

Acronyms in *Technology News*

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
APWA	American Public Works Association
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
IHRB	Iowa Highway Research Board
InTrans	Institute for Transportation (at ISU)
Iowa DOT	Iowa Department of Transportation
ISU	Iowa State University
LTAP	Local Technical Assistance Program
MUTCD	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NACE	National Association of County Engineers
TRB	Transportation Research Board



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Message from the director: Change is the one constant



by Keith Knapp, LTAP director

Fall really fell this past week. The temperature during our Snow Plow Operator Training and Snow Rodeo went from near 90 degrees to a high just above 60 degrees. Soon the snow will be flying once again. This year we were honored to have the new Iowa DOT director try his hand at our plow truck rodeo course. I think a good time and some skill training was had by all during the week. At the end of the month we'll host the Streets and Roads Workshop and conference and a workshop.

Fall is always a busy time for Iowa LTAP and this year we are offering several new opportunities.

We've collaborated with DMACC – Boone to advertise a Route Survey Fundamentals training course. One class is already full and another is available the last week of



(l to r) Paul Trombino, director, Iowa DOT; Lubin Quinones, administrator, FHWA, Iowa division; Keith Knapp, director, Iowa LTAP, at 2011 rodeo

October. Road Scholars credit will be provided for attendance at this course.

We are also testing the feasibility of organizing and offering National Highway Institute (NHI) bridge inspection courses. Minimum and maximum attendance requirements are placed on these courses by NHI, so we'll need to determine demand. Keep an eye out for an electronic "bridge inspection" course demand survey.

We are also offering two events this fall that are available at no cost to attendees. First, our annual Iowa Local Agency Safety workshops will again be offered in at least five locations. Second, the Iowa DOT has developed new standards on sidewalk and curb ramp design, and we are working with the Iowa DOT to offer a ½ day training at six locations or more. One site is actually already at capacity, and a waiting list has begun.

We are also planning two or three more locations for the 2009 MUTCD training we offered this spring.

Finally, this fall also seems to be the season for public comments on proposed federal rules. In this newsletter (beginning on page 4) you will see a short article on a proposal related to MUTCD compliance dates. Now is your chance to comment on this proposal (the deadline is October 31, 2011). A link to comment can be found on the homepage of <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>.

The comment stage to clarify the definition of a standard statement in the MUTCD and the use of engineering judgment and studies ends October 3, 2011. Lastly, comments have also been invited with respect to proposed accessibility guidelines for pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way. The deadline for comments on this proposed rulemaking is November 23, 2011. The guidelines can be viewed and comments provided at www.regulations.gov (search for the following ID: ATBCB-2011-0004-0008).

Be safe.

Keith