

Stan Ring dies

STAN RING, library coordinator and technical advisor for the Center for Transportation Research and Education, died September 14, 2000, of a heart attack at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa. He was 77.

From 1950–1967 Stan worked at the Iowa State Highway Commission. As an urban design engineer, he was in charge of all urban work on Iowa's federal-aid highways and coordinated all freeway design. As assistant urban engineer of planning, he acted as the commission's liaison with federal and local agencies in transportation planning.

In 1967 Stan returned to Iowa State College to teach in the transportation section of civil engineering. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State in 1973 and continued in the Department of Civil and Construction Engineering until his retirement in 1988. His responsibilities included teaching, advising graduate students, conducting research, and eventually leading the Civil Engineering Extension Program. His most significant research was in wind tunnel analysis of snow drifting and design of low-water stream crossings.

Stan directed Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) at Iowa State University during LTAP's start-up years from 1983 to 1988. As professor emeritus from 1988 until his death, he served an invaluable role as transportation librarian and technical information resource for the LTAP program at CTRE.

Stan was a tireless promoter of transportation engineering, safety, and continuing education. He is known throughout Iowa's transportation community and nationally for his transportation engineering expertise, knowledge of Iowa's transportation history, and keen interest in new developments and initiatives in civil engineering. •

Access management info coming

The Access Management Handbook for Iowa and related frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheets will be mailed soon to transportation professionals. Neither the handbook nor the FAQ sheets are intended as hard and fast access management standards for Iowa, but rather as compilations of suggestions and best practices.

The handbook and FAQ sheets are just two of the products resulting from a research project initiated by Iowa's Safety Management Coordinating System Committee several years ago. •

Slow down work zone traffic

Tom McDonald, Safety Circuit Rider

CURRENT technology provides another tool for slowing down work zone traffic. Speed trailers in advance work zones advise approaching drivers not only of the recommended work zone speed limit, but also of their actual speed. Direction sensing radar and large LED displays provide this information to motorists, resulting in a significant average speed reduction.

In addition to advising motorists of their vehicle speed, these units can be a useful public relations tool and, with proper optional equipment, can provide a record of vehicle speeds and volumes to indicate locations where focused enforcement would be most beneficial.

Local law enforcement agencies are often the primary users of speed trailers. Some models can be used in either stationary or mobile applications for work zone activities and for other special purposes such as school zone and neighborhood speed reduction initiatives.

The City of Ames has used a speed trailer to help reduce speeds through work zones this year with good results. West Des Moines and Ankeny have also employed these devices to help control vehicle speeds in sensitive areas. Citizen response to the use of speed trailers has been positive.

The City of Cedar Rapids is studying potential uses and benefits of speed trailers in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Transportation. Initial results have been encouraging.

Several vendors offer a choice of models with numerous options, including traffic data collectors, solar panels, and extended warranties. Cost can vary from approximately \$8,000 to over \$10,000 for a well equipped unit. Safety funds may be available from various sources to help purchase a unit.

If excess vehicle speed is a problem in your jurisdiction, you may want to consider adding a speed trailer to enforcement efforts or to the standard traffic control devices in the advance warning areas of your work zones to slow down the traffic.

For more information about speed trailers, contact Tom McDonald,

safety circuit rider,
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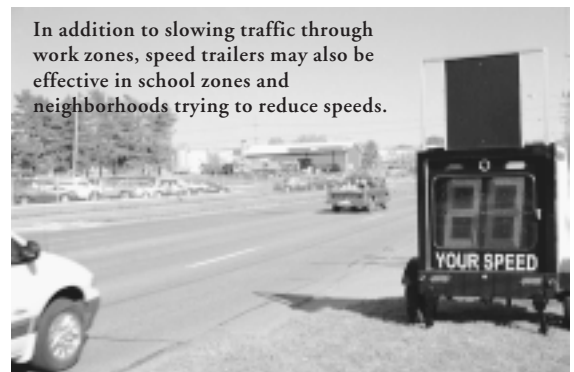


Photo courtesy of the Iowa Department of Transportation.