

CENTERLINE

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North Dakota Local Technical Assistance Program • A Service for Local Transportation Agencies

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Looking for your ideas and news articles

Please contact Denise Brown at 701-328-9855 or email denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu to submit suggestions for future Center Line editions.

ND Local Technical Assistance Program
Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
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2010 IN REVIEW – A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Gary Berreth



This past year was a year of challenge for North Dakota, beginning in the winter of 2009-2010. Nature delivered record snowfalls and as temperatures rose, so did the resulting water levels. Few if any areas of the state escaped the impacts of snow and water.

The resources and infrastructure of road departments throughout the state were severely stressed. Much of the summer and fall were spent trying to catch up with emergency repairs and regular work activities. In some areas, road crews still have not completed emergency work. To add to the challenges for road agencies has been the rapid development of energy industries—oil, gas, and wind—throughout the state. However, even with all these challenges, infrastructure agencies and private partners statewide once again responded exceptionally well.

Weather also had an impact on NDLTAP activities this past year. Three workshops and one major conference had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Even so, 769 participants attended 30 training sessions over the year amounting to approximately 4,085 participant hours of training. The LTAP Center distributed a quarterly newsletter (The Centerline) to approximately 7,400 customers. A new monthly safety publication (Safety Talk) was initiated along with staff visits made to 117 locations (69 county, 10 city, and 38 NDDOT).

(Continued on page 2)

(2010 in Review cont'd)

NDLTAP also partnered with SDLTAP in sponsoring the Regional Local Roads Conference in Rapid City. Once again the conference was deemed a success with participation breaking attendance records and conference evaluation comments being extremely positive. We encourage North Dakota to consider attending. Please watch for additional information on agenda, registration, and transportation information in our next newsletter.

Bus passengers for Local Roads Conference 2010



On behalf of the NDLTAP staff, we would like to thank our customers for their support of the program. For us to remain successful, NDLTAP needs to provide the services that can best aid your transportation and technology needs. This can best be accomplished through communication from you, the customer. Please feel free to contact any NDLTAP staff member if you have comments or input on program activities.

DAVE LEVI SAYS “IT’S TIME”

By Gary Berreth



Program manager Dave Levi is retiring from NDLTAP again. Approximately two and a half years ago Dave Levi retired from NDLTAP to spend more time with his family. After several months of trying to find a replacement, Dave graciously agreed to help us out on a less-than-full-time basis.

It’s been another great two and a half years of having Dave’s services for the NDLTAP program. But once again the lure (no pun intended) of fishing and his family is calling him to retire. As we noted the first time that he retired, his services and friendship will be sorely missed in the LTAP community. Thank you, Dave for everything you have done for transportation in the state, region, and nationally. Enjoy your retirement.





SAFETY CORNER: CONSTRUCTION PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

By Steve Chase

Eye and Face Protection

Safety glasses or face shields are worn any time work operations can cause foreign objects to get in the eye. For example, during welding, cutting, grinding, nailing (or when working with concrete and/or harmful chemicals or when exposed to flying particles).

Wear when exposed to any electrical hazards, including working on energized electrical systems.

Eye and face protectors – select based on anticipated hazards.

Foot Protection

Construction workers should wear work shoes or boots with slip-resistant and puncture-resistant soles. Safety-toed footwear is worn to prevent crushed toes when working around heavy equipment or falling objects.

Hand Protection

Gloves should fit snugly.

Workers should wear the right gloves for the job (examples: heavy-duty rubber gloves for concrete work; welding gloves for welding; insulated gloves and sleeves when exposed to electrical hazards).

Head Protection

Wear hard hats where there is a potential for objects falling from above, bumps to the head from fixed objects, or of accidental head contact with electrical hazards.

Hard hats – routinely inspect them for dents, cracks or deterioration; replace after a heavy blow or electrical shock; maintain in good condition.

Hearing Protection

Use earplugs/earmuffs in high noise work areas where chainsaws or heavy equipment are used; clean or replace earplugs regularly.

Content Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (Users of Safety Corner are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations).

REGIONAL LOCAL ROADS CONFERENCE HELD

By Steve Chase

The 25th annual Regional Local Roads Conference was held in Rapid City, SD, October 20-21. There was record attendance included 223 participants and 25 vendors. An addition to the conference this year was an evening banquet that featured speakers Marvin Espeland and Bob Meister. Both men are now retired from FHWA, but were instrumental in starting the conference 25 years ago.

Ken Skorseth, SDLTAP, welcomed the group to the conference. Wendall Meyer, North Dakota FHWA, presented an update on the federal highway bill. Keith Berndt, ND Regional VP of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) and Cass Co. Engineer, provided an update on (NACE) activities.

Technical sessions topics included alternatives to paving roads, emergency road closures, ethics, green asphalt technology, pavement repair methods, gravel road study, rural road surface management, and geotextiles base reinforcement. Panel discussions covered benefits of GIS and returning roads to gravel. One of the highlights of the conference each year is the “You Show Us” contest which features innovative ideas that have been submitted by local agencies on ways to improve the efficiency and safety of their operations. North Dakota’s submittal was a cutting edge lift designed by Randy Keller from Dunn County, which appeared in an earlier newsletter. The regional selected winner was North Dakota’s entry. It will be entered in the national “Build a Better Mousetrap” contest held in the spring of 2011.

The 2011 conference will again be organized by NDLTAP. The NDLTAP office will organize bus travel to the conference. To suggest technical subjects for presentations, contact Denise Brown or Gary Berreth at NDLTAP



Regional Winner - Randy Keller, Dunn County and Renee Koller, Colorado LTAP

**26th Annual
Regional Local Roads
Conference
October 26-27, 2011
Rapid City, S.D.**

2009-2010 ROAD SCHOLAR AWARDS

Road Scholar
Level I

30 hours of
Basic Training
Courses

Cap and
Plaque
Awarded



Back row L to R: Matthew Maresh -NDDOT, Gene Small Burleigh County, Rick Melcher -Ward County, Front row L to R: Terri Biggers -NDDOT, Michelle Fender -NDDOT, Sharon Lipsh -Walsh County, Kerry Johnson- Barnes County. Awarded at the NDACE Conference in Bismarck.

Others awarded not present:

Wayne Koltres, Eugene Krambeer, Theo Schalesky - All Adams County

Roy Krivoruchka, Jeff Iverson - Billings County

Kevin Mayer - City of Casselton

Travis Schafer - City of Wahpeton

Paul Messner - Department of Emergency Services

Daryl Lematta, Josh Lematta - Dickey County

Kevin Michel - Federal Highway Administration

Don Kline, Wayne Owens - Ramsey County

Jim Dunn, Ward County

(Road Scholar awards cont'd on page 6)

**Road Scholar
Level II**

**60 hours of
Basic/Elective
Training
Courses**

**Shirt and
Plaque**



Gerard Feist - Burleigh County, Dana Larsen Ward County

Others awarded not present:

Richard Benz - Dunn County

Lowell Bladow - Richland County

**Road Scholar
Level III**

**90 hours of
Basic/Elective
Training
Courses**

**Coat and
Plaque**



Nick Kraft - Morton County

Not present:

Nicholas Richter - Ramsey County

MODIFICATIONS TO THE NDLTAP ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Due to the large volume of training and participation we are experiencing, modifications were made to the Road Scholar Program. These modifications will be effective September 2010. All courses offered through NDLTAP will provide a course description, which will include whether the course is a basic or elective training requirement for the Road Scholar Program. The course description will also provide the total hours of credit given to the course. As seen below we will no longer award Level III.

Level I

Completion of a minimum of 5 courses (30 hours) of instruction from the required courses.

Level II

Completion of 30 hours of additional training. This training can be *either* basic *or* elective courses.

For program details and enrollment go to www.ndltap.org - click on Road Scholar Program or contact the NDLTAP office.



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