Training in January included our 11th Annual Safety Congress where I provided training for Work Zone Technician and Traffic Control Supervisor instruction. Signing and MUTCD Chapter 6 topics along with the purpose of safety audits and driving behavior were covered. Pierre Jomini, retired Montana Department of Transportation Safety Management Engineer, discussed different aspects of Traffic Laws and Sign Vandalism.

In February we partnered with the Asphalt Institute and provided the Asphalt Conference in Helena with over one hundred participants.

March was filled with Montana LTAP Work Zone Technician and Flagger Certification courses across the state. As the cover indicates, spring time allows many road construction projects to begin.

Work Zones are the weak link in our transportation systems. LTAP offers this training and certification to help local officials alert drivers of construction zones ahead. Hopefully this facilitates a safe construction season for drivers and workers.

Although it seems like spring drags in at a slow pace with late spring snow storms, the days are definitely getting longer, the ground is no longer frozen. Now is the time to brush up on Gravel road skills at the Gravel Roads Academy in Glendive and Wolf Point. (See information on Page 3). This course is offered by Montana LTAP and North American Salt (Dust Busters). It is an excellent chance to review design and maintenance of unpaved roads, materials, drainage, and roadway stabilization. Our roads have evolved starting as the very first access roads to retrieve needed minerals and resources; then to farm-to-market roads; and now transport roads for heavy equipment.

Every pass of the motorgrader, each new addition of material, each geometric improvement has yielded roads the public depends on. The public expects these roads be passable, safe and even smooth. Come see how the experts are handling today’s challenges.

The Montana LTAP Road Masters program saw its first fruits of success this year. See Page 11 for those who received their awards. This represents a significant sacrifice personally and for the county which they represent. They withstood many years of training and testing to receive this certificate. Hopefully, the benefits outweigh the costs. We also recognized twenty-five more Roads Scholars, Level I. Our hats are off to them, too!

Travel Safe,
Steve Jenkins, MT LTAP Director
Montana LTAP is joined forces with North American Salt to provide Gravel Roads Training this spring. The first class will be held in Glendive on April 22 and April 23. For those in northeastern Montana, the second class will be held in Wolf Point on April 24 and April 25. Go to www.gravelroadsacademy.com/tour-dates/ and follow instructions to be enrolled. If you have any difficulties, call 1-855-472-8351.

The first day of training will be in the classroom covering the following topics:
• Design of roadway
• Drainage
• Grading
• Materials
• Dust Control

Please register to insure there will be classroom handouts for all participants.

Instructor Steve Jenkins said this class is not just for operators, but welcomes county commissioners to better understand making gravel roads safer.

Please pass on the following information from Montana Department of Transportation’s SOLUTIONS Winter 2013: We need your ideas by April 30, 2013!

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conducts research to discover, develop, or extend knowledge needed to operate, maintain, and improve the statewide multimodal transportation system. Specific goals include: evaluation and advancement of new technologies, materials, and methods; development of design and analysis techniques; and study of current transportation challenges. Every year, Research staff solicits for new research topics.

Topics can be submitted by anyone at any time; however, they are due by April 30th of each year and may only be considered once a year during our annual solicitation. New projects are chosen by MDT’s Research Review Committee in May of each year and proceed to technical panels, which determine if a research need exists and the most effective and efficient manner in which to conduct the research. Further information and solicitation problem statement forms can be found at: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/unique/solicit.shtml. Information on various past and current research projects can be found at: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/sublisting.shtml.

For more information, contact Sue Sillick at ssillick@mt.gov or 406.444.7693.
The Montana Association of County Road Supervisors, better known as MACRS, gathered in Great Falls March 25-28, 2013. Montana LTAP Conference Coordinator Genevieve Houska announced there was a record number of attendees—over 300. She indicated this included participants, guests, speakers, and vendors. Houska noted 44 first time participants and 44 county commissioners were included in this count.

Genevieve Houska, MT LTAP Conference Coordinator, and Bart Kraus, MT LTAP Field Engineer

Pre-Conference - Monday - March 25, 2013
The topic for the pre-conference this year was Gravel Pit Permitting and DEQ Forms with J.J. Conner and Ed Coleman from the Department of Environmental Quality reviewing how to fill out these forms as county road departments. Conner explained many of the forms and information is at their website: http://deq.mt.gov/OpenCut/default.mcpx. He provided a handout also that included various links for assistance and guidance:
- Request For Pre-Application Meeting: http://deq.mt.gov/openCut/forms/RequestPreApp.docx
- Mapping DEQ’s Data Website: This location has developed an interactive web mapping application that allows its users to explore data collected and managed by DEQ. This web mapping program displays the location of existing permittee Opencut sites and allows the user to view the Permitted Opencut site data in conjunction with numerous other layers. The mapping application can be found at: http://svc.mt.gov/deq/wmadst and “How To...” document can be found at http://www.deq.mt.gov/openCut/forms/WebMappingProgramHowTo.pdf. This mapping program is a great tool to use when creating maps for short form sites and Pre-Applications.
- Search Opencut Permits: At this web portal - searchopencutpermits.mt.gov - the user can search for proposed and existing permitted sites. It contains all sites permitted or amended since 2010 and applications that have been deemed complete, but not yet permitted. The Department recommends that Operators use the Search Opencut Permits portal to access permitted site documents in order to use them as examples when filling out their application. This will give the Operator an idea of what is expected by the Opencut program to obtain a complete application for their proposed site.

Conner also said Senate Bill No. 332, which generally revises open-cut laws, looked like it would pass. This bill can be reviewed at: http://openstates.org/mt/bills/2013/SB332/documents/MTD00008296/. If this law passes, Conner said they would be making the form more simplistic with more yes and no answers along with more boxes to check.

Conner said if anyone has questions or concerns, please contact him at 406-444-4979 or cell at 406-439-8870 and email at JConner@mt.gov.

Day 1 - Conference - Tuesday - March 26, 2013
To open the conference, presentation of colors were by the Marine Corps Honor Guard with the Turner Elementary Choir (from Blaine County) singing the National Anthem.

Marine Corp Honor Guard: Allen Casteel, Mike McCleary, Carol Casteel, Del Dilziger, Bill Rogers (Larry Malby - not in photo)

Turner Junior Girls Choir with U.S. Senator Max Baucus: L-R: Director Michelle Keller, Makayla Benfro, Raegan Conlan, Jaye Marie Anderson, Sarah Billmayer, Senator Max Baucus, Rylee Conlan, Melanie Watkins, Stacie Cornell
President Tom Fairbank, Blaine County Road Supervisor, welcomed everyone and especially thanked all the vendors. Fairbank then dedicated this 33rd Annual Conference to Vic Miller, Blaine County Commissioner, who recently passed away.

“Vic was the epitome of a public servant and always was giving of his time and efforts in making Blaine County a better place,” said Fairbank.

Montana Department of Transportation’s new Director, Mike Tooley, spoke briefly, reminding everyone MDT is interested in local agency proposals for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). He explained these funds can be utilized on any public road for projects such as signing, striping, guardrail installation, slope flattening, and intersection improvements. (Go to: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/forms/hisp_application.pdf for more information.)

Jim Reardon, City of Great Falls Public Works Director, welcomed all and greatly appreciated working with Cascade County Road Department on joint development projects. Following was Joe Briggs, Cascade County Commissioner, who also appreciated everyone attending the conference in Great Falls. He noted he somewhat was representing Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties, who was very busy at the Legislator keeping track of bills that would affect Montana counties.

Blaine County Commissioner Frank DePriest outlined advances in Turner, Montana, that Vic Miller was responsible for providing as a commissioner. DePriest also told an interesting story about Tom Fairbank getting hired back in 1974 by proving to the then retiring road supervisor he was capable by blading a quarter mile of road. DePriest said this was his third year as commissioner and highlighted the importance of the Montana LTAP Roads Scholar training program. Not only has he participated in it, LTAP training has been very educational for his position as a county commissioner understanding what the road supervisor is facing each day.

“Montana LTAP training is second to none and the Roads Scholar program is a tremendous asset for your employees, send them to this training,” emphasized DePriest.

Participants’ interests were held as Colonel Robert Stanley, Commander, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, presented on defending America with safe, secure, effective nuclear forces and combat ready airmen. Colonel Stanley reviewed various parameters of readiness.

He addressed working with local government agencies regarding Malmstrom’s unpaved roads covering the 13,800 square mile complex.

Colonel Stanley also commented how much he appreciated the Turner Elementary Choir singing the National Anthem -- from the heart.
### Calendar of Events • January 2013 - June 2013

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2013</td>
<td>S M T W Th F S</td>
<td>1: New Year’s Day - MT LTAP Offices Closed</td>
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<td>February 2013</td>
<td>S M T W Th F S</td>
<td>18: President’s Day - Observed (Montana LTAP Offices Open)</td>
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<td>March 2013</td>
<td>S M T W Th F S</td>
<td>1: SafetyFestMT - Missoula, MT <a href="http://www.safetyfestmt.com">www.safetyfestmt.com</a></td>
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<td>April 2013</td>
<td>S M T W Th F S</td>
<td>14: Work Zone Flagging Course - Great Falls (MT LTAP)</td>
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<td>May 2013</td>
<td>S M T W Th F S</td>
<td>16: Work Zone Flagging Course - Wolf Point (MT LTAP)</td>
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Some dates and locations are subject to change. 
Call Genevieve Houska, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 to confirm.
### Calendar of Events • July 2013 - December 2013

#### July 2013

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- 4: Fourth of July Holiday - Offices Closed
- **16**: MT LTAP Webinar 7:30-8:00am
  22-25: National LTAP/TTAP Summer Conference, Boise, ID
- **Training on Request:**
  - Forklift
  - Sign Safety
  - Road Audits

#### August 2013

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- **20**: MT LTAP Webinar 7:30-8:00am
  25-28: APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition, Chicago, IL

#### September 2013

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- 2: Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- **4 & 5**: 24th Annual Equipment Safety Training and Snow Rodeo - Billings, MT (MT LTAP)
  Brochure available in July
- **17**: MT LTAP Safety Webinar 7:30am-8:00am
- 22-26: MACo 104th Annual Conference, Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT
  www.mtcounties.org or MACo’s Karen Houston 406-449-4360
- **Training on Request:**
  - Summer Survival
  - Hand Safety
  - Slips, Trips, & Falls

#### October 2013

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- **MACRS Fall District Meetings:** 1 - Conrad; 7 - Butte; 8 - Missoula; 16 - Billings; 17 - Glendive
- 8-10: 82nd League of Cities & Towns - Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT
- 9: Public Works Directors Meeting - Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT
- 14: Columbus Day - Observed (Montana LTAP Offices Open)
- 11: Put On The Brakes Day - 13th Anniversary (go to: www.brakesonfatalities.org)
- **22**: MT LTAP Safety Webinar 7:30am-8:00am
- TBA: 28th Regional Local Road Coordinators Conference, Rapid City, SD
- **Training on Request:**
  - Winter Survival
  - Winter Maintenance

#### November 2013

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- **11**: Veterans’ Day - Offices Closed
- **13**: LTAP Leadership - 8-noon; Lewistown, MT
- 13 & 14: MACRS Planning Meeting, 1pm - 5pm on 13th and 8am -noon on 14th; Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT
- **19**: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - 7:30am - 8:00am
  28 - 29: Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed
- **Training on Request:**
  - Winter Maintenance

#### December 2013

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- **3**: LTAP Leadership - Missoula, MT
- **4**: LTAP Winter Safety - Missoula, MT
- 17: MT LTAP Safety Webinar 7:30am-8:00am
- 25: Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed
- **Training on Request:**
  - Forklift
  - Sign Safety
  - Road Audits

Some dates and locations are subject to change.
Call Genevieve Houska, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 to confirm.
The keynote speaker, Donald Theisen, P.E., Minnesota Public Works Director, outlined his understanding of managing expectation principles:

- Understand the Environment
- Know the Audience
- Design the Strategy
- Plan the Tactics

TACTICS: There were several methodologies he suggested using, one being social media such as Tweeter and Facebook to reach the public without having to spend hours on the phone with the same message each time. These are available on his county's website. Theisen noted it is best to use tactics that present technical analysis in a story telling approach and gets people to see this will affect their quality of life.

Next on the agenda was U.S. Senator Max Baucus who opened with a moment of silence for Vic Miller, Blaine County Commissioner. Senator Baucus worked hard on the Transportation Committee to see that Montana received federal highway dollars. Senator Baucus discussed the importance of county roads and how they could make or break the state. He then presented Wayne Waarvik and Rick Seiler (not present) for their “remarkable actions taken” when the Milk River flooded in Glasgow. The title of the framed documents was “Montana Flood Heroes” and how this is on the Congressional Record - Senate S4185 - June 29, 2011:

“The Milk River has been dumping water into Glasgow for weeks. Floods have washed out roads and damaged bridges all across Valley County. County roads supervisor Rick Seiler and Wayne Waarvik have worked endless hours to keep roads open and residents safe after the Milk River burst its banks.

In a crisis such as this, roads are life-lines. Roads mean access to a doctor. Roads mean groceries and fresh water. Rick and Wayne, teaming up with the whole Valley County road crew, went above and beyond to keep these vital lifelines open.”

Finishing up the morning session was Montana LTAP Director Steve Jenkins reviewing the upcoming gravel road academy training opportunities in Glendive and Wolf Point in April. He outlined the gravel roads academy will cover such things as the importance of water when shaping the road:

1. Save wear and tear on the motor grader moldboard
2. Helps when cutting and remixing materials
3. Compacts roadway

Jenkins discussed ways of stabilizing the roadway with products such as lignin, magnesium chloride, and calcium chloride. He said instead of going back 12-15 times and grading the road, the maintenance cycle can get pulled back to two or three times. The training will also be outlining the importance of quality materials, such as fractured rock and fines and crushing at gravel pits.

The afternoon session started with GPS/GIS Training and a hands-on Geo Caching exercise outside. Jerry Forman, Miles City Community College Heavy Equipment Instructor, and Jackson Bieghle, Electronic Data Solutions, provided preliminary instruction to participants before heading outdoors to try locating coordinates on their GIS instruments.

The final afternoon sessions were split into two different training periods:

1) Excel Spreadsheet Analysis and Instruction by Sandra Broesder, Pondera County Commissioner, covering Excel problems and solutions as they relate to county road departments.

2) Load Securement and Tie Downs with two employees from MDT’s Motor Carrier Services: Jim Kinsey, Patrol Officer, and Clay McLendon, Safety Investigator, reviewed motor carrier laws, rules and regulations, focusing on correct load securement and safe tie down procedures.
The morning started out with the traditional Prayer Breakfast and MACRS President Fairbank welcoming forty-four first timers to the conference. He wanted everyone to be sure to stop by and thank all the vendors that support this MACRS conference.

The first training session was on how to prepare for a depositions followed by a Mock Trial. MT LTAP Director Steve Jenkins outlined various legal definitions in the beginning. He explained these two particular cases being brought before “Judge” Stephen Gannon (Chouteau County Attorney) in the upcoming Mock Trial involved road crashes and fatal accidents. One case illustrated how NOT to answer and the other case the road supervisor answered the questions according to his legal counsel’s advice.

Mock Trial Players:
Judge: Stephen Gannon, Chouteau County Attorney
Defendant with an attitude: Greg Sodt, Dawson County Road Supervisor
Defendant with correct answers: Tom Fairbank, Blaine County Road Supervisor
Defendant Attorney: David Grubich, Attorney at Law
Plaintiff (Deceased): Jerry Forman, MCCC Instructor
Plaintiff Attorney: Mark Higgins, Attorney at Law
Plaintiff’s Grieving Widow: Genevieve Houska, Montana LTAP
Bailiff: Mark Peterson, Hill County Commissioner

Deposition is a fact finding session explained Higgins. He said having data to back up how county’s signs and guardrails were maintained was crucial to the case. Higgins said to ask for clarification if you do not understand the question. Many came away with a more thorough understanding of why recorded data is important.

Continued on Page 10...
Cuelho said geosynthetics may be valuable where gravel sources are either limited or costly and where low-volume roads are experiencing increased large truck traffic.

**Evening Banquet - Awards & Activities - March 27, 2013**

U. S. Senator Jon Tester welcomed everyone to the evening banquet with a few opening remarks. Senator Tester was a neighbor of Vic Miller’s and said his passing was a great loss to Blaine County.

Several MACRS officers and representatives were recognized for their dedication to MACRS:

- Mo Henman, Yellowstone County (retiring)
- Bill Meisner, Ravalli County (deceased)
- Dave Sutton, Cascade County (retired)
- Mark Trask, Prairie County (retired)

With more counties using millings on their roadways, Mo Henman, Yellowstone County Assistant Director, and Mitch Urdahl, Gallatin County Road Foreman, presented a lively discussion on their individual way of laying out millings. Their slide show included gravel road preparation, use of dump trucks, aligning millings, layout procedures, packing and rolling, use of reclamite, and finishing sand.

Mo Henman, Yellowstone County & Mitch Urdahl, Gallatin County

The final presentation of the day was Eli Cuelho, P.E., Western Transportation Institute Research Engineer, discussing geosynthetics as a subgrade stabilization and base reinforcement. He reviewed geosynthetic types such as woven geotextile versus a non-woven geotextile; geogrid products available; geocomposite styles and uses; and geonet materials.
Road Masters & Road Scholars

Montana LTAP Director Steve Jenkins was proud to announce 25 Roads Scholars for 2013 and for the first time nine Road Masters who completed thirty required LTAP workshop classes including Work Zone Technician and Traffic Control Supervisor.

“We have a total of 209 Roads Scholars and nine Road Masters, with over 2,200 participants in our database working toward their certification. This program continues to recognize those individuals who are promoting transportation safety through education.”

L-R: Wayne Buck, Rosebud County; Tom Fairbank, Blaine County; Jerry Backlund, Custer County; Tim White, Lincoln County; Greg Sodt, Dawson County; Wayne Waarvik, Valley County; John Anderson, Fergus County; Randy Werdal, Stillwater County; and Russ Huotari, Richland County.

Right: Vic Miller’s Sisters accepting his posthumous Roads Scholar award presented by Steve Jenkins: Darla Dahl Pam Conatser Carla Chambers

Above: Tim Carlson, Jefferson Co. Above: Don Hall & Gary Ostermiller, Custer Co.

Left: Terry Steiger, Lincoln County

Right: Bobby Weidmer, Fallon County

L-R: Rick Peterson, Valley County; Darrin Johnson, Teton County; Ken Borseth, Valley County; Doug Erickson, Lewis & Clark County; Rick White, Stillwater County; Mark Leys, Pondera County; Larry Seely, Hill County; Lloyd Omdahl, Toole County; Mark LaRue, Powder River County; Gary Macdonald, Roosevelt County; Jim Shanks, Roosevelt County; Mike Leichtnam, Sanders County; Mark Shane, Stillwater County; Wes McComb, Pondera County; Kevin Kovatch, Pondera County; Bill Wallace, Sweet Grass County. (Not pictured Dan Lawrence, Richland County; Donnie Marlenee, Daniels County; John Welch, Sanders County)
LTAP MATTERS is published quarterly. Funding for this program is provided by the Federal Highway Administration, Montana Department of Transportation, Montana State University, and a portion of Montana’s gas tax revenues.

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about new publications, techniques, and new training opportunities for you and your community.

Present and past issues are available at http://www.coe.montana.edu/ltapv2/newsletter/index.html or by calling 1-800-541-6671.

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Please send us any comments or concerns you may have regarding this newsletter with your name and address in order that we may respond in a timely manner.

Editorial Contributions Welcome
LTAP welcomes contributions to LTAP MATTERS. Those wishing to submit relevant material to be published in the next newsletter can submit their ideas and articles to:

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