

# Technology Today

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## LTRC Seminar Series Focuses on Emulsions

LTRC continued its annual series of focused technical conferences with the Emulsion Design, Construction, and Performance Seminar, which was held July 1 at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge. The seminar attracted nearly 80 attendees from all areas of the state, from both the public and private sectors of the industry.

LTRC hosts two technical seminars a year in an effort to provide technical leadership through a forum that demonstrates new technologies, implements and publicizes LTRC research, discusses and resolves problems, imports the best practices of others, and partners with the transportation community.

The goal of this seminar was to increase awareness of the importance of proper Quality Control/Quality Acceptance in sampling and testing of emulsions. Maintaining the emulsions chemical balance is essential in its development. The seminar discussed how emulsions are made, the proper methods of sampling and testing of emulsions from the supplier and Department

*Cont'd on Page 4*

"I enjoyed the seminar. I learned what is being done in Louisiana, like the integrated approach between research and the applied area. This was my first participation in the LTRC series of seminars, and I would support the series."

*Delmar Salomon, President  
Pavement Preservation Systems*



*LADOTD Deputy Chief Engineer Richard Savoie welcomes DOTD and private industry professionals to the emulsion seminar.*

*Delmar Salomon, President of Pavement Preservation Systems, presents "A Green Technology Comes of Age."*



## 2009 Louisiana Transportation Conference

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The Louisiana Transportation Research Center is pleased to announce that the 2009 Louisiana Transportation Conference (LTC) will be held February 8-11, 2009, at the Baton Rouge River Center in downtown Baton Rouge. The theme for the conference is *Transportation Innovation: Solving Tomorrow's Challenges*.



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The LTC is held on a biennial basis to foster a better relationship and understanding among professionals from all sectors of the transportation community. The conference provides for technology transfer and interchange of ideas between the public and private sectors relative to transportation policy, practice, and problems. The 2009 conference will feature more than 70 technical sessions and is expected to be attended by over 1,500 transportation professionals from government, industry, and academia.

Be sure to visit the conference Web site at [www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltrc\\_09](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltrc_09) to get more information about the conference. Online registration will begin in the fall, and the Web site will be updated frequently as the conference approaches.

## Recently Published

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### Project Capsules:

04-IGT—Estimating the Setup of Piles Driven into Louisiana Clayey Soils

07-4ST—Integral Abutment Bridge for Louisiana's Soft and Stiff Soils

08-7GT—LTRC Project Management and Tracking System

### Final Reports:

420—Assessing the Needs for Intermediate Diaphragms in Prestressed Concrete Bridges

417—Comparative Evaluation of Subgrade Resilient Modulus from Non-destructive, In-situ, and Laboratory Methods

*To view a complete list of LTRC publications, visit the Web site at [www.ltrc.lsu.edu](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu).*

## 2009 AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures Annual Meeting

The Bridge Design section of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is pleased and excited to host the 2009 AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures annual meeting from July 5-9, 2009, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures is a committee comprised of State Department of Transportation bridge engineers, FHWA bridge engineers, researchers, private consultants, and others interested in the bridge engineering field to provide technical expertise in maintaining and revising the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications on an annual basis. The specifications are used by bridge design engineers across the U.S. to design fixed and movable bridge structures. The entire committee meets yearly and includes 20 technical committees.

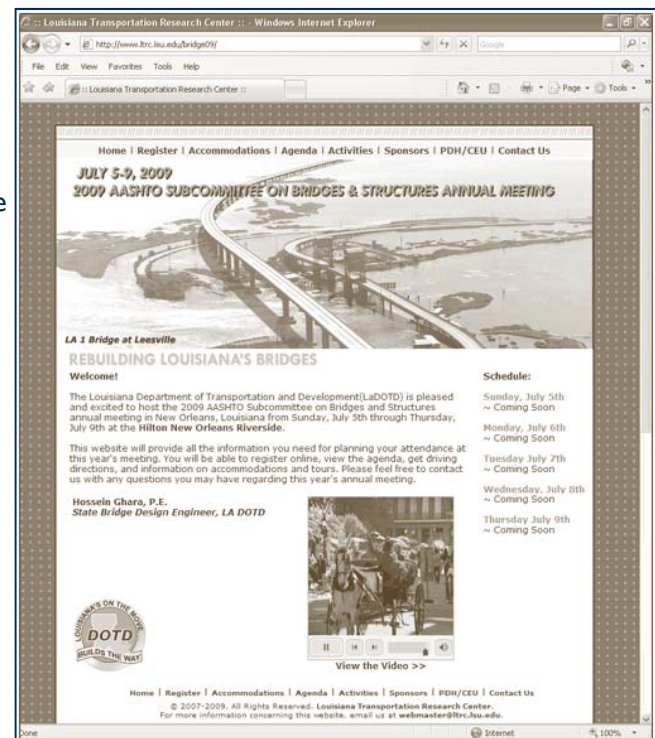
AASHTO Subcommittees provide a forum for consideration of transportation issues and are frequently called upon by Congress to conduct surveys, provide data, and testify on transportation legislation. Much of AASHTO's work is done by committees comprised of member department personnel who serve voluntarily.

Hossein Ghara, State Bridge Design Engineer, heads the planning committee, which consists of Bridge Design section employees. The committee has been actively planning and organizing meeting events for several months.

With help from the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, the committee launched a Web site earlier this year to include a meeting agenda, on-line registration, accommodation information and driving directions. Several activities are planned for that week, including tours of historic New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

The last national meeting was held in Omaha, Nebraska in 2008, and California DOT or CALTRANS will host the meeting in the summer of 2010.

To learn more about the AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures visit their Web site at <http://bridges.transportation.org/?siteid=34> or visit the 2009 AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures Annual Meeting Web site at <http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/bridge09>.



## Secretary Ankner Visits LTRC

DOTD Secretary Dr. William D. Ankner visited with LTRC and Materials Lab employees on July 24 as part of a half-day visit to learn about the center's operations and goals. Staff members gathered in the Transportation Training and Education Center (TTEC) auditorium for an informal presentation followed by a question and answer session with the Secretary.



*Secretary Ankner introduces himself to LTRC and Materials Lab employees.*

Dr. Ankner, appointed as DOTD Secretary by Governor Bobby Jindal earlier this year, came to Louisiana from Missouri where he was responsible for creating and running the Missouri

Transportation Institute and was a principal in his own consulting firm. He served seven years, from 1996-2003, as CEO of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and has held senior management positions in the Delaware DOT, New Jersey DOT and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

During his LTRC visit, Dr. Ankner asserted his belief that education, training, and research are critical to the advancement of the transportation industry. He also spoke about his experiences in the transportation industry and challenged employees to help DOTD and others in the industry understand what is happening in transportation research, and to focus on how we can help Louisiana by doing the transportation job better.

Dr. Ankner concluded by reminding employees of the importance of customer service and the value of teamwork, noting that he looks forward to learning from the employees at LTRC and the Materials Lab. After answering questions from employees, Dr. Ankner met with various program managers to learn more about the day-to-day functions and strategic goals of the two divisions.

## LTRC Seminar Series Focuses on Emulsions (cont'd)

perspectives, the various uses of emulsions, and an on-going NCHRP emulsion tack coat research project. Session topics also covered an overview of asphalt emulsion technology, emulsion storage and handling, warm mix asphalt, and successfully marketing pavement preservation techniques.

LTRC conducts post-seminar evaluations to continually improve these focused technical seminars and collect attendee feedback and ideas. According to the emulsion seminar evaluation, respondents rated their satisfaction with the seminar as being "very satisfied." All respondents noted that they would recommend an LTRC technical seminar to others, and most noted that the best part of the seminar was the quality of the speakers and the timeliness of the subject matter.

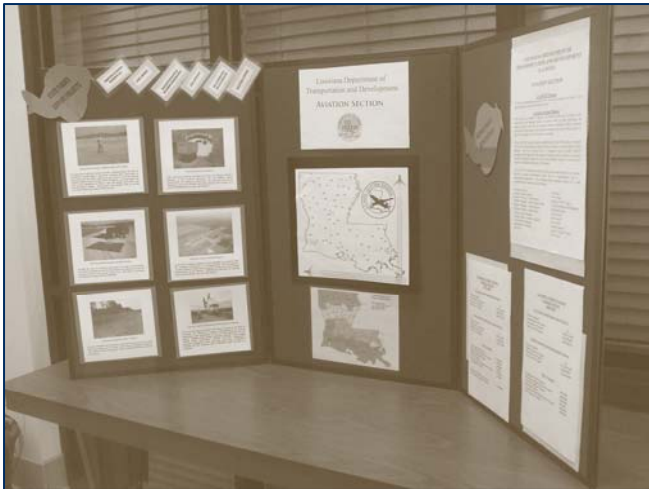
You can download all of the seminar presentations from the LTRC Web site ([www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ws\\_emulsion\\_thanks.html](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ws_emulsion_thanks.html)). A Quality Control/Quality Assurance seminar is planned for November.



## LTRC Hosts Aviation Airport Training Seminar

The Louisiana Transportation Research Center recently hosted the Aviation Airport Training Seminar in the TTEC Auditorium on June 18, 2008. This conference brought together professionals from LADOTD, The LPA Group, Baton Rouge FSDO, False River Regional Airport, and other outside agencies.

Group sessions included: “Improving Your Airport- Thinking Outside the Box”, “How to Make Your Money Go Further in Airport Improvement Projects”, and “Flight Standards and the Airport Managers Safety Partnership.” These seminar sessions provided industry experts the chance to share common experiences and discuss new improvements in the field of aviation.



*Aviation airport training seminar display board.*

The conclusion of the seminar was marked by a roundtable discussion that included Airport Managers and Directors from across the state. This panel provided every attendant with important information about the concerns and issues that the aviation industry of today has to deal with.

For more information on unique training opportunities such as the Aviation Airport Training Seminar, please visit the LTRC Web site at [www.ltrc.lsu.edu](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu) and click on the Calendar icon.

The LADOTD—Aviation Section would like to extend special thanks to the Louisiana Transportation Research Center for the location and accommodations making it possible to conduct this training/ educational opportunity. Also, a special thank you goes out to Mr. Jason Duet, Mr. Sam Larsh, Mr. Earl Hicks, Mr. Michael Hixon, Mr. Drew Miller, Ms. Yvonne Chenevert and Mr. Clyde O’Neill for their presentations and participation.

Special thanks to The LPA Group Incorporated for sponsoring the breaks.

## Gilchrist Mobile Training Unit Visits LTRC

What was once a recreational vehicle is now a mobile training unit (MTU). Armed with 13 computers, 2 40-inch LCD monitors, a smart board, and a sound system, Gilchrist Construction can take their training on the road.

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As part of a strategic plan for organizational development, Tom Haralson, Director of Organizational Development at Gilchrist Construction, promoted the idea of the workplace learning experience by purchasing a fifth wheel trailer and outfitting it as a computer lab. Proposed in August 2007, Tom's idea was to take the workplace learning experience to the employee. This would save on travel time and productivity. Randy Gilchrist, CEO/President of Gilchrist Construction, embraced that concept and expanded it quickly into what you see today as the MTU.

The RV was customized by Farber Specialty Vehicles out of Columbus, Ohio. By October 2007, the conversion of a RV into the mobile training unit was complete. The only thing left to do before getting it on a construction site was to apply the graphic wrap for the exterior, designed by a Baton Rouge design firm and applied to the RV in Dallas,

Texas. Thus, the conceptual idea of a mobile training unit became a reality.

The MTU is currently used by Gilchrist to provide computer based training at the company's construction sites. It has been used as a mobile classroom for instructor-led learning such as Defensive Driving and First Aid/CPR. Field personnel have been trained on software for recording labor and equipment usage. It has also been used to train craftsmen and operators on preventive maintenance while on the job.

The invitation to view the Gilchrist MTU was accepted by several LTRC staff members. The MTU visited LTRC from 11:00am – 2:00pm on July 14, 2008. During this time, the LTRC staff had the opportunity to tour the MTU and meet with Randy Gilchrist, Tom Haralson, and Vice President of Human Resources, Valeria Aymond. LTRC was one of several publicity stops this year. The MTU has also visited the Kinder Rotary and many Gilchrist Construction employee events.

For more information on the Gilchrist MTU, visit their Web site at [www.gilchristconst.com](http://www.gilchristconst.com).



*Gilchrist Mobile Training Unit*

## Gilchrist Mobile Training Unit Photo Gallery

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### Upcoming Events:

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#### Louisiana Levee School

10/27/08 – 10/29/08

TTEC

#### Engineering for the Non-Engineer

11/14/08

TTEC

#### LTRC Workshop/Seminar Series

##### Measuring Construction Quality

11/18/08 – Shreveport

11/19/08 – Lafayette

11/20/08 – Kenner

#### Roadside Safety Design

12/09/08 – 12/11/08

TTEC

Visit [www.ltrc.lsu.edu](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu) for more upcoming events.

## Staff Updates and Accomplishments

LTRC is pleased to welcome **Dr. Tyson Rupnow**. Tyson joins the LTRC staff as Concrete Research Engineer and can be reached at 225.767.9148 or tysonrupnow@dotd.la.gov.

**Theresa Rankin** also joins the staff as LTRC's Administrative Manager. Theresa can be reached at 225.767.9121 or theresarankin@dotd.la.gov.

The Geotechnical Engineering Research Laboratory welcomes **Benjamin Comeaux**, Research Specialist I. Benjamin can be reached at bcome12@lsu.edu.

**Patrick Icenogle** and **Khalil Hanifa** also join the LTRC staff as Engineer Interns.

Materials Research Administrator, **Chris Abadie**, presented data researched by LTRC on recycled asphalt and asphalt mix performance abilities at the Warm Mix Showcase held in Shreveport on August 20-21, 2008.

**Dr. Vijaya (VJ) Gopu**, Associate Director for External Programs at LTRC, was appointed as Professor and Edward G. Schielder Endowed Chair in Civil Engineering at the University of New Orleans.

### Current LADOTD Job Opportunities:

<http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov/hresources/CivilServiceJobs.asp>

### Current LSU Job Opportunities:

<http://appl003.lsu.edu/hrm/hrmweb.nsf/Index>

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