Partnerships for Progress

A Roundup of State Agency Initiatives and Strategies

Plus

Pioneering Photolog Program
Driver Behavior: A Moving Target
Improving Metropolitan Travel Forecasting
Building the Road Safety Profession
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The Transportation Research Board is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council, which serves as an independent adviser to the federal government and others on scientific and technical questions of national importance, and which is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. The Board's varied activities annually engage about 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other transportation researchers and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest. The program is supported by state transportation departments, federal agencies including the component administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other organizations and individuals interested in the development of transportation.

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A Roadway Photolog Goes High-Definition: Connecticut Expands User Network, Realizes Cost Savings

Bradley J. Overturf

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) has created a high-definition image inventory of the state's entire roadway network, accessible for desktop computer viewing by users throughout the agency. The DOT's photolog director traces the development and capabilities of the pioneering system, which has saved the state approximately $2 million.

Partnerships for Progress in Transportation: The Transportation Research Board’s 2007 Field Visit Program

Reports from field visits made in 2007 by TRB senior program officers to state DOTs and other transportation-related agencies and organizations reveal a focus locally and regionally on joint efforts and collaboration to address and resolve critical issues. This roundup of findings presents recent developments and initiatives in transportation research and applications nationwide in all modes and activities.

POINT OF VIEW

Driver Behavior: A Moving Target

Alison Smiley

Human factors specialists need to acknowledge—and to make traffic engineers, technicians, and manufacturers aware of—an inconvenient truth: improving roadway visibility and guidance does not necessarily lead to lower crash rates. A leading researcher in human factors draws lessons from several crash studies that have yielded counterintuitive findings.

TRB SPECIAL REPORT

Metropolitan Travel Forecasting: Current Practice and Future Direction

Jon Williams

A TRB study committee has developed recommendations to stimulate creativity and willingness to innovate in producing new models for metropolitan travel demand forecasting that consider multimodal and operational needs, environmental assessments, revenue sources, and policy alternatives and that meet federal and state regulatory requirements.

TRB SPECIAL REPORT

Building the Road Safety Profession in the Public Sector

Thomas R. Menzies, Jr.

Marked gains in safety performance are needed to outpace traffic growth and will require careful scientific and systems approaches to safety management, according to a new TRB study. To meet this challenge, a broad-based alliance of safety-related organizations is needed to build the road safety profession, which encompasses expertise from many disciplines but has lacked comprehensive education and training programs.
features articles on innovative and timely research and development activities in all modes of transportation. Brief news items of interest to the transportation community are also included, along with profiles of transportation professionals, meeting announcements, summaries of new publications, and news of Transportation Research Board activities.

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COMING NEXT ISSUE

An overview of the first group of safety projects sponsored through the Strategic Highway Research Program 2, the contributions of an early public roads administrator to the development of rural free delivery, and the most important question in engineering are among the topics of articles in the March–April issue of TR News—which also includes photographic highlights from the 2008 TRB Annual Meeting.