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* Membership as of August 2005.
3 Accelerating the Implementation of Railway Technology: Transportation Technology Center Serves as Hub
Roy A. Allen
Rail research at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado, serves the federal government, industry, state agencies, and international clients. A review of recent activities, including a tour of the test tracks and other facilities, shows the variety of research projects at the center, with a focus on heavy axle loads and ways to reduce the wear-and-tear on rails.

10 On Budget and On Time: Using the Power of People to Get Projects Done
Barbara T. Harder, Neil J. Pedersen, Tom Warne, and Barbara Martin
To complete an overload of projects on schedule and cost-effectively with limited staff, state departments of transportation have relied on alternative project management methods and on partnerships and alliances. Here is an array of practical tips for effective partnerships, covering communication, organizational cultures, team dynamics, and more, including a case study.

16 Earmarking in U.S. Department of Transportation Research Programs: What Is the Rationale? What Are the Risks?
Martin Wachs and Ann Brach
Transportation research programs have experienced a dramatic growth in earmarking—the specification of a research project, a funding amount, and the institutional recipient via Congressional legislation. After reviewing trends in the amounts of research funding earmarked under several U.S. Department of Transportation agency programs, the authors examine the rationale for earmarking and identify the risks—notably the undermining of the time-tested quality controls of peer review.

24 SIGNALS
Improving U.S. Highway Safety: Have We Taken the Right Road?
Brian O’Neill
Policy makers too often have chosen to ignore the efficacy of science-based highway safety countermeasures in favor of education-based efforts, which rarely change user behavior, according to the author, a leader in highway safety research. Moreover, progress on road user issues—such as belt use, motorcycle helmet use, alcohol-impaired driving, and speed—will depend on political action at the state level.
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Designing Superpave Mixes with Locally Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement: North Central States Jointly Fund Study
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The latest developments in research to mitigate transportation noise from highways, transit, rail, and aircraft are featured in articles and supplemental summaries in the September–October TR News.