

25th Anniversary

25 years of Iowa LTAP

continued from cover

In 1983, ISU was introducing its new RTAP center to towns and counties throughout Iowa.

Due to the success of pilot RTAPs in Iowa and nine other states, FHWA eventually funded technology assistance centers in every state, plus regional tribal centers. The “rural” in RTAP was later changed to “local.”

As we begin 2008, Iowa’s RTAP-now-LTAP has been helping local jurisdictions address their transportation-related challenges through training and technology transfer for 25 years.

During those years, LTAP has seen many changes. For example, Iowa LTAP has been housed in at least six different office spaces on and off the ISU campus. During its first year, Iowa LTAP offered fewer than a dozen workshops. In 2007, it offered 144 training opportunities, including 55 related to safety topics.

One thing that’s remained constant, however, is the staff’s loyalty to the program. With the exception of newcomer Bob Sperry (see page 4), everyone on staff has been with LTAP for at least 10 years.

Jan Graham has been Iowa LTAP’s bean counter and whatever-needs-to-be-done right-hand-woman almost since the

program’s beginning. Duane Smith has been director and Marcia Brink has been newsletter editor for more than half the program’s 25-year history. Together, Graham, Smith, Brink, Tom McDonald (safety circuit rider), Georgia Parham (secretary and event coordinator), and Jim Hogan (librarian)—are personally invested up to the eyeballs in Iowa LTAP, and Sperry promises to be equally dedicated. We care about helping you make a difference in Iowa.

Iowa LTAP was the foundation program that eventually grew into CTRE, a major university transportation research and outreach center. Today LTAP is one of several long-term funded programs managed by CTRE, but many people in Iowa’s towns and counties know CTRE best for its LTAP workshops, newsletter, and library.

Throughout 2008, *Technology News* will cover various aspects of Iowa LTAP’s history. We’ll highlight some achievements and point to future goals. We’ll ask you what LTAP services you find useful, and what kinds of additional help you need.

While telling you a little about LTAP’s past, we hope to encourage you to take advantage of its present and help plan its future. ■



In 1994 Stan Ring introduced a hot new training technology: interactive CDs.

roads bridges transit

technology news

April 1983

Local Transportation Information Center
Iowa State University, Engineering Extension Service

Introducing the Local Transportation Information Center

Iowa State University was recently designated as "Technology Transfer Center for Local Transportation" by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Most of you are probably aware of the major transportation problems facing our small cities and rural areas. Streets and roads are in disrepair or obsolete, with no improvement funds available. Bridges require a large dollar investment. The new construction and reconstruction funds received have not been available for the past four decades.

Communities also have seen the decline of private bus and transit operations. In many areas, the local services have a reputation for the elderly or disabled in the only public transportation available. The deterioration of the state's highway industry has had and will continue to have a major effect on public transportation services between communities. Only if the communities are aided by industry.

Congress is increasingly aware of our nation's infrastructure. They funded the Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) to address these problems. Several programs, including RTAP, exist for technology transfer to local transportation agencies, and now available through the FHWA.

The goal of ISU's Local Transportation Information Center is to share new research and updated information so that it is useful to you in your daily operations. In order to carry out this program, the Center will:

- Publish the Technology News newsletter to disseminate technical information, investigative ideas, helpful hints, and details about upcoming educational programs.
- Establish a toll-free information line which will enable you to call ISU directly. Experts in the areas of streets and roads, bridges and public transportation will provide technical assistance or will refer you to an appropriate information source. The

FHWA
Technology Transfer Program
Iowa DOT
ISU Engineering Extension Service
Local Transportation Information Center

Technology News Library Workshops Technical Manuals

"The possibility of this newsletter will be tested by a pilot program. If successful, the newsletter will be published on a regular basis. The content will be determined by the needs of the local transportation community. The newsletter will be published by the Local Transportation Information Center and will be available to all interested parties. The newsletter will be published by the Local Transportation Information Center and will be available to all interested parties. The newsletter will be published by the Local Transportation Information Center and will be available to all interested parties."

A slightly dog-eared copy of the first issue of Iowa LTAP's *Technology News*, April 1983.

Shop focus: Personal protective equipment

With the construction and maintenance season approaching, now is a good time to assess your shop's personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE is defined by OSHA as any equipment worn to minimize workers' exposure to hazards.

To maximize the effectiveness of PPE, both employers and employees have roles to play.

According to OSHA, employers are responsible for

- Performing a "hazard assessment" of the workplace to identify and control physical and health hazards;
- Identifying and providing appropriate PPE for employees;
- Training employees in the use of PPE;
- Maintaining PPE, including replacing worn or damaged PPE; and
- Periodically reviewing, updating, and evaluating the effectiveness of the PPE program.

To ensure their own safety, employees should

- Properly wear PPE;
- Attend training sessions on PPE;
- Care for, clean, and maintain PPE; and
- Inform a supervisor of the need to repair or replace PPE.

Following is a brief overview of OSHA's guidelines on the use of personal protective equipment.

Eye and face protection

Employees exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles or harmful chemicals should wear eye and face protection. Adequate eye and face protection should fit properly, be reasonably comfortable, and provide unrestricted vision and movement.

Head protection

Head protection, such as hard hats or protective helmets, should resist penetration by objects, absorb the shock of a blow, and be water-resistant and slow burning. Protective headgear should fit properly and should be worn by all construction and maintenance workers.

Stanley L. Ring Memorial Library: New acquisitions

Note about delivery of materials: *The library now sends orders through the U.S. Postal Service. This change is resulting in important savings for LTAP, but ordered materials do not arrive as quickly. If you have an urgent need for library materials, let us know when you place your order and we will arrange faster delivery.*

Three ways to order LTAP library materials

- Use the online catalog, www.ctre.iastate.edu/library/search.cfm.
- Contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu, fax 515-294-0467.
- Mail or fax the order form on the back cover of *Technology News*.

Publications

P 1709 *Prairie Seedling and Seeding Evaluation Guide*

This guide features color photos and field descriptions for seedlings of native grasses, forbs, and common agricultural weeds as well as their seeds. It also includes a method for assessing a prairie seeding during the first few years after planting.

P 1710 *Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants*

This guide helps identify native plants at various stages of growth. Color photos illustrate seed, seedling, juvenile, and flowering stages, and distinguishing characteristics.

Videos

V 663 *Night Lights: How Retroreflectivity Makes Roads Safer*

This video explains retroreflectivity and provides nighttime driving and safety tips.

DVDs

DVD 112 *Personal Protective Equipment*

This video describes the safe use and maintenance of PPE, including everything from hard hats to eye protection and hearing aids. It includes a training manual with exam questions.

Historical

Iowa's first LTAP director and later part-time librarian, Stan Ring, was a transportation history buff who, until he died, collected slides and information documenting Iowa's journey from mud-caked byways to paved roadways. The following library holdings are highlighted in his memory:

DVD 65 / V 580 *A History of Iowa's Rivers, Rails, Roads, & Runways*

This videotape provides an excellent overview of the role of transportation in the state's development.

P 1288 *Building Better Roads*

This book, prepared in celebration of the Transportation Research Board's 75th anniversary, documents the history of highway research in Iowa and Iowa's critical role in instituting the original Highway Research Board in 1920. It includes several personal interviews and dozens of photos and offers an overview of the period from 1904 through 1974. It was produced by CTRE with support from the Iowa DOT.

P 1450 *Iowa Highway Research Board: 1949–1999*

This book reviews the history of the Iowa Highway Research Board's activities, beginning with its inception in 1949 as the first organized effort in the United States to investigate local road construction problems. It was produced by CTRE with support from the Iowa DOT.

V 313 *History of Concrete Paving in Iowa: The Slip Form Paver*

The first part of this video covers the development of roads and concrete pavements up to World War II. The second part covers the invention of the slip form paver in Iowa.

PPE continued from page 3

Foot and leg protection

Employees should wear protective footwear if they face possible leg or foot injuries from falling or rolling objects, or if they are exposed to hot substances or corrosive or poisonous materials. Footwear should have a protective toe and should offer impact and compression protection.

Hand and arm protection

Employees should wear hand and arm protection—gloves, finger guards, and arm coverings—if they face possible skin absorption of harmful substances, chemical or thermal burns, electrical dangers, cuts, abrasions, or other hazards.

Body protection

Employees should use body protection if they face possible bodily injury of any kind that cannot be eliminated through other practices or controls. Examples of body protection include coveralls, vests, reflective clothing, and body suits. ■

November 24: Worker visibility compliance

The compliance date for FHWA Final Rule on Worker Visibility is near. Effective November 24, 2008, the rule states that “all workers within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway who are exposed to either traffic or to construction equipment within the work area shall wear high-visibility safety apparel.”

Workers are people on foot whose duties place them in the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway. This includes roadway workers, survey and utility crews, incident responders, and law enforcement personnel.

High-visibility safety apparel is defined as personal protective safety clothing intended to provide conspicuity during both daytime and nighttime usage and that meets Class 2 or 3 performance requirements of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004.