USDOT Safety Council hears update on Bakken Traffic

The USDOT Safety Council peppered UGPTI director with questions following his presentation on traffic growth and safety in the Bakken oil-producing region of North Dakota. “I knew that transportation safety in the Bakken was a high-profile issue within USDOT. However, I didn’t realize the intensity and scope of the interest until meeting with the Safety Council,” Tolliver said.

He was allotted 30 minutes on the program, but questions, answers, and follow-up discussion from the packed room stretched the presentation to nearly an hour. As part of the presentation, Tolliver described the newly formed North Dakota Transportation Safety Advisory Committee. The Council expressed considerable interest in the committee and its potential for guiding safety efforts.

The USDOT’s Safety Council is comprised of the heads of the department’s 10 agencies and has the goal of enhancing the safety focus throughout all agencies of the department and improving the impact of the department’s safety programs.
Advisory Committee

The inaugural meeting of the UGPTI Transportation Safety Advisory Committee was held Feb. 20 in Bismarck. The committee includes representatives from the ND Highway Patrol, ND Department of Transportation, ND Emergency Services, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Federal Railway Administration, and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The group’s mission is still being defined, but initial goals will be gathering input, fact-finding, promoting safety, developing research and technical assistance work plans for MPC/UGPTI, and leveraging industry resources.

Next strategic planning and staff meeting scheduled

The staff meeting will begin with a noon lunch on Wednesday, March 26 and conclude with an evening social scheduled for 5:30 p.m. The strategic planning meeting will open with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 27, include lunch, and conclude about 4:30 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Fargo Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, 1635 42nd St. S. in Fargo. There will be updates from program areas, a report from the communications and marketing task force, and additional work on UGPTI strategic planning. Contact Denver to suggest additional topics.

More truck weight training scheduled

Due to popular demand, a second round of training sessions on how to comply with truck weight regulations will be held across North Dakota in the coming months. Seasonal road weight limits will be explained and attendees will learn how to haul the most legal weight without violating truck-weight laws. Sessions in Dickinson and West Fargo are already full. Additional sessions are scheduled for Williston (2 sessions) and Mandan.
The training is funded by the North Dakota Department of Transportation and coordinated by the NDLTAP and the North Dakota Highway Patrol. For more information, go to http://www.ugpti.org/events/workshops.php.

Bratlien's new baby

Transportation research engineer Andrew Bratlien and his wife Tiara welcomed Ada Florine Bratlien Feb. 26. Ada weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. Andrew reports that baby girl is doing great and is sleeping most of the time, making it easy on Mom and Dad.

Provost visits Colorado office

NDSU Provost Bruce Rafert visited UGPTI’s Lakewood, CO, office Feb. 12 to brief staff on relevant university activities and to get an update on UGPTI activities. Rafert said he was "very impressed" with UGPTI efforts related to software development for the FMCSA, progress on the Smart Roadside Initiative and the Wireless Roadside Initiative. Additional discussion focused on emerging opportunities in remote sensing of roads, bridges, railways, pipelines and transmission lines; use of FAA-approved UAS test sites in North Dakota by Mountain-Plains Consortium partners, and possible multilateral state legislative efforts to provide base funding for certain strategic MPC projects.

Rafert, along with Director Denver Tolliver and Associate Director Brenda Lantz also met with representatives from the Colorado division of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Colorado State Patrol.

UGPTI to be at TRF March 13-15
The UGPTI continues to serve as the administrative home for the Transportation Research Forum. Next week, Mar. 13-15, the Forum will hold its 55th Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA. More information on the forum can be found at http://www.trforum.org/forum/2014/.

Sue Hendrickson and Bev Trittin will be on-site to register participants and help coordinate the meeting. A number of NDSU and UGPTI faculty and staff are presenting research.

- "An Investigation of Factors Influencing Port Choice Regarding Commodities and Foreign Trade Partners" will be presented by associate research fellow EunSu Lee. Co-author is Wonjoo Choo at Pennsylvania State University.
- "Cost Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit" will be presented by associate research fellow Ranjit Godavarthy. Co-authors are associate research fellow Jeremy Mattson and Ph.D. student Elvis Ndembe.
- "Future Oil Production in North Dakota - Estimates Based on a Seasonal Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average" will be presented by Ph.D. student Juesung Choi. Co-authors are NDSU assistant professor of agribusiness and applied economics David Roberts and EunSu Lee.
- "Airfares and Competition on International Routes" will be presented by NDSU associate professor of management and UGPTI affiliated faculty John Bitzan. Co-authors are Alice Kones and James Peoples, both from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
- "Multimodal Transportation for Crude Oil Shipment in North Dakota" will be presented by EunSu Lee.
- "Allocative Efficiency, Agricultural Freight Transportation Demand, and Mode Choice: An Assessment of Service Quality of Longer Trains in a 'Seemingly Captive' Market" will be presented by Elvis Ndembe. Co-Author is John Bitzan.
- "The magnitudes of Economic and Non-Economic Factors in Demand for U.S. Domestic Air Passengers" will be presented by Ph.D. student Ju Dong Park. Co-author is Won Koo, NDSU distinguished professor of agribusiness and applied economics.

Hough and Lynch to attend APTA ITS.
America workshop

SURTC director Jill Hough and SURTC training coordinator Rob Lynch will attend the ITS Transit Best Practices Workshop in Phoenix, AZ, March 20-21. The event is organized by the American Public Transportation Association and ITS America and with support from the US DOT. Participants will identify and learn about state-of-the-art ITS transit practices, build awareness and identify potential opportunities offered by applications of ITS technology in intermodal operations. Participants will also discuss potential benefits, best practices, and challenges facing the transit industry with respect to ITS Transit. SURTC is developing and conducting ITS workshops for the National Transit Institute at Rutgers so the workshop will be excellent background and preparation for that effort, Hough said.

Lantz makes site visit to border crossing

UGPTI’s Transportation Safety Systems Center has been involved in developing and evaluating the International Border Crossing (IBC) e-screening tool to assist the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and state officers in selecting vehicles for detailed physical inspection. UGPTI Associate Director Brenda Lantz and other members of the multi-agency team involved in developing the tool visited the Mexican border crossing at El Paso, TX, to observe the tool in action Feb. 5. The tool consists of a mini-iPad application and database that allows border inspectors to review FMCSA screening data in real time while selecting trucks for inspection. The tool leverages the Query Central/Automated Commercial Environment interface developed by NDSU/UGPTI for FMCSA. UGPTI, in conjunction with the Volpe Center, will also be assisting with the independent evaluation of the tool. Pictured are members of the team on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection compound checking out trucks as they come through. From left to right: Bill Baron with the Volpe Center; Denny Stephens with Battelle Memorial Institute; Chris Flanigan with FMCSA; Rajat Rajbhandari with
Texas A&M University; and Brenda Lantz.

Hough organizes APTA mentoring webinar

SURTC director Jill Hough, as a chair of the American Public Transportation Association’s Higher Education Subcommittee, is helping to organize a March 19 webinar "Developing Mentorship Programs: Successful Models and Pilots." During the event, Hough and Patrick Gough with the Orange County (CA) Transportation Association will present two different models of mentorship. Hough will describe an academia-industry model and will discuss her efforts to pair students in a graduate-level public transportation class with professionals at transit agencies. Participants in that program, Bob Prince, former GM of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, and Linda Bohlinger, principal consultant with Parsons Brinckerhoff, will describe their experiences as mentors. Gough will discuss his experiences with intra-agency models.

Lee paper Published in Management Research Review

A paper written by EunSu Lee, associate research fellow at NDSU’s Upper Great Plains Transportation Research Institute, was recently published by the Management Research Review. The paper, "An Application of Conjoint Analysis to Explore Use Perceptions on Management Information Systems: A Case Study," This study applied conjoint analysis to information management systems to design and maintain user satisfaction for the targeted company. The paper provides alternatives for system engineers and developers by considering the critical attributes that will affect both user performance and satisfaction. Co-author of the article was Hosun Rhim in the Department of Logistics, Service & Operations Management at Korea University in Seoul.
Clarification

Brian Fuder is coordinating a training program for engineers, engineering technicians, and consultant project engineers working for the NDDOT. The training examines practices, procedures and processes that a NDDOT project engineer must follow when managing construction projects for the department. Fuder is not working for the Advanced Traffic Analysis Center as indicated in a previous issue of this newsletter. Contact Fuder at (701) 231-5485 or (701) 219-9799 (cell) or email him at Brian.fuder@ndsu.edu.

Grants/contracts allowable costs

We receive questions on a regular basis regarding allowable costs on contracts/grants. To assist in budget preparation for project proposals, principle Investigators are encouraged to review Federal Circular A-21 "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions" (download circular).

There is a lot of detailed information included in the circular; a few of the most common items are highlighted. Every contract/grant is unique, so if you are not sure of what may be allowable on a contract/grant given the nature and scope of work of the project, please contact your program director, program administrative assistant or Kathy.

For example, **Memberships, subscriptions and professional activity costs.** The cost of the Institution's membership in professional, technical or business organizations and subscriptions are allowable costs on a grant/contract if it directly benefits the work being conducted, or if membership in a professional, technical or business organization is required by the contracting agency. Download the policy [here](#).

Save the date

UGPTI's 19th Annual Awards Banquet will be held Oct. 16 at the Fargo Holiday Inn to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the transportation industry in the
Nominations for awards are due by May 1. For more information, go to http://www.ugpti.org/awards/.

NDSU Policy updates

The following policies have recently been added or revised. To see the complete policy, go to www.ndsu.nodak.edu/policy/.

Policy 103: Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy on the Announcement of Position Openings. Provides for changes in 103.2.1: Changing “10 working days” to “at least five working days, recommended up to 10 days.” Also changed “less than four months” to “less than 20 weeks.”

Policy 180: Separation Procedure. This policy change is more inclusive of the process for removal and/or change of network services and access to electronic assets such as email, shared network folders and online services that is followed when an employee separates from NDSU.

Policy 220: Staff Job Discipline/Dismissal. The policy changes in 1, 1.1 and 3.e will reflect board policy.

Policy 333.1: Course Syllabus. This policy will update and clarify language, add more specific information about graduate level expectations for cross-listed courses, college/program honor codes, etc.

Communication tip: Things to avoid during a presentation

A speaker can lose an audience in the first minute of a presentation by saying something inappropriate. Boris Veldhuijzen van Zanten, a blogger, speaker and serial entrepreneur, recently shared several phrases leaders should avoid saying during presentations.
- Can you hear me? Yes, you can. This is how a lot of people start their talk. It isn’t your responsibility to check the audio. Assume it all works until the opposite has been proven, then stay calm and wait for a fix.
- I can’t see you because the lights are too bright. Yes, when you are on stage the lights are bright and hot and it will be difficult to see the audience. But the audience doesn’t have to know it.
- Shut off your phones/laptops/tablets. Once upon a time, you could ask an audience to shut off devices. That was a long time ago.
- I’ll get to that later. If you happen to stumble upon an audience that is eager to learn and interact, you should always grab that chance and enjoy it. If someone has a question that you will address in a later slide, just skip to it right away.

Read his entire list at http://thenextweb.com/lifehacks/2013/09/12/10-things-you-should-never-say-during-presentations-2/#!yw3YH.

Submit news and events to: UGPTI Communications Coordinator Tom Jirik at Thomas.Jirik@ndsu.edu.