

# LTAP MATTERS

Montana's Answer To Technical  
Education of Roads & Streets

College of Engineering  
Montana State University-  
Bozeman

Bozeman, MT 59717-3910  
(800) 541-6671



July, August, September 2001

Vol. 19, No. 3

## MACRS 2001

New officers were selected at the 2001 Annual MACRS conference. A large representation from 45 of Montana's 56 counties attended the conference this year in Missoula. Many of the attendees felt that this year's program provided an excellent technical training opportunity. The split sessions allowed participants to choose between technical topics or more administrative and funding topics. The setting adjacent to the Clark Fork River allowed everyone to enjoy spring and discuss solutions to county road problems.

### New Officers



Eric Griffin  
Lewis & Clark Co.  
Vice President

Larry Juell  
Sweet Grass Co.  
President 2002

John Ostlund  
Yellowstone Co.  
President 2001

Russ Huotari  
Richland Co.  
Secretary/Treasurer

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# MACRS 2001

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## New District Representatives



Tim White    Russ Albers    C. Ted Coffman    Duane Schak    Mark Trask  
Lincoln Co.    Chouteau Co.    Madison Co.    Treasure Co.    Prairie Co.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Ray Barnicoat**  
Montana Association of Counties

**Kelly Elser**  
Town of Sheridan

**Sam Gianfrancisco**  
LTAP

**Eric Griffin**  
Lewis and Clark County

**Alec Hansen**  
Montana League of Cities & Towns

**Russ Huotari**  
Richland County

**Donna Sheehy**  
U.S. Forest Service

**Bill Michalson**  
City of Helena

**Bob Burkhardt**  
Federal Highway Administration

**Jim Reardon**  
City of Great Falls

**Sue Sillick**  
Montana Department of Transportation

**Dan Williams**  
Montana Department of Transportation

**Jack Knorr**  
Stillwater County



A toast for Debbie Otto and Mr. King who provided excellent entertainment for the MACRS banquet.

### LTAP MATTERS is published by the Local Technical Assistance Program at Montana State University-Bozeman

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## Stillwater County Hosts Gravel Road Workshop



Jack Knorr of Stillwater County recently hosted a "Gravel Roads" workshop. Steve Green of T&E Equipment provided walk-around inspection training. Steve Beau of Stillwater County assisted both new and veteran operators with helpful tips on effective operation. All of the participants enjoyed the summer day and learned from the training.



### LTAP Welcomes New Conference Planner

LTAP would like to welcome Donnetta Bohrman to the LTAP staff. Donnetta is the new Conference Coordinator/Accounting Technician. Donnetta has 15 years of experience at MSU, and has worked in the Business Office, Residence Life, and Mathematical Sciences. Donnetta can help with your questions about training, the LTAP lending library, and invoices. She can be reached at (406) 994-6724 or via email at [dbohrman@coe.montana.edu](mailto:dbohrman@coe.montana.edu)

### Stay alert on the road

Summertime is peak road trip season throughout the United States. Heed these tips on traveling highways and byways safely:

**Wear a pair of clear-lens glasses.** Such glasses help keep your eyes from getting tired and dry from the car's ventilation system, especially during night driving.

**Wear quality sunglasses during the day.** Sunglasses protect your eyes from the glare of the sun.

**Don't slouch.** Good posture improves alertness and prevents back pain. One way to ensure this is to avoid over-reclining your seat.

—adapted from *The Auto Roadside Survival Guide*, by David Solomon (IDG Books Worldwide Inc.)

# Operation Lifesaver

By, Dave Jeseritz

## What is Operation Lifesaver?

Operation Lifesaver is a nonprofit, nationwide public education program designed to eliminate collisions, deaths, and injuries at highway-rail intersections and on railroad right-of-way. It is sponsored cooperatively by a wide variety of partners, including federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety and transportation organizations, and the nation's railroads.

To meet its goals, Operation Lifesaver strives to increase public awareness of the danger at places where the roadway crosses the train tracks and on railroad right-of-way. The program seeks to improve driver and pedestrian behavior at highway-rail intersections by encouraging compliance with traffic laws relating to crossing signs and signals.

Operation Lifesaver endeavors to reduce deaths and injuries on railroad right-of-way by educating people about the dangers on the tracks. In conjunction with its education program, Operation Lifesaver emphasizes the enforcement of existing traffic and trespassing laws, consolidation and closure of redundant highway-rail crossings, and engineering improvements, including installation and upgrading of crossing warning devices and signs.

## Why it is needed...

Thousands of people are seriously injured and hundreds are killed in about 4,000 highway/rail grade crossing crashes each year.

Often, people are unaware that trains cannot stop as quickly as motor vehicles to avoid a collision. Oth-

ers simply ignore all warning signs because they are 'in a hurry' and would rather play "beat the train" than wait. *Driver inattention and impatience are the most common factors contributing to collisions between motor vehicles and trains at highway-rail grade crossings.*

## Where is it active...

The 49 continental United States have their own Operation Lifesaver programs. It is at the grass-roots level—in the cities, in rural communities, and in the schools where Operation Lifesaver has been the most effective. States have reported fatality reductions at highway-rail grade crossings ranging from 28 percent to 100 percent one year after establishing the program.

## Who gets involved...

The nation's railroads, related federal, state, and local governments, businesses, railroad suppliers, labor, civic and community leaders, law enforcement, and other concerned safety professionals are all part of state programs. But it does not end there. Any person or organization is welcome to join a state program to work at the local level doing whatever you can to educate motorists that they need to exercise greater care when driving across highway-rail grade crossings.

## In closing...

On behalf of the Montana Operation Lifesaver Law Enforcement Committee, we would like to thank Megan Mikkelsen and the staff at LTAP for their excellent work in the design and production of the Montana Law Enforcement Pocket Guide. This pocket guide is currently being distributed to law enforcement agencies throughout Montana and is being received with high praise. LTAP played an integral role in it's success.

Montana Law Enforcement  
Pocket Guide  
2001 Edition

Sponsored by:  
Montana Operation  
Lifesaver, Inc.

## 2001 Calendar of Events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Snow Rodeo  | September 5-6, Great Falls, MT   |
| Pavement Management   | September 11-13, Helena, MT  |
| Montana Association of Counties                             | September 23-26, Glendive, MT  |
| Public Works Directors Meeting - League of Cities and Towns | October 3, Great Falls, MT   |
| League of Cities and Towns                                  | October 4-5, Great Falls, MT   |
| MACRS Regional Meetings - Winter Maintenance                | October 2, Whitehall, MT<br>October 8, Missoula, MT<br>October 9, Great Falls, MT<br>October 10, Billings, MT<br>October 11, Glendive, MT  |
| Computer Basics Training (APWA INFO Link)                   | October 15, Missoula, MT<br>October 16, Great Falls, MT<br>October 17, Billings, MT<br>October 18, Glendive, MT<br>October 22, Bozeman, MT |
| Winter Safety   | On Request   |
| Leadership for New Commissioners                            | On Request   |
| Work Zone Traffic Control                                   | On Request   |

### MUTCD: Setting You Straight on the Changes

Take advantage of a 90-minute Click, Listen, and Learn training session, August 8, 2001, titled "MUTCD: Setting You Straight on the Changes." Take advantage of this timely, interactive training delivered right to your own site for only \$140. What a value—a key professional topic, top national instructors, no travel or per diem expenses, and your crews can be back on task within 2 hours! All you need is an office computer with internet access and a speakerphone! Attendee's submit questions via email, or live during the Q&A sections of the program. Instructors are, Cherie Kittle and Lina Brown from FHWA, and Dan Centa, P.E., City of Pueblo, CO. To register or obtain more information including presentation time in your area, visit the 'Education' section of the APWA website ([www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)), click on the "Click, Listen, and Learn" on the left side of the page or call Ashley Gann at (816) 472-6100 ext. 3511

## Pavement Management Class

On September 11-13 LTAP and MDT will be offering a course on Pavement Management. This course is designed for an individual new to pavement management or one who needs a refresher in the basic concepts. The course is designed for Montana City and County Departments of Public Works Personnel. There will be workshop modules during the course where participants will be asked to interact with other attendees and the instructor. These "How to" modules will cover such activities on "How to set up a Pavement Condition Survey" and "How to

develop a Pavement management presentation to a City or County Policy Board". Also, pavement distress identification training, which includes rating sections of pavement out in the field will be included.

The instructor for this workshop will be Mr. Paul Sachs. He is currently the Division Manager for the Tacoma, Washington Office of Nichols Consulting Engineers, Chtd.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Sachs has been involved with pavement management on the local, national

and international level.

For the 6 years from 1994 through 2000, Mr. Sachs was first the Assistant Management Systems Engineer for the Washington State Department of Transportation before becoming the Pavement Technology Engineer for the Washington State Technology Transfer Center. While at the WSDOT, Mr. Sachs developed a simplified pavement management system for small cities in Washington, in 1994. This pavement management system is now being used by over 100 communities in Washington State.

# Annual County Road Advisors Conference

## 2001 "You Show Us How" Contest

The Montana LTAP center is pleased to announce this year's "You Show Us How" contest! For those of you who are not familiar with the "You Show Us How" contests, this is the contest's 8th year.

In prior contests we have focused on safety and operational efficiency improvements as well as other program enhancements.

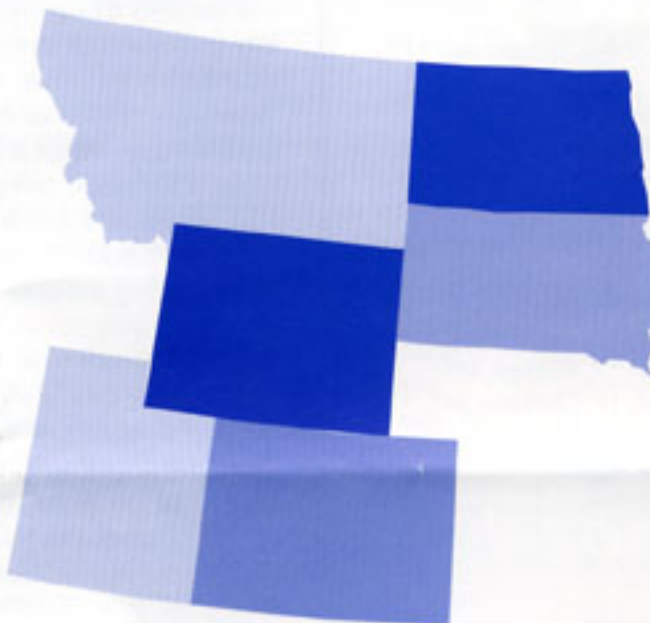
We are aware that in many instances there are not enough transportation dollars available to main-

tain our transportation systems to the desired level of service. This is particularly true when it comes to local government transportation programs. The costs for repairs and improvements are increasing while the available finances, at least the real value, are actually decreasing.

Solving these problems requires efficient use of existing funds, and the application of cost-reducing and innovative techniques. Today's problems are not easily solved with yesterday's solutions.

We want to know what you are doing. What is the best idea you have implemented in your county within the last few years? This is your opportunity to showcase something that has worked and that you are proud of! To share this information with your counterparts across the nation and even the world.

The contest is open to all county governments in the state of Montana. The winner of the Montana contest



will compete with the winners from the states of Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming to determine the regional winner. Please limit your entries to a maximum of two per county. Mail entries to:

"You Show Us How" Contest  
Montana LTAP  
416 Cobleigh Hall  
PO Box 173910  
Bozeman, MT 59717-3910

All entries must be received by August 15, 2001 to be considered. The state winner will be notified by September 1, 2001.

All entries will be published in our newsletter, *LTAP MATTERS*. The Montana LTAP center will send one county employee to represent the state winner at the 2001 County Road Advisors Conference when the state and regional awards will be presented. The conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota on October 17-18, 2001.

Entries should be no longer than two typewritten pages and must include the following, if applicable:

- County Information
  - County Name
  - Contact Person
  - Address
- Problem Statement
- Discussion of Solution
- Labor, Equipment, Materials Used
- Cost
- Savings/Benefits

**(Photographs are encouraged)**

For additional information contact Steve Jenkins, LTAP Director at (406) 994-6100 or (800) 541-6671. We would be glad to help you put your entry together for this contest.

***We look forward to your entry!***

## Forest Service Training

Training was provided for Forest Service employees during the spring training at the University of Montana, March 19-23, 2001. The following topics were covered:

- Winter Travel
- Leadership-Tech Supervisor
- Loader Operations
- Gravel Roads
- Work Zones
- Sign Vandalism



Other pictures of the same road show problems that arise if water is not removed quickly from the roadway.

Forest service roads make up a large portion of the state roads used during outdoor recreation and are important economic links. Efforts are being made by LTAP to help teach maintenance methods for forest service roads that can provide a level of service despite low road maintenance budgets. One idea of Bill Stine, Swan Lake National Forest is to enhance the crown as shown in the picture below.



### Request for Videotapes & Publications

The publications and videotapes in the LTAP library are available free or for a nominal charge upon request. Publications and software marked \*Lending Library may be borrowed for several weeks, but must be returned to LTAP. Anyone may borrow up to three videotapes at a time rent-free for two weeks.

You may order any videos or publications by calling toll-free (800) 541-6671. Contact Donnetta Bohrman if you have any questions or concerns.



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Approximately 2,100 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.709 per copy, for a total cost of \$1,488.80 which includes \$1,151.80 for printing and \$337 for distribution.

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

The Local Technical Assistance Program Newsletter is published quarterly. Funding for this program is provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the 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, new techniques and new training opportunities that may be helpful to you and your community. Individuals wishing to receive future copies of the newsletter at no cost may send their request to LTAP, 416 Cobleigh Hall, PO Box 173910 Montana State University-Bozeman, Bozeman, MT 59717-3910, or call 1-800-541-6671.

## 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/articles to:

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P.O. Box 173910  
Bozeman, MT 59710-3910  
Fax: (406) 994-1697  
email: [mmikkel@coe.montana.edu](mailto:mmikkel@coe.montana.edu)