



RTAP NEWSLETTER

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOZEMAN, MT 59717

Summer 1983

Volume I Number II

RTAP UPDATE

By Tom Valente
RTAP Coordinator

During the last three months, I have had the pleasure of traveling throughout the state and meeting many of you. I've had the opportunity to meet with county commissioners, mayors, city councilmen, city managers, directors of public works, county road supervisors, and city street maintenance supervisors. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to meet with me and allow me to explain the RTAP and its benefits to you. I would like to give a special thanks to the Montana Association of County Road Supervisors, former association president Vince Kerouac, and current president Charlie Phillips, for the hospitality accorded me during their annual meeting in Havre. The cooperation of all the city and county officials that I met better enabled me to accomplish my mission of explaining the RTAP and determining your needs.

As a result of my visits and the first RTAP Newsletter, we received input from 86% of the counties and over 60% of the cities and towns in the State. This input has given us a very clear picture of your needs and desires. We are now ready to begin production of videotapes covering those subjects that you need to enhance the training of your employees. In addition to the videotapes, we will begin planning seminars for the fall. Subjects and locations will be announced in the future.

We have enclosed an order blank for the first videotapes in this newsletter. Please indicate those videotapes which you desire to receive and return the blank to us. We will contact you by telephone to schedule the dates for your use of loaned tapes.

Once again, thank you very much for your cooperation.

Videotapes Scheduled for Production

The questionnaires that county and city transportation officials returned to us have given us a very clear picture of your needs and desires. We have developed the first part of our videotape production schedule to meet your needs as much as possible. The following tapes have been scheduled for production:

CHIP SEAL PROCEDURES.

Recommended audience: Foremen and work force.

Scope of instruction: Recommended procedures for application of seal, common chip seal specifications, items to check during application, common errors.

Estimated availability date: August 1, 1983.

Note: This tape will be available for your permanent retention. (cont. p. 2)

POTHOLE REPAIR PROCEDURES.

Recommended audience: Foremen and work force.

Scope of instruction: Recommended procedures for repairing potholes in asphalt pavement, common errors.

Estimated availability date: August 15, 1983.

Note: This tape will be available for your permanent retention.

HYDROLOGY: DRAINAGE DITCH AND CULVERT DESIGN.

Recommended audience: Road supervisors and foremen.

Scope of instruction: Procedures used to determine the proper size and location of culverts and drainage ditches.

Instruction will include risk analysis techniques which result in a drainage system designed for the area being protected, rather than the usual overly-conservative and overly-expensive rule-of-thumb design.

Estimated availability date: September 1, 1983.

ROADWAY MAINTENANCE COST ANALYSIS.

Recommended audience: Road supervisors, city engineers, public works directors.

Scope of instruction: Procedures for determining actual operating costs of maintenance equipment, costs of maintaining sections of roadway, and costs of deferred maintenance; suggestions for presenting your budget to the county commission or city council.

Estimated availability date: August 15, 1983.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMING & SCHEDULING.

Recommended audience: Road supervisors.

Scope of instruction: Alternative techniques for scheduling routine maintenance and services for road maintenance equipment; determining repair parts stock levels.

Estimated availability date: September 1, 1983.

OTHER SUBJECTS SCHEDULED FOR TAPING. Respondents to questionnaires indicated high interest in the following subjects. Videotape production will be scheduled for these subjects in the near future.

- Basic Surveying
- Dust Control on Unpaved Roads
- Recycling Pavement Materials
- Frost Heave: Causes, Prevention, Damage and Repairs

NOTICE!

PHONE CHANGE: Effective July 15, 1983, the Continuing Education, Civil Engineering Department at Montana State University will have new phone numbers:

Main Office: (406)994-6100, and
Tom Valente: (406)994-6139.

Other Items of Interest

PAVEMENT PATCHING GUIDELINES. We have received a limited number of copies of "Pavement Patching Guidelines", Report No. FHWA-TS-82-221. The report contains "how-to-do-it" recommendations for constructing patches on a routine basis during both cold and warm weather, and for constructing emergency patches during cold weather. Pavement distress types and causes are indexed to the recommended repair procedures. If your agency would like a free copy, contact us either by telephone or mail. Since we have only a limited number of copies, we can send each requesting agency only one copy of the report.

DOES ANYBODY HAVE A SOLUTION? During Tom Valente's visits to county and city road and street maintenance officials, numerous problems were discussed. A few of them are listed below. If you have a solution to one or more of these problems, please give us all the benefit of your experience. Send your solution to us for publication in the next newsletter. Or if you have a problem, let us know. We'll include it in the next newsletter.

a. Officials in several counties mentioned the problem of weed control on the edges of gravel roads. You either must control the weeds, or they are bladed into the center of the road during routine maintenance. Use of chemical herbicides is usually prohibited. Has your county or city solved this problem?

b. One county experienced a problem of losing culverts. Workers had to install the culverts in wet creek bottoms, and had only a backhoe and a frontloader available. They had a very limited amount of time, and therefore could not divert the water away from the site or dig out the mud and replace it with other material. Does anybody have any ideas?

PREVIEW OF COMING ITEMS.

Several county and city officials have expressed interest in the use of computers to assist them in managing their road maintenance operations. We are examining the possibility of conducting seminars which would include demonstrations of how computers could assist you.

Other subjects being investigated:
Snow fence placement
Cattleguard maintenance