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Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) is the umbrella organization for the following centers and programs:

Bridge Engineering Center  
Center for Weather Impacts on Mobility and Safety  
Construction Management & Technology  
**Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program**  
Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications  
Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service  
Midwest Transportation Consortium  
National Concrete Pavement Technology Center  
Partnership for Geotechnical Advancement  
Roadway Infrastructure Management & Operations Systems  
Sustainable Transportation Systems Program  
Traffic Safety and Operations

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## LTAP 25th Anniversary

### Focus on training

*Editor's note: This article is part of our ongoing series celebrating Iowa LTAP's 25th anniversary in 2008.*

When the Iowa LTAP opened its doors in 1983, one of its original goals was to conduct workshops and training sessions on various aspects of local transportation. LTAP pledged to offer hands-on workshops at minimal cost and to bring those workshops to various locations across the state.

#### The early years

On May 2, 1983, the first-ever LTAP training session, "Successful Street Maintenance for Small Communities," was held in Waterloo. The workshop, which was attended by 102 Iowa workers, covered street maintenance issues for both portland cement concrete pavements and asphalt pavements. Similar workshops followed that summer in Sioux City, Ottumwa, Council Bluffs, and Ankeny.

LTAP introduced a number of workshops in its first year of operation. "Geotextiles in Engineering," offered in Ames and Bettendorf in November 1983, provided detailed information on the correct usage and appropriate specifications for geotextile applications for asphalt overlays. Additional workshops covered topics of interest to urban areas, including design of urban streets and planning for urban drainage.

In 1984, LTAP began offering "Management for First Line Supervisors." Designed to help street superintendents and other supervisors learn to communicate more effectively and motivate employees, this workshop became one of the most popular in LTAP's history. It evolved into "Successful Management," and most recently "Supervisory Skills and Techniques," which is now offered online through distance education.

#### Mobile training

A major challenge for LTAP in those early years was fulfilling its goal to bring the workshops to a variety of locations. There were only a handful of trainers available to meet the needs of Iowa's counties and cities. To address this problem, in 1984 LTAP began offering a small number of grants to cover travel expenses and registration fees for many of the LTAP workshops.

A more permanent solution came in 1988, when the Iowa DOT, FHWA, and the Local Transportation Information Center (which would later become CTRE) started the Safety Circuit Rider Program. Ed Bigelow, the first Safety Circuit Rider, began traveling around the state to offer workshops in flagger safety, work zone safety, equipment safety, and more. Bigelow facilitated around 60 workshops each year throughout the state. Almost all of the workshops he started in the 1980s are still around today.

#### Long-term success

Like many of the safety workshops offered through Iowa LTAP, the Motor Grader Operator Workshop (MoGO) began in the early years and is still going strong. MoGO, which was initially developed in Nebraska, was brought to Iowa in 1988 through the combined efforts of Lowell Richardson of the Iowa DOT and Ed Wooton of the Nebraska Technology Transfer Program.

Having heard of the program's success in Nebraska, Richardson wanted to set up a pilot program to see how well MoGO training would work in Iowa and to get a small group of Iowa operators trained so they, in turn, could branch out and get the program started throughout the state. In October 1988, Richardson brought

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## Acronyms in Technology News

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
APWA	American Public Works Association
CTRE	Center for Transportation Research and Education (at ISU)
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Iowa DOT	Iowa Department of Transportation
ISU	Iowa State University
LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NACE	National Association of County Engineers
TRB	Transportation Research Board



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Wootton to Iowa to introduce MoGO to DOT officials, county engineers, and local operators.

Due to the success of the pilot program, Iowa LTAP developed its own program in 1989. By 1992, MoGO had become so popular that a program coordinator was hired to manage the multiple workshops held each summer. Fred Short, retired Audubon County engineer, acted as coordinator from 1992 until 2005, when Clarence "Sonny" Perry took over the position.

Over the years, more than 5,000 motor grader operators have participated in the workshops.

## Training for the future

Building on previous successes, Iowa LTAP is working with officials from Iowa's cities and counties to develop the Iowa Public Employee Leadership Institute. The institute's training program will include ten core, web-based modules that cover management techniques, communication skills, leadership, government, law, and finance.

"We see this as an educational forum for cities and counties who don't have the opportunity to provide training for people



Success of the motor grader operator program in the 1990s helped shape and develop many more programs over the years at Iowa's LTAP.

who are moving up through their agency or who simply want to move into other leadership positions," says Bret Hodne, superintendent of Public Works for the City of West Des Moines and member of the institute's steering committee.

The first module for the institute is Supervisory Skills and Techniques, which is also part of the Roads Scholar Program. This course is already available online through Iowa State University Distance Education.

Watch for more details about the Leadership Institute in future issues of *Technology News*. ■

## New faces, familiar faces attend advisory board meeting

Iowa LTAP Director Duane Smith welcomed new board members and recognized outgoing board members at the LTAP Advisory Board meeting on May 2. Marshall County Engineer Royce Fitchner and Keokuk County Engineer Christy VanBuskirk began their two-year term on the board this spring. They replace Monroe County Engineer John Goode and Story County Engineer Bob Sperry.

Both Goode and Sperry served several terms on the board and provided valuable input into the development of numerous programs and projects. They were presented with plaques in appreciation for their years of service on the advisory board. Sperry continues his service to LTAP as Local Roads Safety Liaison. ■



Duane Smith (left) and Shashi Nambisan (right) present Bob Sperry (top center) and John Goode (bottom center) with plaques in appreciation for their years of service on the LTAP advisory board.