

LTAP 101

consultant with Howard R. Green Company in Des Moines, he's been re-invited to serve on the board to represent the perspective of Iowa's consulting engineers.

Bret Hodne, West Des Moines public works superintendent, first became involved with LTAP when conducting statewide seminars on snow and ice management with Duane Smith, CTRE's associate director for outreach and the LTAP director. New to the board this year, Bret believes that training is the most critical aspect to turning an individual into a great employee, and that the educational opportunities offered by LTAP centers help managers achieve their staff training goals. Bret is looking forward to working with other LTAP board members to develop new training programs and launch the "Maintenance Managers Program."

Susan Klekar, Iowa Division FHWA assistant division administrator, has known about LTAP from earlier years when it was called the Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP). Susan enjoyed helping develop the national strategic plan for LTAP because the people are hard working and dedicated. Susan welcomes the opportunity to work on the LTAP advisory board because LTAP delivers information and technology to the local transportation communities. She looks forward to helping LTAP extend information on the best safety, savings, and mobility practices to even more local agencies.

Wally Mook was introduced to the LTAP program when he became the Bettendorf director of public works. Bettendorf's city engineer was Ray Holland, who kept Wally informed of the LTAP program activities. When Ray retired earlier this year, Wally agreed to serve as his replacement on the LTAP advisory board. Wally believes that LTAP has the opportunity to provide a valuable service to a multitude of users, particularly through the reference library and workshops. Wally looks forward to his time on the board because he can help direct a focus to local city issues. Initially, Wally thought that the LTAP's attention was strictly toward county issues, but he has been pleasantly surprised to discover that LTAP's concerns are broader.

Wade Weiss, Greene County engineer, will soon join the advisory board as a representative of the Iowa Highway Research Board. •

EVEN PEOPLE who've been using LTAP services for years are sometimes confused about what LTAP is and about its connection to the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University. You don't have to understand all the administrative ins and outs to take advantage of LTAP, but if you're curious, here's a summary:

The Federal Highway Administration sponsors a Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) in every state and Puerto Rico, and five regional Tribal Technical Assistance Programs (TTAPs). Iowa's LTAP helps city and county governments stay current on transportation issues by offering technical and management assistance through this newsletter, training workshops, the Safety Circuit Rider, a lending library, and an information/referral service.

Iowa's LTAP is housed in, and is one of several programs managed by, CTRE, which is a center at Iowa State University. The graphic below shows LTAP's relationship to CTRE. Many people who use LTAP services also benefit from other CTRE programs. Many local governments, for example, participate in Iowa's Pavement Management Program and get maps from the Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service. It's understandable, then, why some people say "CTRE" and mean "LTAP," and vice versa. (We don't care what you call us, as long as you call us!)

Iowa's LTAP is jointly financed by FHWA, Iowa DOT, Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Iowa Highway Research Board, Iowa State University Extension, and workshop fees. For information about LTAP, contact any of its advisory board members (see list on page 2), or Duane Smith, CTRE's associate director for outreach and the director of Iowa's LTAP, 515-294-8103, desmith@iastate.edu. •

