In This Issue

Staff Meeting Scheduled

UGPTI will hold its next staff meeting on Thursday, Feb 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn in the Executive Room. The meeting will include program updates, updates from strategic planning committees and discussion of next steps. A continental breakfast and working lunch will be provided.

UGPTI presents to ND House Appropriations Committee

UGPTI Director Denver Tolliver presented testimony to the ND House Appropriations Committee Jan. 15. Tolliver’s testimony included background on the Institute and its work, its current budget situation and environment, and information on the budget initiatives developed over the past 15 months with assistance from the UGPTI advisory council and endorsed by Interim Chancellor Larry Skogen and the ND State Board of Higher Education. Tolliver’s testimony consumed about 30 minutes of the 90 minute hearing. The balance included responses to questions from legislators and supportive testimony from representatives of the ND Motor Carriers Association, the ND Association of Counties, the ND Township Officers Association, the ND Soybean Council and the ND Department of Transportation. Other supporters were present but did not testify. See Dr. Tolliver’s Director’s message emailed Feb. 2 for more detail.

A written copy of the testimony also can be reviewed on NDSU’s website for legislators. Click on the “Legislative Testimony” link.

Shannon Joins UGPTI
Robert Shannon has joined the UGPTI Bismarck office on a part-time basis as a special projects engineer. In that position he will be assisting the TLN director and providing his expertise to various UGPTI projects. Shannon spent about 20 years with KLJ engineering, working in the Bismarck transportation office in traffic engineering in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Minnesota. Prior to that, he spent 15 years with NDDOT where he worked, first in construction, and then in the Planning Division where he was involved in urban transportation planning across the state. Shannon holds a degree from the ND State School of Science in civil engineering technology and a B.S. in civil engineering from NDSU. Contact him at Robert.Shannon@ndsu.edu.

Anderson leaves UGPTI

Bill Anderson, a technical support representative with NDLTAP in the Bismarck office has resigned his position with UGPTI. His last day was Dec. 31. Anderson worked with oil and gas producing counties in western North Dakota to help develop road repair and maintenance strategies, investigate dust suppression alternatives, and manage traffic safety and other issues related to transportation impacts of oil development. He had been working with UGPTI in that capacity since early in 2013. The position is currently open and advertised.

New baby!

Diomo Motuba, an associate research fellow working in ATAC, and his wife, Cecile, welcomed a new baby Sept. 23. Diomo reports that Tamara Abey is a good sleeper, seldom cries and is a frequent smiler. Congratulations Diomo and Cecile!

Tolliver is presenter at oil industry conference

UGPTI director Denver Tolliver presented a case study on transportation issues and needs related to moving Bakken crude oil at the Moving Crude Supplies to West Coast End Markets: Exploring Rail, Tanker and Pipeline Options, Dec. 3-4 in Los Angeles. The conference was designed to examine the movement of North Dakota and Texas crude oil to California markets as traditional sources of oil in those areas decline. Attendees include energy and petroleum company executives, railroad and railcar manufacturers, terminal
operators, refiners, tanker owners and operators, logistics providers, financiers, pipeline operators, consultants and lawyers. Tolliver reported a good response to his presentation and said he made numerous industry contacts during the conference.

**UGPTi is partner in statewide rail plan effort**

The NDDOT announced on Feb. 4 a partnership with the North Dakota Public Service Commission and the UGPTi in updating the state’s current rail plan to include a component enhancing statewide rail safety to meet growing transportation needs in the state. “The current rail plan was completed in 2007 and with all the changes that have occurred in our state over the last few years, it is important to see public input and work closely with railroad providers to update the plan,” said Grant Levi, NDDOT director. See the [NDDOT news release](#).

**Vachal addresses NW Farm Managers**

Kim Vachal was a presenter at the 106th annual Northwest Farm Managers meeting Feb. 4 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Vachal’s presentation was titled “Grain Market Transportation and Our Competitive Position.” Vachal was one of more than a half dozen speakers focusing on dynamic changes in agriculture, grain market outlook and pricing strategies, succession planning for farmers and ranchers, and an explanation of the 2014 Farm Bill.

**Interview with Marketplace**

UGPTi’s expertise in railroads was recently quoted in a Marketplace, the public radio program produced by American Public Media. UGPTi director Denver Tolliver was interviewed for more than an hour in late December by Marketplace reporter Nancy Marshall-Genzer. While Tolliver is only quoted once in the four-minute story, his interview provided extensive background on the piece. The completed story, “Farmers, big oil fight over railroad access in Dakotas,” can be read and heard [here](#).

**UGPTi in Star-Tribune**

The Star-Tribune, published in the twin cities, did a story about overweight trucks and their potential for road damage in a November article. "Bakken Truckers Often 'Haul Heavy’" quotes UGPTI researcher Alan Dybing. He notes that when truckers weigh the risk of getting caught with the expected benefits of hauling overweight loads, the benefits currently outweigh the costs. For the entire story, go here.

Bridgelall inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society

UGPTI researcher Raj Bridgelall was recently inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Membership is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a local chapter. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction are also eligible. Bridgelall completed his coursework for his Ph.D. during the fall semester.

NDLTAP hosts sign truck show and tell

NDLTAP organized the Western Sign Truck Roundtable at the Stark County Shop in Dickinson Jan 27. NDLTAP director Dale Hegland described the event as a “big show and tell,” with various counties invited to bring their equipment and ideas to share with colleagues. The 52 attendees shared ideas and innovations for improving safety and efficiency while installing, removing, maintaining and managing the hundreds of signs that line the roadsides of each county. The event was also featured in the "Dickinson Press."

Did you attend TRB?

Communications coordinator Tom Jirik is putting together a roll-up of UGPTI staff papers, posters and activities at the Transportation Research Board.
Tribal road research published in Journal of Geographic Information Systems

"Reshaping Tribal Road Network Using Public Information," a paper written by Jaesung Choi, a PhD student in Transportation and Logistics, EunSu Lee, UGPTI associate research fellow, and David Roberts, assistant professor of agribusiness and applied economics, was recently published in the Journal of Geographic Information System (JGIS). In the study, the researchers developed a navigable road network in GIS by improving connectivity among road segments, updating road information, and making a comprehensive network. They also developed a standard process for integrating state and federal local road information. The process they developed here can be applied to a variety of other Indian road information integration projects and will be useful for a variety tribal road management and planning projects that would benefit from integrated road information.

NDLTAP names 30 new Road Scholars

The Roads Scholar program offered by NDLTAP for road and highway practitioners awarded a record 30 Road Scholar I achievement awards for the 2014 season. The awards were presented at the ND Association of County Engineers Conference Jan. 21-23. Participation in the program is designed to increase participants' knowledge and awareness of how and why the road system must be properly managed. Those achieving the Road Scholar I designation will have completed 30 hours of training in various road maintenance and management topics. Kudos to Sandy Baisch for her work in tracking participant hours and administering the program. A list of award recipients and more information on the Road Scholar program are available online.

Build your leadership skills

SURTC director Jill Hough will facilitate a group study on "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" based on the book by John C. Maxwell. In this 10-week in-depth study, participants will learn the 21 laws and how to apply them to your own life to achieve your full potential as a leader. You'll join forces with a unique group of like-minded individuals who are focused on taking results in every area of their lives to a new level. The group will meet every Friday from
noon to 1 p.m. for 10 weeks starting on March 6 at the NDSU Memorial Union. Hough recently became certified as a member of the John Maxwell coaching, speaking and teaching team. There is no charge for the course, but only 10 seats are available. Sign up by Friday, Feb. 13, by emailing jill.hough@ndsu.edu

Free Microsoft Office software for employees

NDSU employees are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus, a full version of Office that includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook and more. Employees with an Office 365 email account can install the software on multiple personal devices, including PCs, Macs and tablets. A mobile version is also available for some phones. The software has the same features and functions as other versions of Office and can be used offline; however, users must connect to the Internet once every 30 days to verify they are still eligible for the program. For more information, go to the NDSU ITS website.

Reminder - In-state mileage rate changes for 2015

In Notice 2014-79 http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-14-79.pdf, the IRS announced the 2015 standard mileage rates for mileage incurred after Dec. 31. The reimbursement rate for in-state mileage changed from 56.0 cents per mile (for travel prior to January 1, 2015) to 57.5 cents per mile (for travel on or after January 1, 2015). The Accounting Office website and Travel Expense Vouchers have been updated to reflect the changes. Please be sure to select the correct voucher, dependent upon dates of travel. Also visit the accounting website, www.ndsu.edu/accounting/travel/, to retrieve the updated travel expense voucher for travel expense reimbursement effective 1/1/15.
Recent Publications


"North Dakota Grain and Oilseed Transportation Statistics, 2013-14," (DP-277) was published by UGPTI and written by Kimberly Vachal and Laurel Benson. The report is a continuation of analysis of the patterns and methods of distributing grains and oilseeds from North Dakota. The series began in 1956-57 and was originally published by the Agricultural Economics Department.

"North Dakota Implementation of Mechanistic-empirical Pavement Design Guide (MEPDG)," MPC-14-274 was written by Pan Lu, Andrew Bratlien, and Denver Tolliver and published by the Mountain-Plains Consortium. The report summarizes the efforts to implement the MEPDG in North Dakota and identifies input data needs and research steps required to implement the guide statewide.

"Selection of Interest and Inflation Rates for Infrastructure Investment Analysis," MPC-14-275 was written by Xiao Qin, Kai Wang, and Zhiinquang Wang at South Dakota State University and published by the Mountain-Plains Consortium. The study introduced improved methodologies to calculate the discount rate for an engineering economic analysis, presented the
advantages of using a more specific inflation rate over a general inflation rate, and illustrated the consequences of selecting inappropriate rates.

"Truck Crash Facts" was an issue brief published by UGPTI. The brief summarized levels and effects of increased safety-related interactions between trucks and cars in North Dakota.

"Infrastructure Need: North Dakota's County, Township, and Tribal Roads and Bridges: 2015-2034" was published by UGPTI. The report responds to the North Dakota Legislature’s request for a study of the transportation infrastructure needs of all county and township roads in the state.

"Safety Factor Increase to Fatigue Limit States through Shear Spiking for Timber Railroad Bridge Rehabilitation - Phase I," MPC-14-273 was written by Thang Dao and John W. van de Lindt at Colorado State University and published by the Mountain-Plains Consortium. The overall project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of shear spiking as a repair technique on timber railroad bridges. The report presents the intermediate results of the project, focused on development of the actuator control algorithm.

Pain in the neck?

Your addiction to your cell phone or tablet might be harming your neck more than your job productivity, according to new research. Looking down at your phone could be putting up to 60 lbs of weight on your spine, depending on the angle. That's according to a new study from spinal surgeon Dr. Kenneth Hansraj and published in Surgical Technology International. The research shows the amount of weight on the spine dramatically increases the farther the head leans forward. That poor posture adds more stress to the cervical spine. The information was featured in a recent issue of "Risk Quick Tips" published by the Risk Management Division of the ND Office of Management and Budget.

Publishing opportunity

The Association of Transportation Law Professionals Journal continues to seek scholarly article submissions. The journal’s editor indicated there is considerable latitude with regard to the topic of papers submitted for publication. Melissa Dixon, a fargo-area member and past president of the ALTB said, “Our articles are all transportation related. Anything works even
Lauren Michalski, editor of the Journal, said in an email: “ATLP’s members are composed of legal, academic, business and government experts in the field of transportation. The Journal, which has been published quarterly since 1935, contains academic-quality articles on timely subjects of interest to transportation academics, attorneys, government officials and a wide variety of policy leaders in the field. Articles in the Journal cover all modes and all aspects of transportation policy and law, including both freight and passenger issues, and matters of interest both nationally and internationally. Subscribers to the Journal include academic and legal experts, practicing attorneys, government officials, and many others.” For more about the association, go to www.atlp.org/

Shared Calendar

If you have not already done so, you may gain access to view the UGPTI departmental calendar via Outlook to assist in scheduling meetings check to see if colleagues are in the office. Use of the departmental calendar improves efficiency in our relatively large and widely dispersed department. Steps on how to connect can be viewed here. Access for adding information has been given to Sandy Baich (Bismarck office), Mary Marquart (ATAC/DOTSC), Jody Bohn (CJPP), Sue Peterson and Kathy McCarthy for all others. The number of staff with administrative access to the calendar is being kept to a minimum in order to reduce multiple entries and errors. In addition to scheduling meetings, etc., the calendar helps office staff keeping track of travel authorizations and travel information. If you have any questions about access to the calendar please contact Mitch or Kathy.

Check the S Drive

The departmental shared drive, the "S" drive on your computer, is useful resource for sharing and storing active mission-critical files. However the drive does have limited space. Remember to periodically scan your files on the S drive and delete those that are out of date or no longer being used. If a file has not been accessed for 12 months or is not-mission critical, consider moving it to your local machine or archiving it elsewhere.

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