

Transportation Tidbits



Greetings,

Welcome to the January issue of the Transportation Tidbits Newsletter! This issue features the latest happenings within the transportation industry along with a list of upcoming transportation conferences, workshops, and webinars. You can also find some of the latest news from our faculty and students! If you have any questions or comments about this month's issue, please [let us know](#). Enjoy!

Important Dates for NDSU Students

1/1: Holiday- New Year's Day

1/11: Classes begin at 4:00 p.m.

1/12: First Full Day of Classes

1/18: Holiday- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No classes, Offices Closed)

1/20: Last day for campus connection Wait Lists to run

From Robots to Concrete to Space Travel 2015 was a Huge Year!

As 2015 starts winding to a close it's important to look back, and remember some of the greatest achievements from the year. We may not be floating on hover boards like Marty McFly from Back to the Future, but 2015 got us pretty close. Here are some of our favorites.

1. **Topmix Permeable Concrete**-Topmix Permeable Concrete was created to help combat flooding. It works by having a permeable layer of concrete that allows water to drain through a top layer of larger pebbles into a loose base of gravel. The concrete allows surface water to drain preventing flash flooding. During periods of high heat the systems stored water evaporates cooling the concrete reducing surface temperatures. Read more [Here](#).
2. **Shade Balls** - Las Angeles California has recently released 96 million "shade Balls" into the LA Reservoir in hopes of preserving water. The balls will shade and cool the water reducing evaporation. Also make the water less susceptible to algae, bacterial growth, and chemical reactions that produce harmful substances. The Shade Balls are said to reduce evaporation by 85 to 90 percent saving nearly 300 million gallons each year. Read more [Here](#).

1/21: Last day to add classes via campus connection

1/21: Last day for no-record drop of classes @ 100% refund

1/21: Last day to withdraw to Zero Credits @ 100% refund

1/26: Financial aid applied to student accounts

1/27: Payments due for NDSU account balances

Recent News Updates

[2015 a good year for U.S. roads.. and your federal Highway Administration](#)

[PHMSA Issues Hoverboard Safety Advisory](#)

[Secretary Foxx and FAA clear Santa and his Sleigh](#)

[Unmanned Aircraft registration](#)

3. **Water On Mars-** New findings provide evidence that liquid water flows on present- day Mars. Their quest is to follow the water in hopes of finding life on the planet. Read more [Here.](#)
4. **Earth's Cousin-** The Kepler Space craft has spotted what seems to be Earth's cousin. Nasa can't say yet what the planets surface is or if it has water and air, but it's the closest match found to date. Read more [Here.](#)
5. **3D- Printed Bridge-** Dutch designers plan to use a special 3D-printing robot to build a steel bridge across an Amsterdam Canal. Most 3D printing in metal is done inside machines lay down powdered metal and lasers zap it, one layer at a time. The Dutch companies technology is able to print with metals in mid-air.
- 6.

Webinars

Check out this list of upcoming [webinars](#) offered by the Transportation Research Board. All participants must register at least 24 hours in advance of the webinar. If you missed a webinar and would like to know more about it [click here](#) for further instructions.

- o **January 26, 2016 - [Using the Updated TRID Interface](#)**
- o **January 28, 2016- [Promising Practices for Construction, Repair, and Rehabilitation of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement](#)**

Upcoming Conferences

- **TransportationCamp DC 2016**
 - o January 9, 2016
 - o Arlington, Virginia
- **TRB 95th Annual Meeting**
 - o January 10-14, 2016
 - o Washington, D.C.
- **Lifesavers Conference**
 - o April 3-5, 2016
 - o Long Beach, California
- **2016 World Steel Bridge Symposium**
 - o April 13-16, 2016

[requirement now in effect](#)

[New Port = New Era for Guam](#)

[NHTSA uses 'The Force' to stop Drunk driving](#)

[FAST Act Provisions set to create manufacturing jobs nationally, improve lives locally](#)

UGPTI in the Spotlight

[Staff Presentation- North Dakota Truck Weight Education](#)

[Two New Graduate Courses offered in Transportation](#)

[Research Report - Annual North Dakota Elevator Marketing Report, 2014- 15](#)

[Research Report- North Dakota Grain and Oilseed](#)

[Staff Presentation- UGPTI County](#)

- o [Orlando, Florida](#)

- **[2016 World Tunnel Congress](#)**

- o [April 22-28, 2016](#)
- o [San Francisco, California](#)

- **[2016 International Conference on Winter Maintenance and Surface Transportation Weather](#)**

- o [April 25-27, 2016](#)
- o [Fort Collins, Colorado](#)

- **[6th Transportation Research Board Conference on Innovations in Travel Modeling](#)**

- o [April 25-27, 2016](#)
- o [Denver, Colorado](#)

- **[15th International Conference on Manages Lane](#)**

- o [May 4-6, 2016](#)
- o [Miami, Florida](#)

Workshops/ Meetings

- **[TRB 95th Annual Meeting](#)**

- o [January 10-14 2016](#)
- o [Washington, D.C.](#)

- **[2016 Shifting International Trade Routes Workshop](#)**

- o [January 21-22, 2016](#)
- o [Tampa, Florida](#)

New Student Biography

Asif Arshid is a PhD student in civil engineering from Gujranwala, Pakistan. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore in 2007. After spending five years within the industry, he completed his master's degree in civil engineering from Saitama University in 2014. Arshid is interested in researching railroad track/substructure models and describing their uses and limitations, including KENTRACK and GEOTRACK. His goals and future plans include completing his PhD with remarkable research outcomes and joining an academic institute where he can work as a teacher and a researcher.



[Asset Inventory
Toolkit:
Statewide
Rollout Webinar,
GRIT 1.0](#)

[Research Report-
Indian
Reservation Safe
ty Improvement
Program: A
Methodology
and Case Study](#)

[Proposed Center
for
Transportation
Studies Building](#)



Keshab Thapa is a PhD student in civil engineering from Jhapa, Nepal and currently majoring in geotechnical engineering. He previously obtained his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Pulchowk Campus, Tribhuvan University, Lalitpur, Nepal. With a strong interest in nature, Thapa has spent time conducting research that focuses on identifying the main mechanisms that influence the shear strength of saturated swelling clay. His hobbies include walking and hiking in the nature preserves in local parks. In the future, Thapa plans to look for an opportunity to utilize the skills he has developed within the past years of his research and take on new challenges within the geotechnical engineering field.



Guide to New Years Resolutions.



Write it Down:
Writing down your goals increases the chances you will follow through.



Talk about It:
Talking to others about your goal helps keep you accountable.



Make it Measurable:
Make goals that you can track your success. It will keep you motivated



Keep Your Eye on the prize! Try breaking your goal into smaller goals and reward yourself!



Reward yourself along the way!

www

Or you can try a website like [StickK](#). you commit a certain amount to a goal; if you achieve it, you get the money back. If not, it goes to a third party, which can include someone, a charity you love



“Too often we are preoccupied with the destination, that we forget the journey”

powered by



NDSU UPPER GREAT PLAINS
TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

If you have items that you would like to submit for our next monthly Transportation Tidbits newsletter, please email Makenzie Schmidt at makenzie.lee.schmidt@ndsu.edu by the 15th of the month.