tel: 865-974-5255/1-800-252-ROAD
Fax: 865-974-3889
E-mail: TTAP@utk.edu
Web: <http://ctr.utk.edu/ttap>

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 309
Knoxville, TN



Federal Highway
Administration



TDOT

Sign Grant is Returning, *continued from page 1*

The Sign Grant Program, established in 1983, has assisted towns and cities with the installation and replacement of damaged or missing regulatory and warning signs.

Letters of Application and/or questions should be directed to:

Stephanie Vincent
Sign Grant Coordinator
Tennessee Department of
Transportation
Suite 900, JK Polk Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0334
Tel: (615)741-2203
Fax: (615)532-8451
stephanie.vincent@state.tn.us



Damaged or vandalized signs like this Stop sign can cause numerous problems including poor nighttime visibility and lack of respect from motorists (Photo Credit: Montana Local Technical Assistance Program).

Watch the TTAP
Website at [http://
ctr.utk.edu/ttap/](http://ctr.utk.edu/ttap/) for
additional information
and announcements
regarding the TDOT
Sign Grant Program.