

Technology

Today

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2002 Transportation Engineering Conference

A Great Success



The LADOTD Transportation Engineering Conference has been credited with being the biggest and best conference of its kind in the nation.

More than 1,300 transportation professionals attended the 2002 Louisiana

Transportation Engineering Conference, which was held in Baton Rouge. Attendees from throughout Louisiana, 24 other states, and two Canadian provinces represented the public, private, and academic sectors of the transportation industry. The conference provides a forum for members of the industry to relate innovative technologies and to discuss transportation policy, practice, and problems. The fifth meeting since its initia-

tion as a biennial event in 1993, this year's two and a half-day conference was the largest and most successful conference yet.

The Louisiana Transportation Research Center is charged with the accountability for planning, coordinating, and managing the conference through its technology transfer role to the department and other customers in the state. However, LTRC's

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Technical Sessions Primary Focus of Conference

The 2002 Louisiana Transportation Engineering

Conference attracted over 1,300 transportation partners, including engineers, consultants, contractors, material suppliers, and professors from various universities. While the major focus was technical sessions,

the conference included ten chat rooms for open discussion on contemporary topics and issues and nine alternate sessions for personal development. The 43 technical sessions offered lectures on various areas of interest from intermodalism,

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2002 Transportation Engineering Conference (cont. from page 1)

Director, Joe Baker, credits the conference's success to the enormous partnering effort between LADOTD, LTRC staff, and friends in the transportation community.

"This conference represents our premier opportunity to transfer technology to all of



our customers in the transportation industry, and I can think of no other activity having as great an impact on the entire industry than this conference" said Joe Baker. "I am particularly proud of and grateful for the outstanding job that Kirt Clement has done as the administrator of this conference." He added, "His leadership in coordinating and managing the conference staff is greatly appreciated and recognized as a signifi-

cant contribution toward the great success achieved."

The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Master of Ceremonies, John Basillica, LADOTD Undersecretary; State Senator Francis Heitmeier; State Representative John "Juba" Diez; Tony Sussmann, FHWA Division Administrator; and Ara Arman, vice president of GEC, Inc., representing private industry and, coincidentally, the first director of LTRC. Dr. Kam Movassaghi, LADOTD Secretary, addressed the assembly reporting on the "State of LADOTD."

Frederick "Bud" Wright, the recently appointed Executive Director of the FHWA, Washington D.C, contributed an update on the FHWA, and LADOTD Chief Engineer, William Temple, discussed the future engineering goals of LADOTD. Other topics presented in the opening session ranged from the Latin America Trade and Transportation Study to Ethics.

The conference program focused on a full complement of technical sessions that facilitated the exchange of new and innovative information in the transportation industry, research results, technology, techniques, and strategies developed. The 43 technical sessions offered areas of interest such as ITS, intermodalism, highway materials, law and the engineer, changes to the LADOTD Standard Specifications Book, construction issues, and new design concepts. Attendees to the sessions could earn up to 15 professional development hours, an attractive feature for engineering attendees.

One of the conference highlights included a trade show that showcased new and innovative materials and equipment presented by over 60 transportation-related consultants and vendors. The occasion also provided an opportunity for participants to network and discuss transportation issues and solutions.

At a closing luncheon that wrapped up the conference, LTRC's LTAP Director,



David Grouchy, in the full dress and persona of Mark Twain, was the “surprise speaker” with his unique, humorous presentation on ethics. A discussion on the need for federal appropria-

tions legislation by John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO, then concluded the conference.

Horsley commented that, in his role as AASHTO Executive Director, he attends many such conferences across the nation. He credited LADOTD’s Engineering Conference with being the biggest and the best state conference of its kind in the nation.

With the success of each conference, the number of participants has steadily risen from nearly 700 in 1993 to over 1,300 attendees this year. Extremely pleased at the conference’s reception, conference administrators welcome the challenge of preparing for the next conference in 2004.

News from the LSU Side of Our Organization

The LSU Dean of Engineering, Pius Egbelu, announced Dr. George Voyiadjis, Boyd Professor & Bingham Cushman Stewart Distinguished Professor, as the new Chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE).

Dr. Voyiadjis brings with him a proven record of scholarly accomplishments. He has an excellent research and teaching record and is the

only faculty in the college honored as a Boyd Professor, the highest honor that LSU can bestow on a faculty member. In addition, having previously served as the Acting Associate Dean of the graduate school, Graduate Program Coordinator, and recently the Interim Department Chair for CEE, he also brings with him a wealth of administrative experiences that will serve him and the department

well in his new position. Dean Egbelu stated that he considers it an honor to have Dr. Voyiadjis as the new Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

LTRC congratulates Dr. Voyiadjis on his appointment and anticipates a continued excellent relationship with its CEE colleagues.

Technical Sessions Primary Focus of Conference, (cont. from page 1)



transportation planning, and ITS to bridge design and construction, highway materials, and pavement performance. Specifically, some of the most popular sessions were law and the engineer, asphalt pavements, pavement rehabilitation and management, status of the TIMED program, progress of I-49 and I-69, crack relief and composite pavement, pavement preservation, traffic safety, and problem soils.

LTRC played a major role in the planning and conduct of this biennial event, exemplifying LTRC's accountability to transfer knowledge to other members of the transportation community. Staff

exhibited new technology and presented research studies in which LTRC is actively involved.

Participants in the conference received 1.5 professional development hours (PDH's) for every technical session attended. Although PDH's were also granted for the

opening session, the technical sessions presented the greatest opportunity to earn up to 15 of the 30 hours required biennially for professional registration. The conference also provided an opportunity for participants to meet the one hour requirement in ethics.

The technical content of the conference was the result of hard work accomplished by the Program Committee, which consisted of members from many segments of the transportation industry and was chaired by Skip Paul, LTRC's Associate Director, Research. The committee achieved its goals by providing a variety

of sessions addressing the interests of transportation professionals.

"I commend my committee and our many speakers for the outstanding program they developed and delivered to successfully meet and exceed the needs of participants," Paul said. "Overall, the technology transfer offered by the technical sessions, as the major component of the conference, was highly effective."

LTRC Director, Joe Baker, was quick to give credit where, he said, credit was due. "This conference certainly ranks as the most diverse and balanced program to date," Baker said. "Skip is to be complimented for an outstanding job as program chair."



Chinese Road Officials Visit LTRC

Members of the Directorate Office of the Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd., and the Comprehensive Planning Department under the Ministry of Communications of China recently met with members of the LTRC administration and toured the research facilities at LTRC. LTRC's Zhongjie "Doc" Zhang represented Louisiana in planning and coordinating the group's activities over several days. The delegates came under the auspices of a World Bank program as part of training in post-appraisal of expressway projects such as environmental and socio-economic impact assessment components.

They received part of their "training" in Washington, DC, before coming to Louisiana. The Federal

Highway Administration was involved in their tour as well and met with the group to provide guidance.

The group included:
Chen Shuihan, General Manager, Fujian Provincial Fuzhou-Quanzhou Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Guo Xinxin, Deputy Division;
Jiang Xiaofan, Deputy Division Chief/ Senior Accountant, Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Yang Zhongming, Deputy Director, Expressway Construction Directorate, Nanping, Fujian;
Fang Xiaodong, Deputy Section Chief, Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Lin Hongkeng, Senior Engineer, Planning and Investment Division under

Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Yang Changsheng, Interpreter, Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Jia Chunming, Senior Accountant, Fujian Expressway Development Company, Ltd.;
Qi Ronghua, Assistant Economist, Planning and Investment Division under Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.;
Chen Huifeng, Director of Financial Department/ Accountant, Zhangzhou-Zhao'an Expressway Company, Ltd. Zhangzhou, Fujian;
Liu Rongsheng, Director, Tuling Toll Station under Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.; and
Cai Hui, Engineer, Engineering Department under Fujian Provincial Expressway Company, Ltd.

After leaving Baton Rouge, the group was also scheduled to attend the CONEX-PO trade show in Las Vegas and continue to meet with transportation officials in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Trainers Earn State Certification



Along with district training personnel, LTRC participants included Cindy Twiner, Karen Cordell, David McFarland, Sandra Romero, Gary Hidalgo, Sher Creel, and Chip Thompson.

Over 25 training professionals with LADOTD recently earned their LTRC-sponsored Louisiana State Training Certifications recently. Participants were a mix of LTRC training staff and district training specialists from the nine LADOTD districts.

The certification completed a 32-day, rigorous series of competency based, train-the-trainer programs conducted over a three year period by the LSU Office of Human Resource Development. The instructors included Dr. Sharon Naquin, project director and the LSU Director of Human

Resource Development, and Dr. Elwood Holton, an associate professor of Human Resource Development at LSU.

The program was designed to demonstrate the fundamental concepts of training development, which include principles of adult learning, needs analysis, training design, delivery, and facilitation of learning techniques. After these comprehensive courses, final certification required passing a test as well as completing a training project illustrating those principles just learned.

“Going into this training, we had no idea that we would reap the benefits that we have, that it would be so extensive and on-target,” said Billy Laird, District Training Specialist in the Lake Charles district. “It’s given us the confidence to assist in both maintenance and construction course development. It was just a wonderful learning experience.”

A pilot program preceded and evaluated this certification. Three LTRC staff members received a training certification as a result of this pilot program: Tinka McFarland, Dee Jones, and Wilma Chustz, all training and development program managers.

“I am very proud of our LTRC and district staff who worked hard to earn these certificates,” said Kirt Clement, Associate Director, Technology Transfer. “As the demands for training continue to increase, we need to find ways to satisfy those needs and be more effective. This training should help us along on that process.”

Paul Honored for Contributions to National Academies



LTRC Associate Director, Research, Harold "Skip" Paul, P.E., was recently honored as a lifetime National Associate of the National Academies in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the National Academies in its role as advisor to the nation in matters of science, engineering, and health. As one of only two representatives of state DOT's to receive this honor, this award recognizes 25 years of service in the transportation industry, including 20 in which he has been active in TRB.

Many dedicated professionals serve pro bono on committees of the National Academies. According to the Academies, over 5,600 individuals were members of one or more of the committees active in the year 2000. Additionally, nearly 2,000 individuals served anonymously as reviewers of one or more reports that year. Without the commitment of these experts providing the nation with their wisdom and advice, the National Academies on matters of science, technology, and health would not be possible. Membership in the Associates is for life, recognizing past service, and new designations are made annually.

Paul, LTRC's associate director of research since 1996, is responsible for the administration of the research program and is the immediate past chair of the TRB Division A Council. Previously, he managed the materials research program with 20 years experience in asphalt research. He is still very active in asphalt technology, serves as a member of A2D05, General Issues in Asphalt Technology, and is a member of A2F02 on Flexible Pavement Construction. He is also a member and past director-at-large of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists. Paul has served on numerous NCHRP, FHWA, and Strategic Highway Research Program synthesis and project experts panels. He has authored or co-authored over 30 technical research reports and *Transportation Research Record* and *Journal of Asphalt Paving Technologists* articles.

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Joe T. Baker, P.E.
Director, LTRC

Sher Creel
Executive Editor

Audrey Paul
Editorial Assistant

Kirt Clement, P.E.
Assoc. Director,
Technology Transfer

Vicki Dischler
Graphic Designer

Nick Champion
Photographer

LADOTD 2002 Transportation Engineering Conference Scrapbook



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