Staff complete CUBE transportation planning software training

Several UGPTI staff members received training last week on CUBE software, the world's most widely used suite of software products for transportation planning. Colby Brown, Citilabs planning technologist, provided the training for three full days, Aug. 6-8, on campus. CUBE will be used as part of the statewide assessment of ND county and local road needs to assess and project traffic patterns and volume based on projected growth in agricultural, energy and other industries. Those who attended the training included Bruce Dahl, Chris DeHaan, Nimish Dharmadhikari, Alan Dybing, Luke Holt, Yasaman Kazemi, Barry Kinnischtzke (NDDOT), EunSu Lee, Pan Lu, Diomo Motuba, Nick Reis (NDDOT), Kshitiji Sharma, and Shakya Sumadhur.

Road needs study webpage updated

Website for statewide needs study have been updated to accommodate new information and data for the revised study under way for 2013-2015. The page can be accessed from a link at the upper right of the UGPTI home page or at http://www.ugpti.org/downloads/road_needs/. The page includes a presentation made by Alan Dybing to the ND Legislature’s Economic Impact Committee on July 31. The presentation outlines the goals and strategies for the study. There are also links to a study timeline and descriptions and videos of physical road testing that is occurring across the state this summer and fall. Project files for the 2011-2013 study can also be accessed from the page.
Wheat Commission renews support for grain movement work

The ND Wheat Commission has renewed its contract to support monthly grain and oilseed reports produced for the ND Public Service Commission. The UGPTI has been collecting the data and producing the reports for the PSC with support from the Wheat Commission since 1967. In the 10 years before that, the data was collected by the NDSU Department of Agricultural Economics.

Grain movement reports from about 400 elevators in North Dakota are summarized to describe distribution patterns and shipment characteristics - including destination, mode (rail or truck), origin, time, and commodity. The data are used to encourage competition within the grain industry and to identify research needs and market trends. Annual reports and monthly updates are available at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/grain/

Montana joins TLN

Effective July 1, the Montana Department of Transportation became a member of the Transportation Learning Network. MDT had been a member before 2010, but left the network to develop its own web-based technical training. In regional meetings with NDDOT staff, MDT staff learned that TLN had modified its technical training delivery model to feature a combination of web-based and video-based courses. In response, MDT asked to rejoin TLN.

"All DOTs, but particularly those in the Upper Great Plains, are facing challenges in keeping a well-trained staff," notes TLN director Tim Horner. "This collaboration will allow the participating states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and now Montana to share resources and expertise and extend knowledge to the workforce in new ways."

While MDT will have access to TLN's growing library of training courses, the addition will enhance TLN's training offerings in the areas of project management and environmental issues related to transportation. "Those are areas of interest from Montana that we are responding to already and those offerings will be available to the other states as well," Horner notes.

Horner and project coordinator Sue Hendrickson will travel to Helena Aug. 20-21 to meet with MDT administration and training specialists to brief them on TLN operations.
Meet our student workers

Liz Gartner is a student account technician at UGPTI. She works primarily with updating the accounts payables. Liz is a sophomore majoring in accounting with a minor in human development and family sciences. She is from Glen Ullin, ND and appreciates horseback riding as well as reading. She will also be getting married this December.

Joy Schoning is a student assistant for UGPTI, and works mostly with the grain data entry and state surveys. Joy is a sophomore majoring in biotechnology, and minoring in public relations. She is from Seattle, WA, and enjoys her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, and working out.

UGPTI communication survey

To help administration better understand communication barriers and issues within UGPTI, please complete the communication satisfaction survey that Director Denver Tolliver e-mailed to you August 7. Please return the survey by Aug. 20 so that results can be synthesized in time for the next strategic planning meeting on Aug. 29.
Comments sought on core values

Remember to be thinking about concepts and thoughts developed by the UGPTI core values working group. The group is seeking comments and feedback on the concepts before the Aug. 29 strategic planning meeting. Comments may be directed to working group chair Jill Hough.

Hough noted that the acronym SERVICE expresses the consensus core values from UGPTI's initial strategic planning meeting in a concise and memorable way.

Top-rated core values from the strategic planning exercise:

1. Integrity
2. Quality
3. Knowledge
4. Trust
5. Creativity/innovation; Learning
6. Effectiveness; Helping Others; Loyalty; Meaningful Work; Responsibility/Accountability

Survey Results for Core Values -- SERVICE:
Service (synonym for helping others)
Excellence (or could list Education/Learning here) (synonym for quality)
Reliability/Respect (synonym for responsibility, accountability, ?)
Value (synonym for excellence, quality)
Integrity
Creativity/innovation
Education/learning (or could list Excellence here)

Core Values with Potential Phrasing
UGPTI Staff are dedicated to.....
- Serving - Serving one another and clients in a professional manner,
- Excellence - Excellence in all that we do and produce,
- Reliability - Reliability - in all of our work and respect toward everyone,
- Value - Value added in all of our work,
- Integrity - Integrity in all that we do,
- Creativity/innovation - Creativity / innovation that moves relationships and transportation forward, and
- Education/learning - Education and learning contributions that advance the body of knowledge.
Awards banquet menu announced

The menu for the Oct. 3 UGPTI Awards Banquet has been announced. Dinner will open with a Caesar salad to complement the sirloin steak and parmesan crusted walleye pike entre. There will be parmesan horseradish potatoes, glazed carrots and rolls and butter on the side. Cherries jubilee will be served for dessert. The social, with hors d’oeuvres will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:45 p.m. Watch your mail for invitations.

Long-time TEL-8/TLN board member to retire

David Talley, training services manager at the Wyoming Department of Transportation, will be retiring Sept. 4. Talley was named to the board of directors for TEL-8 in 1996 and has provided critical input and leadership to help the organization meet evolving training needs in the region. He helped develop TEL-8’s new name, the Transportation Learning Network, in 2004 to better describe the effort and its focus. Talley notes that as TLN has expanded into online training, it has also expanded the volume and variety of its technical training. A switch from satellite to IP-based technology has made communication more stable and faster. Consequently, TLN is well-situated to meet the region’s future training needs, Talley said, but indicated that the organization needs to continue to expand to surrounding states. With baby boomers retiring and rapid changes in technology, TLN will be critical in helping DOTs and other agencies meet their needs for technical, supervisory and communication training, he said.

Talley has been with WYDOT for more than 20 years, initially serving as the department’s senior trainer beginning in 1993.
A paper written by NDSU transportation and logistics Ph.D. student Yasaman Kazemi was recently published in the Journal of Industrial Engineering and Management.

The paper, "Optimal Decisions and Comparison of VMI and CPFR Under Price-Sensitive Uncertain Demand," compares the performance of two advanced supply chain coordination mechanisms, vendor managed inventory and collaborative planning forecasting and replenishment, under a price-sensitive uncertain demand environment, and makes the optimal decisions on retail price and order quantity for both mechanisms.

The Journal of Industrial Engineering and Management is a biannual, open access scientific journal that publishes empirical and theoretical articles that are related to industrial engineering and industrial management. To view the article, go to http://www.jiem.org/index.php/jiem/article/view/559

At its July meeting, the Dakota Transit Association named Dale Bergman, superintendent of Cities Area Transit in Grand Forks, as its representative on the UGPTI Advisory Council. Bergman has nearly 20 years of experience with Cities Area Transit. He replaces Pat Hansen, director of South Central Adult Services in Valley City.
UGPTI concept is part of exhibit at Unmanned Vehicle Systems Conference

A concept that UGPTI researcher Raj Bridgelall is developing in conjunction with the University of North Dakota for monitoring pipelines with unmanned aerial vehicles was featured in an exhibit by NDSU at the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems Unmanned Systems conference in Washington, D.C., August 12-15. The NDSU exhibit was part of a larger booth assembled by the Department of Commerce to highlight UAV applications and research in North Dakota. The event featured more than 100 technical sessions, panels and workshops and more than 550 exhibits. More than 8,000 attendees from about 40 countries attended. The photo illustration highlighting UGPTI’s concept can be seen in the lower left portion of the NDSU panel.

New publication

"Evaluation of Transit Signal Priority Strategies for Bus Rapid Transit Project on 3500 South Street in Salt Lake County, UT," by Aleksandar Stevanovic, Peter T. Martin, and Milan Zlatkovik at the University of Utah has been published as Mountain-Plains Consortium publication MPC-09-213C. The Utah Transit Authority will deploy about 100 miles...
of Bus Rapid Transit during the next couple of years. The study, using a microsimulation model, shows that the new BRT line leads to significant improvements of transit operations, with reductions of close to 20% in travel times and 40% in dwell times. An additional transit signal priority (TSP) feature is estimated to reduce travel times another 15%. The results showed that TSP has minor negative impact on side-street traffic and no impact or minor positive impact on main traffic. Results from the surveys show a high degree of acceptance of the new MAX buses among passengers and drivers.

The importance of proofreading

Long Island, NY, residents heading to the Jones Beach via the Robert Moses Parkway for some summer fun were doing some double takes. The goof on the large directional sign has become a social media sensation and an embarrassment for the state department of Transportation. A NYDOT official said the sign will be fixed with an adhesive overlay. The sign is a reminder that EVERYONE needs help from a proofreader now and then. Source: Long Island Newsday.