Roundabouts training

Roundabouts constructed today are different from those constructed 50 years ago. However, few people understand the advances made in roundabout design.

The FHWA and Iowa DOT are sponsoring three free, one-day workshops to introduce state DOT and city and county engineers to modern roundabouts.

Fred Ranck, safety engineer with the FHWA Resource Center, Safety and Design Team, will conduct the workshop, with sessions on policy considerations, planning a roundabout, using a roundabout, safety, geometric design, traffic design and landscaping, and systems considerations.

Contact Jerry Roche, jerry.roche@fhwa.dot.gov, for more information.

Final MUTCD rule

With over 1,000 changes from the 2000 (millennium) edition, the FHWA has published the final rule for the 2003 edition of the MUTCD. Updates include the following:

• recommendations for worker and flagger apparel
• guidance for accommodating pedestrians with disabilities
• rules about temporary traffic control for incident management activities

Copies of the MUTCD can be obtained from AASHTO, the American Traffic Safety Services Association, or the Institute of Transportation Engineers.


Look for information about training events related to the 2003 edition in future issues of this newsletter.

Improve worker safety in your shop

Fifty workers are injured on the job every minute of a 40-hour work week; 17 die every day. The Worker Safety Coordinators Conference, held in Ames on December 4, provided information to help safety coordinators protect their co-workers. They learned about employee safety programs, regulations, and resources and met and exchanged ideas with other safety-focused staff from Iowa agencies.

The following questions were addressed:

• How does an agency develop a safety program?
• What is the main responsibility of a safety coordinator and safety committee?
• What should be included in a safety policy?
• What are the major features of, and barriers to, an effective safety program?

• What resources and assistance are available for safety coordinators?
• How can small agencies continue to share information about their safety programs?

For more information, contact Tom McDonald, 515-294-6384, tmcdonal@iastate.edu.