



LTAP MATTERS

Montana's Answer To Technical Education of Roads & Streets

College of Engineering Montana State University-Bozeman Bozeman, MT 59717-3910
1-800-541-6671

Summer 2003 July August September

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PASS IT ON

After you have read this newsletter, copy what you need for your files and **pass it on** to other interested readers in your department:

MACRS 23rd Conference April 7-10

During the MACRS four-day conference at Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana, twenty-four speakers covered various topics including legislative actions, interpersonal communication, road building materials, safety skills management, and road law. Nearly forty vendors displayed their products and services for Montana's roadway professionals.

told him over lunch one time "...all politics are local." Having served as Public Works Director for Butte-Silver Bow County, he understood where the action was and stated "MACRS is a critical piece of infrastructure of local government." Understanding how to make use of being such an integral part of local government, it is important to realize that employees are the most valuable assets.



Donnetta Bohrman(right), LTAP Conference Coordinator, & Carol Hanel, Lewis & Clark County, greeted participants.

The first day's general session began with a heartfelt National Anthem lead by Kristie Ostlund, followed by a warm welcome from Pam Haxby-Cote, Butte's Community Development Director. Eric Griffin, outgoing MACRS President, introduced the keynote speaker, Don Peoples, President of MSE, Inc. Peoples noted that Tip O'Neill

Harold Blattie and Vern Petersen, MACo, followed with focus on the legislative updates affecting MACRS and city/county governments. Hiene H. Junge, South Dakota, Vice President from the North Central Region for NACE (National Association of County Engineers), covered the role of NACE and how his organization

(continued on Page 2)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ray Barnicoat
Montana Association of
Counties

Kelly Elser
Town of Sheridan

Sam Gianfrancisco
LTAP Field Engineer

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 Dept of
Transportation

Dan Williams
Montana Dept of
Transportation

Jack Knorr
Stillwater County

MACRS *continued from page 1*

can be used as an information resource. Director of MDT, David Galt, concluded the morning session with the realization that "...Montana is a state with lots of roads and not a lot of people." Galt also emphasized with the transportation bill TEA21 (also known as T3) going through Congress at this time it was good to know



*Vern Petersen, MACo, at podium and
Harold Blattie, MACo, seated.*

we have key people on the committees such as Senator Conrad Burns, Senator Max Baucus and Congressman Dennis Rehberg.

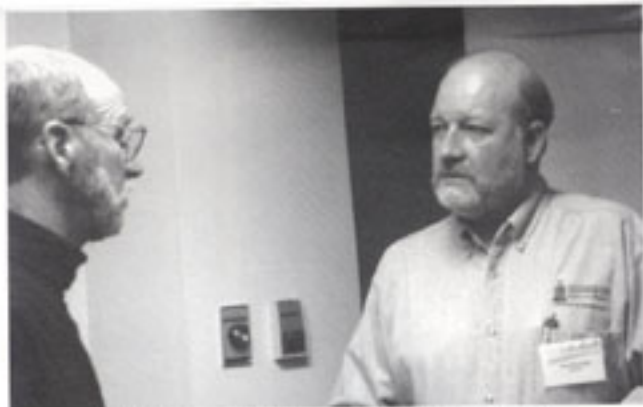
The afternoon breakout sessions included Marion Bentley, Utah State University, addressing Public Relations & Interpersonal Relationships. Personnel issues were covered by Jack Holstrom, Personnel Service Administration, MACo

and Suzie Cozzie, Human Resource Director, Lewis & Clark County, in the other breakout session. These were followed with Ray Barnicoat, Risk Manager, MACo, outlining personal safety dealing with the public, and Ken Skorseth, South Dakota State University & SD LTAP, covering road building materials.



*Ray Barnicoat,
Risk Manager, MACo*

by Susan Swimley, private Bozeman attorney and Tara DePuy, Park County Attorney. Most discussions evolved around road law from the private point of view and the county's point of view. Both attorneys strongly urged participants to contact their county attorneys before taking any action on questionable road situations, as well as contacting their county commissioners. Road personnel need to stay focused on making the roads safe while the commissioners are there to handle the complaints. It is important to note that road laws are changing all the time. The two attorneys pointed out that documentation is of utmost importance in establishing road law. In regards to maintenance as a county road superintendent, it is vital to keep correct accounts of labor performed, equipment and implements used, and materials furnished, (Section 7-14-2103(4), MCA.) The beginning afternoon breakout sessions had Steve Jenkins, Montana LTAP Director,



*Jack Knorr(left), Sweet Grass County, and
Ken Skorseth, South Dakota LTAP*

and Sam Gianfrancisco, LTAP Field Engineer, combining the cattle guard expertise of Jerry Otto, Hill County, Wayne Effertz, Lewis & Clark County, and Bob Smith, Powder River County. Design and materials were discussed as well as encroachment policies and liabilities. Gianfrancisco pointed out that you need to document why you are not doing 10 foot clear zones. Documentation is vital due to liability situations. The other breakout session

The next day the general session was greeted

MACRS *continued from page 2*

discussed speed limit laws with Brett Friede, Sheriff's Department, Lewis & Clark County, and Judge Terry



Marion Bentley(left), Utah State University, and Richard Miller, Beaverhead County

McGillis, Powell County. Brian Crandall, Montana Fires Services Training School, MSU Extension Service, in one of the final afternoon breakout sessions, discussed the importance of cooperation between local fire department and county road departments. As the Fire Chief of Rural Sourdough in Bozeman, he has great



*Eric Griffin,
Past MACRS President*

appreciation for road personnel "stuff"-- equipment, access, and expertise when participating in times of fire crisis. Crandall believed it was important to establish a unified command, that is, formalize a safety policy and line of communication among the road personnel, police, sheriff, and fire crews BEFORE any crisis occurs. The other session was covering PASER, Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating, with Jenkins and Gianfrancisco. It was noted that PASER is an excellent simplified

tool to establish a methodology for road inventories for the counties.

The final evening banquet was filled with exciting door prize drawings for gifts from vendors and counties, and with poet-singer "Froggy" entertaining the MACRS crowd.

A big thanks to Donnetta Bohrman, Montana LTAP Conference Coordinator, and Carol Hanel, Lewis & Clark County, for also planning the Spouses Program. Over thirty gals toured the Copper King Mansion in historic downtown Butte. Much appreciated were Betty Ostoja who served as a Butte tour guide and Bus Driver Bill Shovlin. Donated gifts for this program included the famous Butte Heritage Cookbook from Mrs. McCarthy, Butte, and Montana Silversmith earrings from Mrs. Bare, Columbus. All enjoyed the activities at Fairmont Hot Springs!

LTAP Matters is published by the Local Technical Assistance Program at Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

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Steve Jenkins(right), LTAP Director, and Sam Gianfrancisco, LTAP Field Engineer

Check Out Bicycle Web Site

Interested in Montana's bicycle laws? Check out Legal Briefs at <http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/planning/ctep/bikelegal.html>

**ITRE Offering Workshops
in Raleigh, South Carolina:
1. Modern Roundabout
Analysis Using aaSIDRA
July 15, 16 & 17, 2003**

This one-day workshop (3 presentations) will focus on effective application of aaSIDRA to roundabout capacity, performance, and level of service analysis problems, including multilane roundabouts. Hands-on computer exercises will use case studies to enhance user understanding of aaSIDRA input and output including input data entry, configuration and output interpretation. Engineers, planners and technicians involved in the analysis of modern roundabouts should attend. The developers of aaSIDRA, Dr. Rahmi Akcelik and Mr. Mark Besely, will be the two instructors. On-line registration is available through ITRE's website (<http://itre.ncsu.edu>). Cost is \$250 per participant (\$275 after July 8.)

**2. Signalized Intersection
Analysis Using aaSIDRA
Workshop
July 17-18, 2003**

This 2-day workshop will focus on effective application of aaSIDRA to signalized intersection capacity, performance, and level of service analysis problems, including actuated signals. Dr. Rahmi Akcelik and Mr. Mark Besley will be the two instructors. Engineers, planners and technicians involved in the analysis of signalized intersections should attend. On-line registration is available at ITRE's website (<http://itre.ncsu.edu>). The workshop costs \$500 per participant (\$550 after July 8).

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." Will Rogers

Annual Calendar 2003

January	February	March																																																																																																																																												
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Some dates & locations subject to change. Call Donnetta Bohman, LTAP, 1-800-541-6671 or 406-994-6100 to confirm.

Calendar of Summer Events

Gravel Roads Training

Havre, Montana	June 23-24, 2003
Glasgow, Montana	June 25-26, 2003
Dillon, Montana	July 15-16, 2003

Work Zone Flagging & Traffic Control Training

Yellowstone Park, Montana	July 2, 2003
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LTAP International Convention

Honolulu, Hawaii	July 27-31, 2003
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Equipment Training & Snow Rodeo

Great Falls, Montana	Sept 3 & 4, 2003
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MACo Annual Conference

Lewistown, Montana	Sept 21-24, 2003
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APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter Fall Workshop

West Yellowstone, Montana	Sept 25-26, 2003
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APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter Holds Fall Workshop

This fall the APWA Rocky Mountain Chapter will hold its Fall Workshop in West Yellowstone, Montana at the Holiday Inn on September 25 and 26. Watch for registration brochures in the mail. Here's the tentative schedule:

September 25:

Board Meeting	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Registration	3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

September 26:

Registration	7:00 am - 8:45 am
Breakfast	7:30 am - 8:15 am
Welcoming Address	8:15 am - 8:45 am
Leadership, Crew Supervision & Communications*	8:45 am - 11:45 am
Lunch/Speaker* & Door Prizes	Noon - 1:00 pm
Road & Sign Maintenance*	1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

*Speakers to be announced

Contact: Marty Basta, Operations Manager, City of Great Falls, PO Box 5021, Great Falls, MT 59403. Call 406-771-1401 or email: mbasta@ci.great-falls.mt.us

Fall Events 2003

MACRS District Meetings:

DRAINAGE & TRENCHING
September 30 - Billings
October 2 - Glendive
October 7 - Great Falls
October 8 - Missoula
October 9 - Butte

Region 8 - Rapid City, SD
October 22-23

ATSSA Workshops

November 3-5: Billings
November 10-12: Missoula

MACRS Conference Planning
October 18 - Lewistown

From NACE: 5th National Transportation Asset Management Conference & Workshop Planned

This conference is being held in two locations: September 29-30, 2003 in Atlanta, GA and October 21-22, 2003 in Seattle, WA. This year's theme is "Moving from Theory to Practice." Case studies from states and local governments will be highlighted. You can learn from your peers in sessions on the latest tools and technology, how to get started, data integration, private-public sector lessons, meeting GASB-34, local government experience and communication with leaders. NACE & APWA are coordinating local government case study presentations. Also, TRB, AASHTO, and FHWA have created a community-of-practice web site designed to bring together transportation experts interested in asset management and give them the capability not only to read the latest research, but also to interact and share their experiences in asset management at <http://assetmanagement.transportation.org/>

**THE MANUAL ON
UNIFORM TRAFFIC
CONTROL DEVICES
(MUTCD)**

Federal Register published the revision of the MUTCD regarding Accessible Pedestrian Signals as an interim rule on July 30, 2002. The final rule was effective on August 29, 2002.

<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>

→Check out these web sites regarding Reauthorization Resources for "T3", the transportation bill:

www.istea.org

www.ncai.org

www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization

www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization/links.htm

→Wildlife Crossings Toolkit Has Been Launched

It is the major source material for a new FY03 Training Session Innovative Solutions to Wildlife Highway Interactions for biologists and engineers:

<http://www.wildlifecrossings.info>

→LCCA Resources

Life-cycle cost analysis resources available from FHWA include LCCA software and an accompanying instructional workshop on how to conduct and how to apply the results to pavement project design decisions. Contact

Tom Canick at FHWA at 202-366-4567 or email: tom.canick@fhwa.dot.gov

or check out their website: www.fhwa.dot.gov/infrastructure/asstmgmt/lcca.htm

From MACRS President Jack Knorr

Fellow MACRS members:

I am writing to you just after our Annual Conference in Fairmont Hot Springs. And what a conference it was! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members and all of our vendors for helping to make the 2003 Conference a resounding success. With over 210 registered attendees, we can say that MACRS is on the move. I have heard many positive comments and remarks about Fairmont.

We hosted 18 county commissioners, MDT personnel, 38 vendors and the most important people in Montana--the county road people. Fifty-three of the fifty-six counties were represented. The entertainment, dining and hospitality were great. We were treated to dinners by Roscoe Steel and Tractor & Equipment from Billings. We were entertained in the lounge by many of our vendors and received many beautiful gifts from both counties and vendors alike. The technical and administrative sessions were well presented and well received. The conference was an excellent opportunity for us to gather and exchange ideas. My personal gratitude goes out to Eric Griffin, Jerry Forman, Tim White (District 1), Richard Miller (District 2), Russ Albers (District 3), Mark Trask (District 4), Duane Schaak (District 5), and Russ Huotari from Richland County. Without these folks, our agenda would not have been nearly as interesting. The LTAP staff worked very hard and made sure all of the necessary arrangements were made and the entire conference went smoothly. Thanks to all who contributed.

Now let me introduce our new Executive Board for the upcoming year. Vice President Tom Romo, Roosevelt County; Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Forman, Custer

County; District 1- Charley Johnson, Flathead County; District 2 - Richard Miller, Beaverhead County; District 3 - Shawn Norick, Liberty County; District 4 - Mark Trask, Prairie County; District 5 - Bob Moats, Yellowstone County. Congratulations to you all! I look forward to working with each of you during the upcoming year. Working together, we can continue to make MACRS an excellent resource for all counties.

As your new President and with your help, I



L-R: Mark Trask, District 4; Eric Griffin, Past President; Tom Romo, Vice President; Jack Knorr, President; Jerry Forman, Secretary/Treasurer

would like to take MACRS even further up the ladder of successful organizations. This group is no longer "just a bunch of good old boys running patrols." This group consists of highly trained dedicated professionals, striving to improve our surface transportation system. I am truly honored to be asked to assist you in your profession. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the District meetings this fall.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions during the upcoming year at the following addresses:

Jack Knorr
Stillwater County Road/Bridge Department
PO Box 715,
Columbus, MT 59019
Phone: 406-322-5336 Cell: 406-321-4696
Email: rbdept@in-tch.com

Publications, Software, Videos

Publications

p-25: *Timber Bridges-2002 Award Winners:* Brief 12-page report on the 15 winners of the 2002 National Timber Bridge competition for the United States.

p-27: *Cold Temperature Effects on Stress-Laminated Timber Bridges:* Stress-laminated bridges perform well if adequate bar force is maintained to provide the interlaminar friction and load transfer between adjacent deck laminations. This study was in response to concerns about the performance of stress-laminated bridges in extremely cold climates.

p-419: *Assessment of Selected LTPP Material: Data Tables and Development of Representative Test Tables:* This March, 2003, report documents an evaluation of selected LTPP (Long-term Pavement Performance) material data tables as of January 2000.

p-645: *Effects of Water Flow Rate and Temperature on Leaching from Creosote-Treated Wood:* This is a series of studies to evaluate the environmental impact of creosote-treated wood used in timber bridges.

p-1023: *Retroreflective Sheeting Identification Guides (11/16/2001):* Laminated one-page double-sided guide lists a variety of retroreflective sheeting patterns listed as ASTM Type, developed by FHWA.

Municipalities Liable for Obstructed Road Signs

A Wisconsin Appeals Court decision found a county, a town and a property owner negligent in an auto crash where a driver ran a Stop sign that was obstructed by an overgrown tree. The court ruled that they were guilty of maintaining a public nuisance saying that the condition had existed long enough and should have been removed. The court defines a public nuisance as "anything that encroaches on the safe use of a public space."

The court rejected the county's three defense arguments: 1) although the county had erected the sign, they were not responsible because the road was maintained by the town. 2) the tree was on private property and the county had no right to trim it, and 3) the county did not know there was a problem.

How can local agencies keep signs and roadsides safe and prevent liability claims? Insurance companies recommend developing a way for workers who are out on the roads every day to document safety hazards and to correct the conditions.

Records also should be kept of the corrective actions taken. In addition, they need a system for notifying others who might be responsible--the private owner or another unit of government.

p-2579: *Laboratory Evaluation of Waterborne Coatings on Steel (April 2003):* FHWA in-house study investigating the performance of the current waterborne acrylic, epoxy, and polyurethane coatings on new steel surfaces.

Videos

PAG108: Mutual Aid Program, New Hampshire Public Works Time: 14 min

PAD103: Cry the Eagle, A Call to Drive Sober & Safe Time: 31 min

ST110: Safety First! Speed zones that make sense for Montana Time: 13 min

Software

SW139: Snow Removal Attachment Guide, Henke - Complete product line for wheel loaders, motorgraders, backhoes, & trucks from Henke at www.henkemfg.com

SW149: Asphalt Management Maintenance - This field guide provides guidelines for preventive asphalt pavement maintenance techniques for a variety of distresses and conditions. (Hardcopy in LTAP Library: p-386)

SW170: NACE Training guide Series & Action Guide Series -National Association of County Engineers entire training guide manuals.

SW300: Falun Dafa- The true story

FHWA Releases 2003 Version of Highway Safety Tool for Rural Roads--Download free of charge at: www.tfhr.gov/safety/ihsdm/ihsdm.htm
<<http://www.tfhr.gov/safety/ihsdm/ihsdm.htm>>

Welcome to the LTAP Lending Library where publications, videos, and software may be borrowed for two weeks and then returned to the Library. Up to three videotapes may be borrowed from the LTAP Lending Library rent-free for two weeks. Some publications are free or for a nominal charge upon request.

Call Donnetta Bohman, LTAP
1-800-541-6671
for information or checkout procedures.

New AASHTO Publications Catalog Now Available - You may download an Adobe Acrobat (PDF) version of the Catalog at no charge at: http://www.transportation.org/download/catalog_k1.htm

MDT has some very interesting road maps from 1935-1955. Check out their website at: <http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/history/history.htm>



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Bozeman, MT 59717-3910



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Approximately 1600 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.81 per copy for a total cost of \$1,290 which includes \$1,000 for printing and \$290 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.

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.

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, 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.

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:

Michele Beck
Local Technical Assistance Program
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Montana State University-Bozeman
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