



A Local Technical Assistance Program - LTAP

# ALABAMA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER

AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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Alabama Transportation Newsletter

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Message from the Director
2. 56th Annual Transportation Conference Presentations
3. Calendar of Events
4. National Work Zone Awareness Week
5. Changes in Leadership at ALDOT
6. Help for Local Public Agencies Managing Federal-Aid Projects
7. RTAP News
8. 2013 Alabama Statewide Bus and Paratransit Roadeo Results

## Alabama Transportation Newsletter

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Federal Highway Administration  
Alabama Dept. of Transportation  
AU Dept. of Civil Engineering  
AU Engineering Continuing Education

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## Message from the Director

Thank you for reading the first newsletter of the Alabama Technology Transfer Center in 2013. As you likely know, Bob Vecellio retired from Auburn University last fall and stepped down as director of the center after 17 years in a leadership role, and back to 1983 as a seminar instructor.

I would like to reintroduce you to the center, which operates Alabama's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) for transportation agencies. The center is managed through the Office of Engineering Continuing Education and the Department of Civil Engineering at Auburn University, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Transportation. The primary purpose of the center is helping to meet the education and training needs of local governments in Alabama with respect to management of the transportation system. Conducting seminars and training courses is the center's main activity and opportunity for us to serve the transportation community in Alabama.

If you have attended any of our seminars or workshops, you likely have met Larry Sellers and Garry Havron, who manage the day-to-day operations of the center. Larry has 29 years of service with the Center, and Garry has been with the program for 5 years. They have managed the program well and also have been involved with LTAP activities at the national level.

The Center also has a steering committee comprised of transportation engineers across the state; the committee will be meeting this summer with the primary purpose of prioritizing topics for future seminars and advising program direction in general.

I welcome your comments on the center; please feel free to contact me at [rodturochy@auburn.edu](mailto:rodturochy@auburn.edu)

Yours truly,  
*Rod Turochy*

## The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Transportation Conference

The Alabama T2 Center is one of the sponsors of the Annual Transportation Conference. The 56th Conference was held in Montgomery on February 12-13, 2013 and was attended by over 800 people. At the Conference there were 36 technical presentations covering all aspects of transportation. Speakers were given the opportunity to provide us an electronic copy of their presentation for distribution. As a result, 31 of the conference presentations are now available on the Alabama T2 website <[www.alabamat2.org](http://www.alabamat2.org)> and can be accessed by clicking on "Transportation Conference Presentations". The presentation topics and authors are identified below .

### 56th Annual Transportation Conference Presentations

#### The Impacts of MAP-21

- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)- Dave Harris
- ALDOT's Funding Plan under MAP-21- Don Arkle
- MAP-21 Performance Requirements and Implementation Status- Pete Stephanos

#### Bridges

- Bridging the Gap Africa- Kelley C. Rehm
- MASH Crash Testing of Bridge Rails: What We Have Learned to Date- William Williams
- ALDOT's Transition from ASD to LRFD—Technical Issues and Challenges- Nick Walker and Matt Revell

#### Sustainability

- The Greenroads™ Rating System- Steve Muench
- Clean Water Act NPDES Permits for Herbicides- Howard Peavey
- Monitoring the Coastal Processes in the Vicinity of the Little Lagoon Pass- Bret M. Webb and Scott L. Douglass

#### Construction

- Cost Savings by Using Subsurface Utility Engineering on US 280- R. Mark Pitchford
- Replacing the CSX RR Lift Span over the Mobile River- Chuck Davis
- Use of Internal Curing for Bridge Decks in New York State- Bill Wolfe

#### Preparing for Future Freight Travel

- Using Advisory Committees for Freight Funding Allocation- Lynn J. Soporowski
- Freight Transportation Issues in the Memphis, TN Region- Martin E. Lipinski
- Container Freight on the Tenn-Tom Waterway

#### Programs for Promoting Cycling

- Auburn: A Bicycle Friendly Community-Jeffery L. Ramsey
- Cycle Atlanta: Increasing Public Participation in Cycling Infrastructure Decisions- Kari Edison Watkins

#### Funding Our Highways

- Revenue Enhancements Alternatives for ALDOT- Jay Lindly
- Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program – ATRIP- Edward Austin

#### Asphalt Pavements

- RAP and Rubber: ALDOT's Perspective- Lyndi Davis Blackburn
- Asphalt Shingles – A Contractor's Perspective- David Reed
- Impacts of the NCAT Test Track on Industry- Ray Brown

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(Continued from page 2, "56th Annual Transportation Conference Presentations")

#### **Stormwater Runoff Control**

- Use of Lamella Plate Settlers for Turbidity Control- Jose G. Vasconcelos
- A Contractor's Perspective on Stormwater Runoff Control- Michael Prince
- ALDOT MS4 Permit Requirements- Scott W. Rogers

#### **Geotechnical Engineering**

- Soil Nail Monitoring- Nate Beard
- Anniston Sinkhole on I-20-Renardo Dorsey
- GIS for Geotechnical Engineering Projects- Andrew Graettinger and Randy Smith and Kaye Chancellor Davis

#### **Traffic Operations and Safety**

- What Do You Consider the Appropriate Speed Limit?- Stacey N. Glass
- The Affordable Improvements Plan for U.S. Highway 280 in Birmingham- Darrell Skipper and Clark Bailey
- Partnering for Innovation: I-285 @ Ashford-Dunwoody Road Diverging Diamond Interchange- Marlo Clowers

## *Calendar of Events*

### ***Upcoming T<sup>2</sup> Seminars***

Introduction to the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual, April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2013

Introduction to Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design, June 12, 13, 19, and 20, 2013

Retracing and Proofing Original Government Land Office Section Corners, August 8, 9, 15, and 16, 2013

Complete Streets, September 4, 5, 18, and 19, 2013

Standards of Practice for Land Surveying, October 24, 25, 31, and November 1, 2013

Evolution of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and Program Requirements, November 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2013

### ***Meetings and Conferences***

June 5 – 7, 2013: Annual Meeting of the Alabama Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Gulf Shores

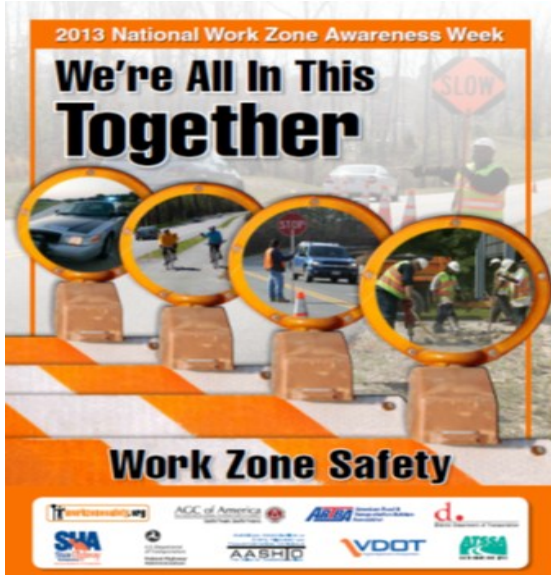
July 30 – August 2, 2013: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint ASCE/APWA Conference, Orange Beach

### ***Other Events***

April 15 – 19, 2013: National Work Zone Awareness Week

May 19 – 25, 2013: National Public Works Week

## National Work Zone Awareness Week



2013 Publicity Poster for NWZAW



Travelling Memorial Display  
Honors Those Who Have Been Killed  
In Work Zone Crashes

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is set for April 15-19, 2013. The national kick-off event will be held at an urban work zone in Washington, DC. The theme this year is "Work Zone Safety: We're All in This Together". This theme emphasizes the importance of thinking beyond the construction crews and drivers.

Worker safety involves many types of work being performed on or near the roadway. This work can include construction projects, maintenance work areas, utility work zones and incident management areas. Road user safety includes motorists such as drivers and passengers of personal vehicles, construction equipment, delivery vehicles, utility vehicles, mass transit vehicles and transportation providers. In addition the road users include pedestrians, bicyclists and persons with disabilities. A temporary traffic control zone is needed for each work zone in proportion to the complexity of the project and its environment. That is why the kick-off event for this year will emphasize the urban environment.

A publicity poster was prepared by the American Traffic Safety Services Association. The 24" by 36" poster shows the theme and several work zone scenes and has been distributed across the country. Additional items such as pins, ribbons and commemorative tee shirts are also available from ATSSA for a fee. The proceeds from the sale of these items support programs, such as the Roadway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program and the National Work Zone Memorial Program. The Memorial is called "Reflection of Life on the Road". It is a traveling memorial to persons killed in work zones. The memorial has been displayed in 32 states over the past seven years. Information on each of these items is available on the ATSSA website at:

<http://www.atssa.com/Events/NationalWorkZoneAwarenessWeek.aspx>

NWZAW has been held annually since 2005. Kick-off activities have been conducted in several different states. So far, eleven states have applied to host the event for 2014. The host for 2014 will be announced at the kick-off event this year.

In the Federal Highway Administration, coordination of NWZAW activities is done by the Office of Operations as part of its Work Zone Mobility and Safety Program. More information on these activities is available on the FHWA website at:

[http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz\\_awareness.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm)

In Alabama, local activities are coordinated by the Alabama Struck by Alliance. Safety meetings, public presentations, publicity campaigns, public service announcements and the adoption of local resolutions announcing the importance of NWZAW have been their items of interest for several years. Their activities are described on the Alabama General Contractors website at:

<http://www.theconstructioncenter.org/alliance/alliance.asp>

(Continued on Next Page)

(Continued from page 4, "National Work Zone Awareness Week")

Activities in other states and guidelines on how to conduct similar events are on the website of the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse at:

[http://www.workzonesafety.org/news\\_events/awareness\\_week/2012](http://www.workzonesafety.org/news_events/awareness_week/2012)

This Clearinghouse was started in 1994. It is sponsored by the FHWA and organized by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. Their website is maintained by the Transportation Institute at Texas A & M.

Many more resources on work zones are available from the national website of the Local and Tribal Technical Assistance Program of FHWA. These items were developed or collected by LTAP Centers such as Alabama Technology Transfer Center. The LTAP resources webpage is located at:

<http://www.ltap.org/resources/searchdbs.php>

(Prepared by John R McCarthy, PE, Traffic Engineer III, City of Montgomery, AL)

## Changes in Leadership at ALDOT

In the last few months there have been changes among the top leaders within the Alabama Department of Transportation. Ronnie Baldwin was appointed Chief Engineer effective January 7, 2013, following the retirement of Don Vaughn, and John Lorentson was appointed Deputy Director for Operations as of March 1, 2013, following the retirement of G.M. (Mike) Harper. Ronnie Baldwin has been with ALDOT since 1972, most recently serving as the Chief of the Bureau of the Office Engineer since 2005. He is a civil engineering graduate of Auburn University. John Lorentson has more than 40 years of service at ALDOT, most recently as Division Engineer for ALDOT's 6<sup>th</sup> Division.

## Help for Local Public Agencies Managing Federal-Aid Projects

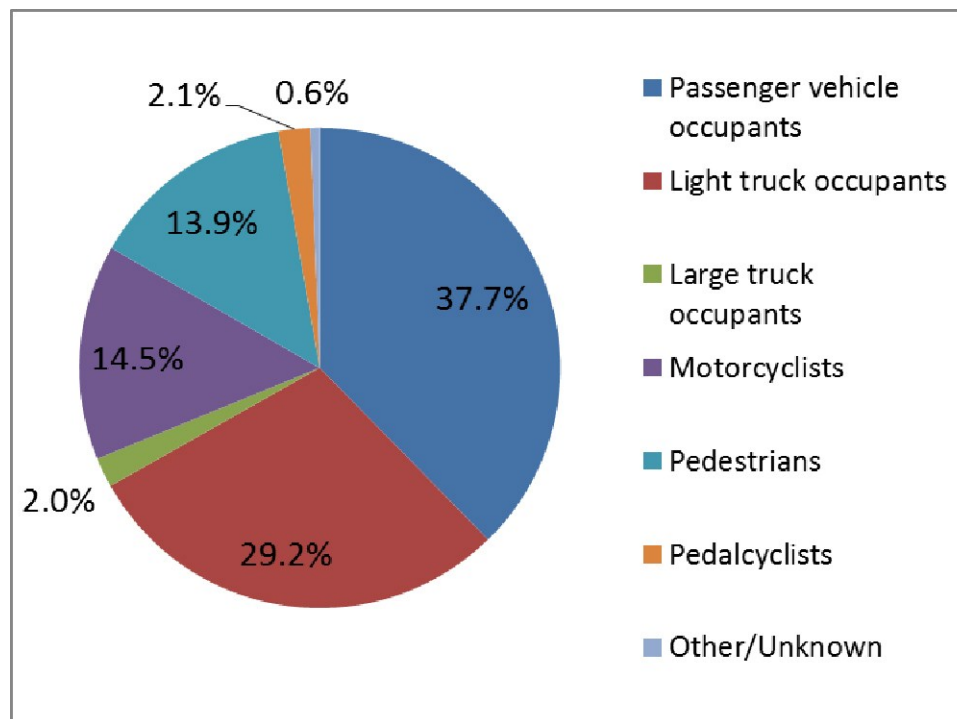
Within the last year, the Federal Highway Administration has taken several steps to help local public agencies manage their Federal-Aid Highway Program projects. These steps include concentrating information at a single website and developing a series of videos and other resources. The website, entitled "Federal-Aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies" provides access to over 80 videos in the board categories of federal aid program overview, finance, right-of-way, environment, project development, project construction and contract administration, and civil rights issues. The website address is:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials/>. More information on this FHWA initiative can be found in an article in the September/October 2012 issues of FHWA's *Public Roads* magazine at

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/12septoct/03.cfm> .

## Statistical Snapshot

In 2011, there were 32,788 highway fatalities that occurred in the United States. Who were they?



## RTAP News

The Alabama Rural Transit Assistance program held its annual bus and van roadeo in Atmore, Alabama on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. That's right roadeo! This is not a misspelling. The name roadeo is used because this a competition on the road that simulates what rural transit drivers go through on an average work day. This is an annual event where Alabama's best rural transit drivers compete to see who will represent Alabama in the national competition. The event is put on with the help of The Alabama Department of Transportation and Auburn University. The competition was very tight this year, and only a few points separated the 40 drivers that competed. In the end there can be only one winner in each division, but awards are given to the top three drivers in each division. The Alabama Technology Transfer Center congratulates the winners shown on page 7.

# 2013 Alabama Statewide Bus and Paratransit

## VAN CATEGORY



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Ken Cooper, Baldwin County; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Theresa Marlowe, Madison County; 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Ron Stewart, Baldwin County Commission**

## BUS CATEGORY



**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Steve Huggins, Baldwin County; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sandra Willingham, Baldwin County; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Wade Hancock Cullman County**