

# TECHNOLOGY eXchange

## Motorists Urged to “Stay Alert”

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 4-10, 2004

As the busy construction season gets underway, LTAP, LTRC and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) are calling on motorists to pay special attention and drive carefully through road construction sites. Vehicle accidents in highway construction zones are a serious public health problem. In 2002, over 1,100 people were killed in work zone accidents in the United States—9 of these fatalities occurred in Louisiana.

LTAP, LTRC and LADOTD are joining other national organizations such as the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Federal Highway Administration, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and American Traffic Safety Services Association, to promote National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 4-10.

To help drivers navigate safely through these sites, LTAP, LTRC, and LADOTD offers the following tips:

- **Stay alert!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- **Pay close attention!** Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- **Turn on your headlights!** Workers and other motorists must see you.
- **Don't tailgate!**
- **Don't speed!** Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.

Cont. on page 2

## Introducing the Peer-to-Peer Program on Traffic Control Devices



### What is the Peer-to-Peer Program on Traffic Control Devices (P2P TCD)?

With more than 1,000 pages of standards, guidelines, and options, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) can be overwhelming. Couple this complexity with the multitude of unique settings and circumstances found throughout the nation's transportation network, and questions are sure to arise.

Cont. on page 6

## Grouchy Retires as LTAP Director

After seven years as LTRC's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Director, David Grouchy retired in December 2003.

During Grouchy's tenure, the LTAP added course offerings and improved its customer service capabilities while the number of Louisiana Roads Scholar graduates topped 400. Grouchy also served at the national level as president of the National LTAP Association (NLTAPA) and Chairman of the LTAP Clearinghouse Advisory Committee. Under his leadership, the Louisiana Technology Transfer Center has become one of the best in the country.

"I've enjoyed working with a variety of people to improve our programs. Seeing the results of putting people together to work towards a common goal is rewarding," Grouchy said when asked about the most gratifying part of his job. "The tremendous support and encouragement from our staff here has raised the recognition level of the Louisiana LTAP."

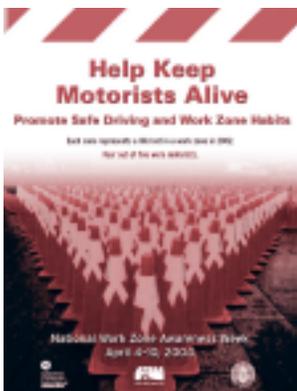
After graduating from LSU in Civil Engineering, Grouchy went to work as a hydraulics engineer with the City of Seattle. He stayed in Seattle until 1972, when he came back to Baton Rouge and worked for a variety of consulting firms.

In 1976 he became DOTD Assistant Urban Systems Engineer and later became Federal Projects Engineer and Chief of the Federal Projects Section in 1983. In 1990, Grouchy left DOTD to become Chief Engineer of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Coastal Restoration Division, building coalitions between federal and state agencies and creating some of the first coastal erosion measures to be implemented in Louisiana. After joining the consulting firm of Pyburn and Odom, Inc. in 1993, he re-joined DOTD as Specifications and Standards Engineer in 1995. He was appointed Director of LTAP in 1996.

Although he is officially "retired," Grouchy has no plans to quit working. He plans on moving to Arlington, Virginia to work with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Professional Development, which serves as an "in-house consultant" for training and learning, administering the LTAP and National Highway Institute (NHI) programs.



## National Work Zone Awareness Week, cont. from page 1



- **Keep up with the traffic flow!**
- **Don't change lanes in the work zone!**

- **Minimize distractions!** Avoid changing radio stations and using mobile phones while driving in the work zone.

- **Expect the unexpected!** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.

- **Be patient!** Remember that the work zone crew members are working to improve your future ride.

What's going on in Louisiana work zones? LADOTD has put the following new work

zone practices into action. All of these changes were developed by the Louisiana Work Zone Task Force.

- New traffic control standard plans meet all current standards in the Manual on Uniform

For local assistance and training, contact LTAP's David McFarland at (225) 767-9118.

For additional information about how you can improve safety in roadway construction zones, contact the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse via toll-free phone (1-888-447-5556), on the Internet at <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu>, fax (979-845-0568), or e-mail ([workzone@tamu.edu](mailto:workzone@tamu.edu)).

## Walsh Named New LTAP Director

LTRC welcomed Dr. Marie B. Walsh as its new LTAP director on January 5, 2004. Dr. Walsh received a Master's of Engineering in environmental engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1985 and a Ph.D. in human resource education and workforce development in 2003. Her background in engineering and supervision combined with workforce development and training gives her unique insights into the needs of LTAP's customers.

Her past work experience includes project engineering and management as well as training and organizational development in the private and public sectors. Prior to joining LTAP, she was employed by the East Baton Rouge City Parish as the director of training and employee development. Her work included design and implementation of training for the public works department including heavy equipment operator training, safety training, best practices for equipment operation, and maintenance and supervisory and leadership skill development. Dr. Walsh looks forward to the opportunity to serve the LTAP customers and to expanding the high quality programs already offered through the program.

While still settling into her new position, Dr. Walsh is enthusiastic about the LTAP program and its potential. She believes that, "the LA LTAP should be an invaluable resource to local governments and agencies looking for assistance with training and technical resources. We have access to such a wide range of products, services, and expertise that if a local agency needs assistance and we can't provide it directly, we can help find a

way to make it happen. I look forward to learning more about the needs of our local public works agencies and governments and to developing programs to meet these expectations in the future." She encourages all those with suggestions about the LTAP to contact her at (225) 767-9184 or by e-mail at [mbwalsh@ltrc.lsu.edu](mailto:mbwalsh@ltrc.lsu.edu).



We at LTRC would like to take this opportunity to welcome Marie to LTRC and thank David for his service and wish him well in future endeavors.

Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 350.

- A new work zone traffic control specification requires the contractor to have an authorized Traffic Control Supervisor on LADOTD construction projects (an authorized supervisor has taken and passed the AGC WZ Traffic Control Supervisor training course).

- A new policy for police officers working in work zones was implemented in coordination with the Louisiana state police; the state police also have a new policy that mirrors LADOTD's.

- A new three-year work zone training program was implemented for all LADOTD construction, design, and traffic personnel to get up-to-date training.

ATSSA has the contract from LADOTD (being handled by LTRC) to teach 4 courses:

- Work Zone Traffic Control Technician
- Work Zone Traffic Control Supervisor
- Work Zone Traffic Control Design
- Work Zone Flagger (Train-the-Trainer)

Currently, the Louisiana Work Zone Task Force is working on new speci-

fications for lighting nighttime construction work, edge drop offs, and a new lane closure policy for the interstate and controlled / restricted access highways. These changes should be complete in the near future.

# Small Construction Site Storm Water Program Workshops

LTAP and the Cooperative Extension Service of the LSU AgCenter have teamed up to offer a series of workshops on EPA's Small Construction Site Storm Water Program in late March and early April, 2004. The program, which went into effect on March 10, 2003, requires that operators of any construction activity that will disturb one to five acres of soil surface, including highway and roadway work, develop and implement a Storm Water Control and Pollution Prevention Plan. Agricultural and forest activities such as harvesting and planting are exempted from this rule.

The EPA rule requires that landowners, engineers, contractors, or agents obtain a permit prior to disturbing the soil and have a plan in place to control stormwater. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has been delegated responsibility for this program. The Storm Water Control and Pollution Prevention Plan must show the measures that will be taken to minimize erosion on the site and to prevent pollution

from other sources from leaving the site.

This program affects all small construction sites statewide. Oversight of the program will be at the local level. Parishes and towns that are included in the Storm Water Phase II program have construction and post-construction storm water control objectives in their Storm Water Management Plans and may have specific requirements. Urbanized areas designated as Small MS4s are also included in this program. Contractors, owners or operators should consult the local permitting agency before beginning a construction project or if an active project was begun after March 10, 2003.

The upcoming workshops are recommended for local government and public works officials responsible for permitting and oversight of construction activities within their jurisdictions. Contractors, developers and operators of such sites should also attend. Compliance aids, information sources, and methods for erosion control will be presented. Requirements for local

management and oversight of the program are included. Representatives of LDEQ will discuss the agency's role in the permitting and enforcement process and be available to answer questions regarding the program.

Dr. Rodney Hendrick, Professor with the Cooperative Extension Service, will be the principle instructor for the workshop. Dr. Hendrick has worked on water quality issues with the LSU Agricultural Center for the last 13 years, concentrating on non-point source pollution. A grad-

uate of the University of California at Riverside, he worked at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and in private business before joining the faculty at LSU.

Additional information on the Small Construction Site Storm Water Program maybe obtained at: [www.lsuagcenter.com/compost/stormwater-construction.asp](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/compost/stormwater-construction.asp). Contact the LTAP Center at (225) 767-9117 or (800) 595-4722 to register. Registration forms are also available at [www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap.html](http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/ltap.html).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Small Construction Site Stormwater Training (NPDES Phase II)

March 18	Slidell
March 23	Port Allen
March 24	Jefferson
March 30	Alexandria
March 31	Bossier City
April 1	Ruston
April 6	Sulphur
April 7	Lafayette

### RS #2: Asphalt Roads: Common Maintenance Problems

### RS #7: Seal Coats and Slurry Seals

May 4	Port Allen
May 5	Slidell
May 6	Jefferson
May 11	Alexandria
May 12	Bossier City
May 19	Sulphur
May 20	Lafayette
May 25	Ruston



## One Nation on the Move!

### Poster Art Contest:

National Competition for 5th Grade Students  
During National Transportation Week, May  
16-22, 2004.

Americans have the opportunity to celebrate the benefits of transportation, as well as explore the challenges we face in the future. We encourage you to help make this year's celebration even more special.

### Rules:

- Art should be completed on 8" x 11" paper and have a stiff backing. Any materials can be used including, but not limited to, paint, crayon, pencil, pastel.
- Each entry must include on the back: stu-

dent's full name, teacher's name, and school name, address, and phone number.

- Entries must be submitted by the students' school (public or private).
- Students enrolled in 5th grade during the 2003-04 school year are eligible; one entry per student; up to three entries per school.
- Artwork cannot be returned.

The judges will be looking for posters with a simple, clear interpretation of "One Nation on the Move." Lettering should be easy to read. Posters with misspelled words will not be considered by the judges.

Prizes: The pictures best capturing the essence of "One Nation on the Move" will be awarded the following prizes:

- First Prize: \$200 savings bond to the student and \$500 award to the student's school
- Second Prize: \$100 savings bond to the student and \$200 award to the student's school
- Third Prize: \$100 savings bond to the student and \$100 award to the student's school

The first prize winner receives transportation for two via US Airways to Washington, DC and two nights' lodging during National Transportation Week when the winning poster will be unveiled.

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 12, 2004.**

Mail or deliver entries to:

National Transportation Week Art Competition  
4600 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 800  
Arlington, VA 22203

If you have questions about the following events, please call  
LTAP at (225) 767-9117 or (800) 595-4722.

RS #5: Safety: A Common Sense Approach for the  
Public Worker

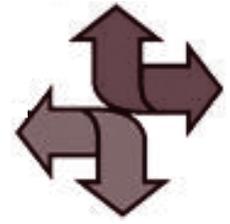
RS #6: Equipment Operation and Worker Safety  
March 18 Jefferson

Operation Lifesaver Level 1 Presenter Course  
March 11-12 Lake Charles

LPESA Spring Conference  
May 26-27 Lafayette

RS #8: Successful Supervision for the Local Road  
Supervisor

June 15	Port Allen
June 17	Jefferson
June 22	Alexandria
June 23	Bossier City
June 24	Ruston
June 29	Sulphur
June 30	Lafayette
July 1	Slidell



## Peer-to-Peer Program on Traffic Control Devices, cont. from page 1

The need for assistance in using the MUTCD, as well as in answering other questions related to traffic control devices, has led the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to establish a Peer-to-Peer program on Traffic Control Devices (P2P TCD). Recognizing that jurisdictions may face budget and personnel constraints as they address issues regarding traffic control devices, FHWA is providing this service at no charge to state and local transportation agencies.

### How can transportation agencies benefit from P2P TCD?

Changing demographics, new and conventional technologies, and the increasing complexity of the transportation system all challenge agencies as they apply the proper standards within the context of their unique localities, needs, and resources. The P2P TCD program can help agencies meet those challenges.

By tapping the programmatic and technical expertise of transportation professionals across the country, the program will save transportation officials time and expense as they implement new requirements. Benefits to agencies and their staffs include:

- Free and convenient access to expert professional consultation when needed
- Easier, more cost-effective implementation of new, conventional, and experimental traffic control devices
- Greater knowledge of traffic control technologies
- Increased understanding of federal requirements

In brief, the Peer-to-Peer program can help agency staff obtain technical advice conveniently and quickly from their professional colleagues with pertinent expertise. This assistance will in turn help agencies and the traveling public realize the full benefits of improved safety and optimized traffic performance.

### How does the program work?

It's easy as 1-2-3:

1. A local, county, regional, or state agency requests assistance by e-mail or by calling the toll-free number and describing their needs to the P2P coordinator.
2. The coordinator matches the agency with a transportation professional who is experienced and knowledgeable in the relevant technical area.
3. The peer, in turn, contacts the agency to work out the details of the assistance to be provided within the program framework.

## TECHNOLOGY

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### Publication Statement

Technology Exchange is published quarterly by the Louisiana Transportation Research Center. It is the newsletter of the Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program. Any findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the

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authors and do not necessarily reflect those of LSU, LADOTD, or FHWA.

The peer's assistance is short-term and will address specific technical issues.

Contact the MUTCD Peer-to-Peer Program by phone at 1-800-700-PEER(7337) or by e-mail at P2P@fhwa.dot.gov.

For complete information about the MUTCD, visit the Web site: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.  
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 U.S. Department of Transportation  
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 Washington, D.C. 20590

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## Ideas to Action FHWA

### Priority, Market-ready Technologies and Innovations

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has published a list of technologies and innovations that it believes warrant special attention by the state and local transportation community. These quick-read fact sheets on each of the proven technologies describe the problem, the solution, successful applications and the benefits. These ready-to-use technologies include:

- **Asset Management Guide:** Principles, techniques, and methods to integrate data, consider long-term consequences of investments and support decision making. Contact: Stephen Gaj, FHWA Office of Asset Management, (202) 366-1559.
- **Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Geofoam:** Lightweight material that can be used as fill behind walls and other support structures. Contact: Peter Osborn, (410) 962-0702.
- **Pavement Smoothness Methodologies:** New smoothness specifications cover test methods, equipment specifications, and equipment-certification programs. Contact: Mark Swanlund, (202) 366-1323.
- **Red Light Cameras:** Automation of the traditional enforcement practice. Contact: Hari Kalla, (202) 366-5915.
- **Roundabouts:** Circular intersections that require entering vehicles to yield to existing traffic in the circulatory roadway. (Lafayette, LA has a great example of a successful roundabout. Check out the next issue of Technology Exchange for more information on Lafayette's project!) Contact: Hari Kalla, (202) 366-5915.
- **Rumble Strips:** Continuous grooved indentations in roadway shoulders that provide an audible warning and a physical vibration to alert drivers that they are leaving the roadway. Contact: Dick Powers, (202) 366-1320.
- **Safe Speeds in Work Zones:** Portable speed limit signs that automatically display the safe speed based on traffic and road work condition and feedback displays showing the speed of approaching vehicles. Contact: Davey Warren, (202) 366-4668.

Contact the FHWA representatives shown above or LTAP at 1(800) 595-4722 for more information on these technologies and how they might benefit your community.

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## Understanding the Applications of Louisiana's Public Bid Law, Part 3: Miscellaneous Issues

In the last two issues of Tech Exchange (18.1 and 18.2), we discussed the applications of the Louisiana public bid law, advertising bids, writing specifications, and opening bids. In this issue, we'll take a look at some other procurement issues and illegal procurement practices.

- Remember that purchases may be made from state procurement contracts without the necessity of bidding.
- If bidders need to withdraw a bid, they must do so by affidavit within 48 hours of the bid opening. However, a withdrawal is only allowed when obviously unintentional and substantial mechanical, clerical, or mathematical errors exist.
- According to the recent case of *Rosenbush v. City of New Orleans*, a public entity must do one of the following within 30 days of opening bids: award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, reject all bids for just cause, or extend the deadline by mutual consent with the lowest responsible bidder. If the public entity does not comply, the courts can grant a mandamus to give the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.
- Be aware that any bidder or citizen can seek an injunction or mandamus to force a public entity to comply with the public bid law. Citizens can also file a complaint with the attorney general, who is obligated to investigate and may file suit on behalf of the citizen. If the attorney general or district attorney seeks enforcement actions, the courts may award a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 against public officials who authorized the violation.

To view the public bid law online, visit [www.legis.state.la.us/tsrs/search.htm](http://www.legis.state.la.us/tsrs/search.htm). You can search all of Louisiana's laws by entering the law body; title, article, or rule number; and section number. The public bid law is La. RS 38:2211-2294 (Louisiana Revised Statutes, Title 38, Sections 2211-2294).

This article is adapted from a presentation by Glenn R. Ducote, Attorney at Law, at the Louisiana Parish Engineers & Supervisors Association Seminar (September 5, 2002).

## Mailing List Update/Order form

Please use this form to update your mailing address, to request to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, or to order a publication/video.

- 1 Please change my address, as indicated below.
- 1 Please add this person to the mailing list.
- 1 Please remove this person from the mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 I have the following suggestion(s) for newsletter articles:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Louisiana Local Technical Assistance Program was established at the Louisiana Transportation Research Center on the LSU campus in 1986. The purpose of the center is to provide technical materials, information, and training to help local government agencies in Louisiana maintain and improve their roads and bridges in a cost-effective manner. To accomplish this purpose, we:

- W publish a quarterly newsletter,
- W conduct seminars, workshops, and mini-workshops covering various aspects of transportation,
- W provide a lending library service of audio/visual programs on a variety of transportation topics,
- W provide technical assistance through phone and mail-in requests relating to transportation technology,
- W and undertake special projects of interest to municipalities in Louisiana.

## Need Technical Help?.....Contact Our LTAP Center Staff:

Dr. Marie B. Walsh..... Director  
 David McFarland..... Teaching Associate  
 Robert D. Breaux..... Office Manager

225-767-9117  
 800-595-4722 (in state)  
 225-767-9156 (fax)  
[LALTAP@ltrc.lsu.edu](mailto:LALTAP@ltrc.lsu.edu) (e-mail)

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