Louisiana Transportation Conference a Success

Approximately 1,800 people from across the nation attended the 2016 Louisiana Transportation Conference. This year’s theme was Transportation: Making Connections That Matter and was held February 28-March 2, 2016, at the Baton Rouge River Center. With 72 sessions (including three workshops), transportation professionals, industry partners, and academics exchanged new ideas and methods and discussed changes happening within the industry.

The conference’s general session included key speeches by the Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor, State of Louisiana, and General Richard “Dick” Burleson, vice president of one of the largest engineering firms in the U.S., Neel-Schaffer. The session also included addresses and welcomes by DOTD Secretary Dr. Shawn Wilson and Frederick “Bud” Wright, AASHTO Executive Director. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx also conducted a special separate technical session.

A few technical session topics stood out from among the rest, attracting a couple hundred attendants each. The first and highest attended session was the Construction Roundtable, where a Q&A was held with representatives from DOTD and the industry (AGC, LAPA, and CAAL). The second half of the session served as a Project Engineer/Area Engineer meeting with DOTD HQ construction engineers.

The second popular session featured traffic engineering, which focused on DOTD updating its design guidelines based on the 2011 AASHTO Green Book, context sensitive solutions, and its complete streets policy. The

To view more events, please visit http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu.

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LTRC 30th Anniversary: A Look Back

1986
LTRC was created by the legislature, housing four labs (asphalt, concrete, geotech, and pavement).

1989
The Research Problem Identification Committees (RPICs) accepted the first wave of problem statements, which form the basis for the research program for the next two years. This effort has become essential to the successful development and management of the department’s research program.

1993
LTRC hosted its first official Louisiana Transportation Engineering Conference. Organizers later dropped “Engineering” and it now is simply the Louisiana Transportation Conference or LTC.

1995
TIRE reports were established, giving funding to local professors to explore transformative research ideas. Over the years, TIRE has supported approximately 100 professors.

1998
The LTRC Foundation was established, providing a unique cooperation among the transportation community (public, private, and academic) who work to improve Louisiana’s transportation systems.

2004
LTRC began hosting seminar series, providing technical leadership through a forum that demonstrates new technologies, publicizes LTRC research, discusses problems, and imports the best practices of others and transportation partners.

The LTRC website was updated to give the center the online presence it needed. Over the years, the site continues to stay up-to-date with current information and growing capabilities.

LTAP officially began as a joint undertaking of FHWA, DOTD, and LTRC and LSU and stimulates progressive and cost-effective transfer of highway technology and technical assistance to rural and local governments through on-site training, a publications/videotape library, workshops, and newsletters and manuals.

LSU
The first person from LSU was hired (Dr. Louay Mohammad), giving LTRC the opportunity to establish materials characterization and asphalt research capabilities and skill set.
The Office of Technology Transfer and Training moved from DOTD HR to LTRC to fulfill a core goal of the center. Since its inception, Technology Transfer and Training continues to evolve and offer more resources than ever before.

LTRC released its first logo as its marketing presence was established.

1987

1991

ALF was purchased and started its first experiment in 1994. Since then, LTRC has used ALF for 5-6 projects since, while also adding its new ATLAS device in 2015 to conduct additional research.

The Engineering Resource Development Program was developed. It offers entry-level engineers an opportunity to experience several engineering functional areas within the Department and provides a comprehensive view of the Department and its objectives prior to placement.

1991

2000

DOTD/LTRC hosted the 59th Annual Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Conference in New Orleans, La. Over 1,000 delegates attended, including the chief administrative officers and top assistants from the DOTs.

Pavement on the Move (POM) was created. POM is a multi-use mobile laboratory for collecting data from field construction projects as well as research and training.

2000

2003

TTEC opened to the public. The additional LTRC facility is dedicated to the delivery of transportation training, professional development opportunities, continuing education, and technology transfer to engineers, technicians, and other professionals from Louisiana’s public and private sectors.

LTRC’s External Funding Program was established, where funding opportunities are identified at the national, regional, and state level in the area of transportation engineering, planning, and management. Single or multi-campus faculty teams/clusters are organized, broadening the faculty base involved in transportation related research and LTRC provides guidance to university faculty submitting proposals.

2006
LTRC became one of the five members of a consortium that recently established a Tier I University Transportation Center (UTC) titled “National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness” or NCITEC. Since then, LTRC has participated in three other UTCs.

A new logo was launched—one that better reflects the center’s drive for research and Louisiana roots. All publications were also redesigned and updated.

The LTRC Library at TTEC was established with the goal of supporting researchers at LTRC, DOTD, LSU, and across the nation in their transportation-related research.

The Transportation Curriculum Council (TCC) was activated to assist LTRC identify, prioritize, develop, evaluate, and implement transportation-related technology transfer, training, work development and educational services for DOTD, and its public and private transportation industry partners.

The Local Road Safety Program (LRSP) was established under LTAP. The LRSP Team at LTAP conducts outreach to Local Public Agencies (LPA) and facilitates the submission and review of LRSP project applications.

Louisiana’s lead agencies in traffic safety and injury prevention joined together to create the Louisiana Center for Transportation Safety (LCTS), enhancing collaboration between traditional and new partners, promoting road safety research and education, and providing technical assistance and technology transfer to the transportation community and related stakeholders.

LTRC’s YouTube page began actively producing high-quality videos, focusing on subjects and problems important to the Department and center alike.
The Project Management and Tracking System (PMTS) went live, creating a way to better track projects, generate annual work proposals, and give enhanced management abilities to the administration of the research program.

The LTRC Publications and Electronic Media Department transitioned to electronic publication and distribution of its publications, saving the center thousands of dollars in unnecessary printing costs.

DOTD/LTRC assisted in establishing the Southeastern Transportation Consortium (STC), creating a way to pool financial, professional, and academic resources to coordinate research and develop improved methods of addressing common problems of transportation systems in participating states.

As you can see, over the last 30 years, the center has evolved from a small state research department into a multi-facility center, boasting over 100 employees, both university and state alike, comprised of numerous state programs, research departments and laboratories, as well as training resources.

DOTD/LTRC welcomed over 1,270 southeast transportation officials and professionals to the Sheraton in New Orleans, La during the annual Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Conference.

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) lab was established, where data is collected, analyzed, and reported as part of the ITS effort in Louisiana. The data is transformed into useful information that is instrumental to procedures and applications that benefit DOTD, the local government, and the general public.

LTRC became the first state DOT research center to be certified by NSF to receive major awards.

LTRC assisted in establishing the Southeastern Transportation Consortium (STC), creating a way to pool financial, professional, and academic resources to coordinate research and develop improved methods of addressing common problems of transportation systems in participating states.

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Staff Updates and Accomplishments

LSU Civil Engineering Professor and EMCRF Manager Louay Mohammad, Ph.D., was an invited panelist at the 2016 AAPT Workshop “Debating Cracking Performance Methods—Overview of Current Methods and State of Practice” on March 13, 2016, in Indianapolis, IN.

LTRC welcomes Angela Rovaris, LSU Teaching Associate 4. She will begin teaching the DOTD Project Management and Highway Plan Reading classes as well as assisting in updating and developing training courses.

Md. Nafiul Haque, Ph.D., was recently selected as the 2016 LSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Graduate Student of the Year.

We would like to welcome Paul Hendricks, the new IT Manager at LTRC.

Zhong Wu, Ph.D., P.E., was recently selected to serve on TRB Standing Committee on Full-Scale Accelerated Pavement Testing—AFD40.
Project Capsule 16-6P  
Quality Management of Cracking Distress Survey in Flexible Pavements using LTRC Digital Highway Data Vehicle  
Zhong Wu, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 13-5GT  
Monitoring of In-Service Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil (GRS) Bridge Abutments in Louisiana  
Murad Abu-Farsakh, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 15-2SA  
Development of a Simulation Test Bed for Connected Vehicles using the LSU Driving Simulator  
Sherif Ishak, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 14-3SS  
Development of a Mode Choice Model to Estimate Evacuation Transit Demand  
Chester G. Wilmot, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 15-2SS  
Cost and Time Benefits for Using Subsurface Utility Engineering in Louisiana  
Kirk Zeringue, P.E.

Project Capsule 13-3GT  
Finite Element Analysis of the Lateral Load Test on Battered Pile Group at I-10 Twin Span Bridge  
Murad Abu-Farsakh, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 16-5GT  
Corrosion Map for Metal Pipes in Coastal Louisiana  
Sanjay Tewari, Ph.D.

Project Capsule 15-3ST  
Rehabilitation of Deteriorated Timber Piles using Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Composites  
Hota GangaRao, Ph.D.

Project Capsule 16-5SS  
Diverted Traffic Measurement  
Ravindra Gudishala, Ph.D., P.E.

Project Capsule 16-1PF  
Development of a Guidebook for Determining the Value of Research Results  
Yoojung Yoon, Ph.D.

Project Capsule 15-1PF  
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