From the Director
MACRS President
Missoula Street Project
PWD Fall Meeting • Debbie Arkell
EDC - Lloyd Rue, Montana FHWA
Calendar of Events
MUTCD 2012 Changes
Preparedness • Student Success
Traffic Crashes
LTAP Library/New MDT Librarian
23rd Annual Snow Rodeo
From Montana LTAP Director

It is important as an instructor to keep informed with the latest information. These past few months have given me ample opportunity to learn. Having just provided seventeen two-day gravel road workshops in nine states, the broad compass of information gathered at these trainings has added depth in knowing what other local governments in other states are facing during these economic difficulties.

The goal is the same, build safer roads. The method is determined by the dollar. In coming months, I look forward to sharing this knowledge at our Montana LTAP workshops.

With the longevity of those working at county road departments and attending LTAP training, next year has promise of awarding for the first time ever our Roads Scholar Level II – Road Master certification. Having already received their Roads Scholar Level I award of attending ten LTAP courses, these dedicated employees will have met the requirements of 20 LTAP classes. Requirements include certifications in Work Zone Technician (with flagger certification), Forklift Certification, Motorgrader Certification, and attending our Traffic Control Supervisor course. They have assisted the LTAP Director in teaching a course. In the Leadership requirement, they serve in some capacity for either the MACRS organization or Montana League of Cities and Towns and attend the Leadership Conference.

This is an exciting time to know we have nearly ten who will be receiving this award next spring at the MACRS conference. It is indicative of the importance of attending training and applied what was learned. The well-known statement ‘standing on the shoulders of giants’ comes to mind here when thinking over my past thirty years of experience working with outstanding individuals who strive for the best in managing and maintaining the lifelines of their communities – roads. Our hats are off to them.

Throughout the summer months, be sure to slow down, enjoy the ride and arrive alive. Distractive driving has taken over drunken driving statistics in fatalities and injuries. As a community we need to help each other remember what safe driving means - turn off the cell phone, get both hands on the wheel, and stay alert.

Stay safe and see you in the fall, Steve Jenkins, LTAP Director

MT LTAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
The Advisory Board meets annually to make recommendations and evaluate the effectiveness of the Montana LTAP program.

Russ Albers
Chouteau County
Debbie Arkell
City of Bozeman
Kris Christensen
Montana Dept of Transportation
Thomas Danenhower
MMIA
Kelly Elser
Town of Ennis
Eric Griffin
Lewis and Clark County

Dave Hand
Montana Dept of Transportation
Alec Hansen
Montana League of Cities & Towns
Greg Jackson
MACo
Russ Huotari
Richland County
Jim Rearden
City of Great Falls
Bob Seliskar
Federal Highway Administration

The LTAP/TTAP Mission is to foster a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound surface transportation system by improving skills and increasing knowledge of the transportation workforce and decision makers.

Local Technical Assistance Program

LTAP Matters is published by the Local Technical Assistance Program. LTAP is located at Western Transportation Institute, College of Engineering, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

We can be reached at the following:
Phone: (800) 541-6671 or (406) 994-6100
FAX: (406) 994-5333
E-Mail: MTLTAP@coe.montana.edu

Our website lists upcoming training courses, registration forms, library information, our contact information, newsletters, various links, and MACRS information. Please go to: http://www.westerntransportationinstitute.org/centers/ltap/

The Local Technical Assistance Program/Tribal Technical Assistance Program (LTAP/TTAP) is a nationwide network of 58 centers - one in every state, seven serving Native American tribal governments and one in Puerto Rico.

Michele Beck
Graphic Designer/Librarian
mbeck@coe.montana.edu

Veronica Grosek
Student Assistant

Front Page Photo: City of Bozeman Street Crew - by Michele Beck, MT LTAP
A Few Words from MACRS President Tom Fairbank

As newly-elected 2012-2013 MACRS President, I look forward to working with all 56 county road departments in Montana. I served for several years as a MACRS Representative and moved up through the ranks as 2nd Vice President and then 1st Vice President. I saw how past presidents and past representatives stay active in making this organization an outstanding tool for all county road employees. This organization was built on “we.” It is not necessary to become an officer. If you have an idea or problem, let me or your District Representative know and it will be brought to the table.

Through MACRS and our partnership with Montana LTAP, training topics and workshops have been provided based on your requests. Coordination of our spring conference through Montana LTAP has been effective in providing the best conference possible for not only county road employees, but for our county commissioners–almost 40 county commissioners attended the 2012 spring conference.

As we meet the challenges of floods, droughts, and blizzards, those who keep informed through training and sharing information with their county neighbors are able to meet the demand of the public to keep our county roads safe.

Being a legislative year, I am happy to report we have hired Gordon Morris again for our legislative correspondent who will keep us updated on all transportation issues as they relate to MACRS. We will be setting up a 7:30 am weekly call. If you are interested, be sure to contact me to get on the listserv. (Contact Info Below)

The following is the list of officers for 2012-2013. Feel free to contact any of them with your concerns.

2012-2013 MACRS OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

**PRESIDENT**
Tom Fairbank  
Road Supervisor  
Blaine County  
PO Box 715  
Chinook, MT 59523  
(406) 357-2840  
tfairbank(at)co.blaine.mt.gov

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**
Russ Huotari  
Public Works Director  
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2140 West Holly  
Sidney, MT 59270-5700  
(406) 433-2407  
coworks(at)richland.org

Lloyd Omdahl  
Road Supervisor  
Toole County  
PO Box 685  
Shelby, MT 59474  
(406) 434-2407  
tcroad(at)3rivers.net

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**
Dave Sutton  
Road & Bridge Foreman  
Cascade County  
279 S Vaughn Frontage Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
(406) 454-6912  
road(at)co.cascade.mt.us

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**
Jerry Backlund  
Road & Bridge Supervisor  
Custer County  
PO Box 1142  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 232-1970  
j.backlund(at)co.custer.mt.us

**DISTRICT #1**
Ovila Byrd  
Road Foreman  
Flathead County  
1249 Willow Glen Dr  
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(406) 253-8688  
obyrd(at)flathead.mt.gov

**DISTRICT #2**
Shane Escott  
Road Foreman, Dist 2  
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Twin Bridges, MT 59754  
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**DISTRICT #3**
Sandra Broesder  
County Commissioner  
Pondera County  
20 4th Ave SW  
Conrad, MT 59425-2340  
(406) 289-0059  
pococo(at)3rivers.net

**DISTRICT #4**
Greg Sodt  
Road Foreman  
Dawson County  
2200 N. Merrill Ave  
Glendive, MT 59330  
(406) 377-2564  
smoothroad(at)midrivers.com

**DISTRICT #5**
Del Henman  
Assistant Director  
Yellowstone County  
PO Box 35024  
Billings, MT 59107  
(406) 256-6812  
dhenman(at)co.yellowstone.mt.gov

**TRAINING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**
Ovila Byrd  
Road Foreman  
Flathead County  
1249 Willow Glen Dr  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 253-8688  
obyrd(at)flathead.mt.gov

**MACO REPRESENTATIVES**
Eric Griffin  
Public Works Director  
Lewis & Clark County  
3402 Cooney Dr  
Helena, MT 59602  
(406) 447-1636  
griffin(at)co.lewis-clark.mt.us

Jerry Otto  
Road Supervisor  
Hill County  
1405 2nd Street west  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 265-8507  
hillico1405(at)hotmail.com

**PAST PRESIDENT 2011-12**
Mitch Urdahl  
Road Foreman  
Gallatin County  
205 Baxter Lane West  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 582-3250  
murdhal(at)gallatin.mt.gov
Missoula Street Project

The 5th/6th/Arthur and Maurice Intersection Safety and Circulation Improvement Project, near the University of Montana (University), dates back to the fall of 2005, when a proposal for the project was first introduced.

Lacking public support, University, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), and City of Missoula (City) leaders went back to the drawing board, brought in WGM Group, and came up with a project that addressed safety and traffic circulation improvements without increasing capacity.

WGM Group designed improvements to include changing one-way streets into safer two-way streets. Features were also incorporated to increase safety for all modes of transportation, including protected crosswalks, bike lanes and other amenities. New pushbutton-integrated devices at the intersections of 5th and 6th Streets with Arthur are some of the first Accessible Pedestrian Signals implemented in Montana; they are designed for pedestrians who are visually impaired.

WGM Group worked with numerous entities to design and fund the project. The University funded most of the project with a $1.25 million Special Improvement District in the neighborhood. The City and the Montana Department of Transportation each contributed about $200,000 in labor and materials.

City crews provided street restoration with milling and paving, and MDT furnished and funded the new traffic signal at the corner of 5th and Arthur. Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians now find the area safer, more livable, and easier to navigate thanks to this extensive collaboration.

Thanks to APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter for granting permission to reprint their article. Questions about this project can be directed to Steve King, PE, Public Works, City of Missoula, 406-552-6345.
Partnerships are important these days in being able to meet the demands of safety training,” commented Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP Director, at a recent LTAP Advisory Board meeting. “For example, we are able to stretch our training dollar by assisting the Public Works Directors’ host city plan their agenda for events on October 2 and 3, 2012, at the 81st Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference being held in Kalispell.”

Day One: Hands-On Equipment Safety Training - 10/2/2012
Here’s something new! An additional Hands-On Safety Training Day has been planned for city street employees. Training will be provided by Montana LTAP on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. The morning classroom session will include:

- Loader Training
- Truck Driving Safety
- GPS/GIS Training

In the afternoon, there will be hands-on training with:

- GPS/GIS Cache Location Challenge
- Snow Plow Course
- Diagnostic Test on Equipment
- Written Safety Exam

All afternoon events will be scored and prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners!

Day Two: Public Works Directors Meeting - 10/3/2012
Jenkins has coordinated with Terri Loudermilk, City of Kalispell, various presenters for the Public Works Directors meeting on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Topics include:

- LED Street Lighting
- Wastewater Treatment Panel
- Public Works Liability Issues
- Storm Drain Design
- Asset Management
- Tour of Whitefish’s Water Storage/Power Plant

SAVE THESE DATES! October 2 • October 3
Loudermilk encourages Public Works Directors to get the word out to their city street employees regarding the Hands-On Equipment Safety Training on October 2. Great training opportunity for your employees!

She also wants Public Works Directors to mark October 3 in their calendars for the PWD meeting. These topics were the most requested from a survey sent to Montana Public Works Directors earlier this spring and will provide for healthy dialogues at the meeting.

Registration brochures will be available in August from Montana LTAP. For questions, please contact Montana LTAP at 1-800-541-6671.

Special Thanks to Debbie Arkell, City of Bozeman PWD
There comes a time when someone special shows up on committees, provides immediate responses to emailed requests, and basically has an overall dedication to their job, one takes notice. Here at Montana LTAP, we have had the privilege of knowing and working with such an outstanding individual -- Debbie Arkell, City of Bozeman Public Works Director.

Over the past years, Debbie has served on our LTAP Advisory Board and always brought thoughtful suggestions and insights for our training program.

Debbie Arkell, City of Bozeman PWD

Her support has shown up through newsletter articles from APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter; topic suggestions for the Public Works Directors meeting at the Montana League of Cities and Towns; and invited LTAP to be on conference agendas at various APWA functions.

Her understanding of the importance of safety training for the transportation workforce is indicated by the fact three of the first five Montana LTAP Roads Scholars for cities and towns came from the City of Bozeman.

With her retiring from her position as Public Works Director of the City of Bozeman this summer, Montana LTAP tips our hat to Debbie! Her support and great smile will be missed.

Congratulations on a job well done,
Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP Director

Lloyd Rue, Montana FHWA, Comments on EDC at LTAP Board Meeting
Montana LTAP’s annual Advisory Board meeting was held at the end of June. All stakeholders were in attendance, including representation from Montana FHWA with Lloyd Rue and Paul Harker.

Rue thanked Montana LTAP’s efforts in providing distribution of the past four Every Day Counts notifications to local governments for FHWA’s Dynamic Webinars. He explained the focus behind providing a “dynamic” webinar is to bring together local and tribal transportation officials, FHWA representatives, state DOTs and any other stakeholders involved in deploying EDC initiatives. With the initial real-time presentations being broadcast from US DOT in Washington, D.C. at 25-minute sections and then providing the various sites 20 minutes of in-house discussion, this type of new outreach will provide exchange of ideas from all involved. Rue noted there will be another EDC Dynamic Webinar on August 16 (Adaptive Signal Control).

He announced there will be “Round 2” coming this fall also, stay tuned! For more information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/
Calendar of Events • January 2012 - June 2012

January 2012

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2: New Year’s Holiday - Offices Closed
16: Martin Luther King Day - Offices Closed
17: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Leadership - 7:30am-8:30am
22-26: Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC
23-26: 10th Annual Safety Congress - Great Falls, MT (MT LTAP):
   23 am: Work Zone Tech
   23 pm & 24: Traffic Control Supervisor
   25 am: Signing/Prisms/Clear Zones
   25 pm: Safety Audits
   26 am: Sign Retroreflectivity/Driving Behavior
   26 pm: Worker Safety
23-25: IMSA Certification - Contact MT LTAP
31: Asphalt Institute, Billings, MT (MT LTAP)

February 2012

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| 7-8: FREE OSHA-10 Hour Safety Course, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT
  (Hosted by Montana LTAP)
13-16: MACo’s Midwinter Conference
   Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT
16: EDC-Every Day Counts-Exchange Live Webinar FHWA/MDT/MTLTAP 11am - 2pm
20: President’s Day - Observed (Montana LTAP Offices Open)
21: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Materials 7:30am-8:30am
27 - March 2: SafetyFestMT - Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT
   www.safetyfestmt.com

March 2012

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Febr 27 - March 2: SafetyFestMT - Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT  www.safetystem.com
6: Work Zone Tech Course - Helena (MT LTAP)
7: Work Zone Tech Course - Missoula (MT LTAP)
8: Work Zone Tech Course - Kalispell (MT LTAP)
10-18: MSU Spring Break
13: Flagging Certification Course - Miles City (MT LTAP)
14: Flagging Certification Course - Glendive (MT LTAP)
15: Flagging Certification Course - Wolf Point (MT LTAP)
16: Flagging Certification Course - Plentywood (MT LTAP)
20: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Falls & Back Safety - 7:30am-8:30am
26-29: MACRS 31st Annual Conference Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT (MT LTAP)

April 2012

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1-5: NACE 2012, Lexington, KY  www.naco.org
9-10: Gravel Roads - Missoula (MT LTAP)
11-12: Gravel Roads - Kalispell (MT LTAP)
17: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Work Zones - 7:30am-8:30am
19: EDC-Every Day Counts-Exchange Live Webinar 11am - 2pm
   FHWA/MDT/MTLTAP
25-26: Gravel Roads - Sidney (MT LTAP)
23-27: National Work Zone Awareness Week (FHWA)

May 2012

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8-10: Rocky Mountain Chapter - APWA - 45th Spring Conference,
   Nampa, ID  More info: http://rockymountain.apwa.net
15: Work Zone Flagging Course - Great Falls (MT LTAP)
16: Work Zone Flagging Course - Lewistown (MT LTAP)
17: Work Zone Flagging Course - Billings (MT LTAP)
28: Memorial Day - Offices Closed
29: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Culverts/Trenching - 7:30am-8:30am
30 & 31: LTAP Region 7 Meeting - Denver, CO

June 2012

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11: Work Zone Flagging Course - Bozeman (MT LTAP)
12: MACRS Executive Meeting - Bozeman
13: Montana LTAP Annual Advisory Board Meeting - Bozeman
19: MT LTAP Safety Webinar - Summer Survival - 7:30am-8:30am
19: EDC-Every Day Counts-Exchange Live Webinar 11am - 2pm
   FHWA/MDT/MTLTAP

Some dates and locations are subject to change.
Call Genevieve Albert, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 to confirm.
### July 2012

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4: Fourth of July Holiday - Offices Closed  
30-Aug-2: National LTAP/TTAP Conference, Grapevine, TX

### August 2012

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July 30-Aug-2: National LTAP/TTAP Conference, Grapevine, TX  
16: EDC-Every Day Counts-Exchange Live Webinar  11am - 1pm  
FHWA/MDT/MTLTAP  
26-29: APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition, Anaheim CA. Go to this link: http://www2.apwa.net/events/

### September 2012

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5&6: 23rd Annual Equipment Safety Training and Snow Rodeo - Billings, MT (MT LTAP)  
Brochure available in July  
23-27: MACo 103rd Annual Conference, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT  
www.mtcounties.org or MACo’s Karen Houston 406-449-4360  
TBA: MT LTAP Safety Webinar  7:30am-8:30am

### October 2012

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1: MACRS Fall District Meetings: Materials- Kalispell  
3-5: 81st League of Cities & Towns - Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell, MT  
2: Hands-On Equipment Training - City Street Employees  
3: Public Works Directors - MT LTAP  
9: Great Falls  
10: Havre  
11: Lewistown  
16: Miles City  
TBA: MT LTAP Safety Webinar  7:30am-8:30am  
TBA: MT LTAP Safety Webinar  7:30am-8:30am

### November 2012

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6: Election Day - Offices Closed  
12: Veterans’ Day - Offices Closed  
14: MACRS Leadership Course - 8am - Noon (Roads Scholar Required)  
14 & 15: MACRS Planning Meeting, Heritage Inn, Great Falls, MT  
22 - 23: Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed  
27: Winter Maintenance & Winter Survival - Missoula  
29: Winter Maintenance & Winter Survival - Billings  
TBA - MT LTAP Safety Webinar - 7:30am - 8:30am

### December 2012

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30 & 31: Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed

Some dates and locations are subject to change.  
Call Genevieve Albert, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 to confirm.
U.S. Department of Transportation Reduces Burden on Local Governments: Final Rule Eliminates Dozens of Deadlines for Replacing Traffic Signs, Simplifies Requirements

WASHINGTON - U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the Obama Administration is eliminating 46 regulations on traffic signs to provide more flexibility for state and local governments, including allowing communities to replace traffic signs when they are worn out rather than requiring signs to be replaced by a specific date.

"Some of these burdensome deadlines would have cost communities millions of dollars at a time when they can't afford that," said Secretary LaHood. "We spoke to state and local officials across the country, and we heard them loud and clear."

Earlier this year, President Obama called for a government-wide review of regulations in order to identify those that needed to be changed or removed because they were unnecessary, out-of-date, excessively burdensome or overly costly.

"Officials at the state and local levels are in the best position to make decisions related to sign replacement and other issues related to traffic management," said Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez. "These changes will give them the flexibility they need to make the best use of taxpayer dollars."

The regulations establishing deadlines for street sign replacement came from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is a compilation of national standards for all pavement markings, street signs and traffic signals. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which has published the manual since 1971, updates it periodically to accommodate changing transportation needs and address new safety technologies, traffic control tools, and traffic management techniques.

Last August, FHWA issued a Notice of Proposed Amendments to eliminate the 46 deadlines, and a final rule has been sent to the Federal Register for publication. The final rule is available in the docket, FHWA-2010-0159, available at http://www.regulations.gov.

The deadlines requiring that certain street name signs be replaced by 2018 to meet minimum retroreflectivity standards and requiring larger lettering on those street name signs are among the deadlines that will be eliminated.

For further information on revisions on pages 4, 10, and 163, go to:
• Revision 1 Pages Only: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/mutcd2009r1pages.pdf
Local Emergency Preparedness • Flathead County

To The Transportation Workforce:

I would like to share my recent experiences with Emergency Preparedness. It has been an honor and privilege to be asked to partake in these opportunities. I was asked by our local Office of Emergency Services (OES) department, which most of you refer to as DES, early last year to become involved with our local Emergency Preparedness. They expressed public works road departments were essential in every disaster (can’t get to a disaster without roads/bridges). It would be an asset to the county to have me involved in preparedness planning.

Since then I have proceeded to take part in FEMA-sponsored training. This training has not only been rewarding but also enlightening. What I have found is the planning process is multi-faceted and a general working knowledge of how public works fits into the larger scheme is important.

In any All-Hazard event we, as Public Works, need to know how we would be implemented into the Disaster. I mentioned to one of the instructors I really was wondering why I needed the training. I could just use my men when they were needed. He explained, for him to tell me about how they would use Public Works would take a whole day and as a disaster is happening there would not be the opportune time to explain the where and why they were requesting those resources.

He also pointed out for counties to be reimbursed for disasters by the FEMA, their forms needed to be filled out a certain way and correct documentation needs to be collected. I found this out last year when we had flooding and was able to recoup some money for gravel. After he explained this to me, it again became clear why this presumptive training was so important in a disaster.

Working with other county agencies has been a valuable tool. In the process, I have made good friends that have the same vision as me--to help the public and our community in whatever situation may arise. I recommend county road departments become acquainted with other county offices to make sure everyone has a workable plan that allows you to deal with any and all disasters. It is important for you to have input because there may be assumptions on their part and on yours of what is needed in a disaster.

I also want to point out I have been to trainings in Utah and Colorado where instructors have come from all over the country. Every training I attended the instructors have gone out of their way to come over and introduce themselves to me to tell me how awesome and important it was that Public Works was involved and getting trained. This reiterated the point that Public Works is essential in every disaster.

If you have any questions about how this all works feel free to contact me and we can visit. I am still the “newbie” on the block but would be happy to share any information I have learned in my past trainings.

Hope you all find yourselves in good health and safe environments,

Ovila Byrd, Road and Bridge Supervisor

Flathead County Road and Bridge Dept.
1249 Willow Glen Drive, Kalispell, Mt. 59901
obyrd(at)flathead.mt.gov

Student Success

Congratulations to Montana LTAP Student Assistant Veronica Grosek, recipient of the Jake Jabs Scholarship for Entrepreneurship. A third-year undergraduate studying Business at Montana State University, Grosek received the award along with several other deserving students at the College of Business awards banquet this spring. The Jake Jabs scholarship is awarded to students who are interested in entrepreneurship and who have demonstrated leadership qualities through participation in clubs or service organizations. She also cinched a summer internship at Oracle, world’s second-largest software maker, in Bozeman.

Veronica is a Management Junior with an Entrepreneurship minor. Her home town is Sturgis, South Dakota. Several clubs she is involved with are: MSU Japan Club, MSU Management/ Human Resources Club, MSU Advocats.

We look forward to Veronica’s return this fall and continuing her work at Montana LTAP during the regular school year.

Truck Liner Solution

At the recent LTAP Advisory meeting, the topic of sanding materials sticking to the sides of dump trucks brought forth a solid solution -- liners. Jerry Otto, Hill County Road Supervisor, has been using the DuraPro liner from Northwest Plastics in his trucks now for the past several years. He said not only does the sanding materials NOT stick, it allows for even distribution. Otto added another benefit is safety because crew members do not have to climb into the truck bed to try and knock loose any materials sticking to the sides of dump trucks brought forth a solid solution -- liners. Jerry Otto, Hill County Road Supervisor, has been using the DuraPro liner from Northwest Plastics in his trucks now for the past several years. He said not only does the sanding materials NOT stick, it allows for even distribution. Otto added another benefit is safety because crew members do not have to climb into the truck bed to try and knock loose any materials that are stuck. There had been some injuries in the past from this activity.

Russ Albers, Chouteau County Road Supervisor, also noted it keeps the truck bed from becoming top heavy with even distribution of materials flowing out. He mentioned it comes in different thicknesses and can be ordered to fit any size of truck. Albers said it is easy to install and comes with a kit.

Tom Fairbank, MACRS President, said Northwest Plastics, who sells this product, has been a MACRS member for a number of years and has a booth at the MACRS spring conference every year. They are located in Libby, Montana. (Northwest Plastics contact info: http://northwestplastics.net/index.html)

Contact info: http://northwestplastics.net/index.html
Summary
For the first time since 1981 (when data was first available), motor vehicle traffic crashes were not among the top 10 causes of death in the United States.

Motor vehicle crashes were the 11th leading cause of death in 2009. In 2008, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the 9th leading cause of death overall. Fatalities in motor vehicle crashes have declined by about 25 percent since 2005, influenced largely by a significant drop in crashes and fatalities involving the younger population.

In spite of these changes, motor vehicle traffic crashes continue to be leading cause of death in the younger age groups. Because of the young lives lost, in 2009, motor vehicle traffic crashes ranked 5th overall in terms of the years of life lost, i.e., the number of remaining years that the person is expected to live had they not died, behind only cancer and heart diseases.

The corresponding rank in 2008 in terms of the years of life lost was 4th overall. Also, in 2009, when ranked by specific ages, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for age 4 and every age 11 through 27.

In 2008, motor vehicle traffic crashes were the leading cause of death for each age 13 through 30. The age groups reflect categories of interest to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in terms of child-restraint programs (toddlers, infants, and young children), new drivers (youth and young adults), other adults, and older people.

For further reading on Background, Trends, Leading Cause by Gender, Methodology, and Charts, go to http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811620.pdf.

Written by Rajesh Subramanian
Competition will abound on Day 2 at the Annual Snow Rodeo. There will be obstacle courses on motor graders, snowplows, front-end loaders, backhoes, as well as equipment diagnostics and a written safety exam. Safety will be the key word of the day, reminding participants they will be DISQUALIFIED if they do NOT buckle their safety belt when operating any piece of equipment.

Registration brochures will be available mid-July. Questions can be directed to Montana LTAP, 1-800-541-6671.
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.westerntransportationinstitute.org/centers/ltap/Newsletter or by calling 1-800-541-6671.

Approximately 700 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of $2.03 per copy for a total cost of $1,147.78 which includes $1,031.99 for printing and $385.79 for distribution.

LTAP attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request.

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.