

Iowa LTAP Mission

To foster a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system by improving skills and knowledge of local transportation providers through training, technical assistance, and technology transfer, thus improving the quality of life for Iowans.

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Virtual training opportunities are plentiful

As agency budgets leave less room for staff to travel to training events, web-based workshops are becoming more common. Some are offered in real time; that is, they are “live” and the audience participates by telephoning or e-mailing questions or comments during the program.

Other courses are “asynchronous.” That is, they have been recorded in some way and the electronic files stored on a web server to be accessed on demand, at the learner’s convenience. Some web-based training-on-demand courses are video based. Others use slides with a narrated voiceover, perhaps enhanced with animations or video clips. Users can view these courses again and again.

Users can find such courses at a variety of quality levels, from professionally designed and produced to rookie productions. It can be difficult to judge the value of a course by its cover. Some poorly produced tools provide excellent information, if users are willing to tolerate fuzzy visuals or fluctuating sound quality.

Iowa LTAP, striving to continue providing top-quality training that is affordable and accessible for Iowans, is paying close attention to training offerings already available via the web that we can recommend.

Direct links from NLTAPA

The National LTAP Association has collected a list of web-based courses, many of which can be accessed free. Find the entire list at www.ltapt2.org/resources/webtraining.php#web. A few need to be updated, but here’s a short list of available courses we were able to access quickly:

- Modified Asphalt (video), Connecticut DOT <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1617&Q=281128&PM=1>
- ESRI Training and Education in various GIS applications <http://training.esri.com/gateway/index.cfm?fa=search.results&cannedsearch=2>
- International Stormwater BMP Database; Scenario Planning for Better Transportation Decision Making;

Context Sensitive Solutions: A Better Way; and several others, Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) National Broadcast Series (videos available in Windows Media, Real Media, or MP3 audio) <http://itrc.ncsu.edu/cte/techtransfer/teleconferences/archive.asp>

- Training on Use of the Falling Weight Deflectometer, Minnesota DOT (video) www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us/research/DCP/DPC_Operation_28mb.wmv
- Temporary BMPs for Water Pollution Control, CalTrans (video) <http://msmedia.dot.ca.gov/stormwater/water%20pollution.asf>
- Safe Routes to School, League of American Bicyclists (video) www.bikeleague.org/programs/saferoutes/video.php

APWA Click, Listen, and Learn series

APWA’s Click, Listen, and Learn courses provide real-time web-based training at relatively low cost. Users pay a site fee to access each course, and several people from different organizations can view the training from the site. Here are some upcoming topics:

- Work Zones—Safety First
- Green Buildings—LEED the Way
- Developing a Successful Fleet Replacement Program

For more Click, Listen, and Learn titles and registration information, see www.apwa.net/Education/CLL/.

Learn about concrete mixtures online

And the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center at CTRE, courtesy of the Iowa DOT, is providing a professionally edited, videotaped course on concrete mixtures for pavements. The two-day course is offered in one-hour modules on the web. See www.cptechcenter.org/t2/imcp_videos.cfm.

Coming: Roads Scholar course in supervision

Iowa LTAP is beginning to experiment with web-based training technologies that will allow us to offer courses specifically tailored for Iowans. See page 5 for details. ■