PASER Presented at Fall MACRS

The October Montana MACRS meetings held in Glendive, Billings, Fort Benton, Whitehall, and Missoula focused on PASER, PAVement Surface Evaluation and Rating. At each meeting Steve Jenkins, LTAP Director, gave an informative introduction on the importance of road inventories.

He stated one of the first steps to creating a thorough inventory of roads would be a map that is color-coded with all the county roads as a major visual inventory tool. Notes could be made regarding the number of dollars spent on different sections of roads. Pins could be used to denote locations of accidents and the need to consider improved safety signage in these areas. In addition to the map, a file could be established containing photographs of each road with the date taken, length of road, and condition.

The second step in road inventory would be understanding how to rate the roads. Jenkins recommended the use of PASER, developed in Wisconsin, to obtain a thorough inventory of asphalt, gravel and unimproved roads in each county. PASER contains a simple formula that includes evaluating each road segment on a scale of 1-10. PASER follows a similar rating scale that the Army Corps of Engineers developed using a system rating roads with ten being best and one extremely poor condition, based on stresses.

This in-house inventory process would need to be kept up if not from year to year at least every other year in order to have accurate records of the inventory. Jenkins suggested using Microsoft Excel to enter collected data and create a chart indicating the condition of county roads. He noted this only shows conditions of roads, not priorities or needs in road repair.

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Jenkins pointed out this would be an excellent way to begin a five-year inventory plan to present to county commissioners. When using PASER, Jenkins suggested that one individual with road evaluation experience conduct the inventory process on their county roads. He emphasized that when concise information is presented, people will listen.

At the Billings meeting, Jack Knorr, MACRS Vice President, stated that PASER is a good route for all counties being better informed with solid data, developing an understandable presentation, and therefore intelligently ask for more money for the road budgets.

From various slides, Gianfrancisco identified what to look for in rating roads based on guidelines from PASER. When considering paved roads, he noted asphalt ratings pay particular attention to cracking, such as latitudinal, longitudinal, edge cracking, petite cracking, patching,
Great Falls, Montana celebrates Earth Day

Marty Basta
Operations Manager
City of Great Falls, Montana

The City of Great Falls held an Earth Day celebration on April 21, 2002 at the city-operated recycling center. Included in the festivities were informational booths and recycling contests for prizes ranging from Earth Day T-shirts to swimming pool passes and cash wards.

The city partnered with the private sector and U.S. Air Force personnel from Malmstrom Air Force Base to put on the Earth Day celebration. Volunteers from throughout the community staffed the event.

Two local high school cheerleading squads competed for funds in a recycling competition. Both squads were allowed to keep all proceeds from the recyclables they collected with the winners also receiving a $100 bonus provided by Pacific Iron and Steel. For the younger age participants there was a “stomp and swish” contest.

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PASER (continued from page 2)

and potholes. Again, the group viewed various slides and rated the asphalt roads based on PASER guidelines. Recently Gianfrancisco has been evaluating and rating Gallatin County roads and prefers PASER.

Afternoon sessions began with Jenkins and Gianfrancisco collecting sample road inventories from the audience, plugging the road inventories of rating with length of road into the Excel program, and producing a bar chart showing the capabilities of this simple inventory program. Jenkins noted that bridge inventories could be updated or included based on the National Bridge Index Rating, not the PASER program. This would allow counties to get a handle on their bridge inventories. If the county is going to be borrowing money, these inventories will assist with GASB34 information that is required. (See LTAP Matters Newsletter 2002, Vol. 20, No. 1 for GASB34 article.)

Bart Kraus, Forsyth LTAP Instructor, was also available as a contact to assist with forecasting through the IWORZ.com program (phone 435-755-5126). The meetings concluded with a question and answer period.
Earth Day (continued from page 3)

To enter, participants brought aluminum cans for recycling and were given time to stomp the cans and shoot them into a container. Two winners from three age groups received Earth Day T-shirts and a pass to the Great Falls Water Park.

An Earth Day calendar-coloring contest was distributed to area schools a month before the celebration. The contest was also posted on the city’s website (www.ci.great-falls.mt.us). Winners were announced at the Earth Day celebration with winners also receiving Earth Day T-shirts and pool passes.

The City of Great Falls conducts an annual Christmas tree recycling project where participants were given seedling certificates to replace the trees harvested for the holiday. These certificates were redeemed at the Earth Day event. Nearly 1,500 seedlings were distributed to Christmas tree recyclers. The city expects the annual event to provide community focus to its recycling programs that include curbside, drop-off and Convenience Center recycling services. The city recycles everything from glass to motor oils as well as different paper products and metals.

A local use of recycled glass was developed by the city, blending glass with gravel for use in street repairs. A Re-Use-it area at the Convenience Center is a big success. Great Falls residents are encouraged to bring reusable items to the center rather than discard them. People wishing to receive such items may take them at no charge. The project provides many household items to people who otherwise might not be able to afford them while diverting a large volume of waste from the landfill. The Great Falls Earth Day celebration is an excellent way for the city to better inform its residents of the benefits of recycling.

For more information on Great Falls’ annual Earth Day celebration, contact Marty Basta at (406) 771-1401 or at mbasta@ci.great-falls.mt.us.

Adapted with permission from APWA Reporter, September 2002 issue.
Calendar of Events - 2003

American Public Works Association Workshops
- Sheraton Hotel, Billings, MT
  - January 8
- Civic Center, Great Falls, MT
  - January 9
- City Hall, Hamilton, MT
  - January 21
- Westcoast Kalispell Center Hotel, Kalispell, MT
  - January 22

MACO-Loss Control Conference
- Colonial Hotel, Helena, Montana
  - January 14-16

2nd Annual Safety Congress
- Civic Center, Great Falls, Montana
  - February 11-13

MACO Mid Winter
- Colonial Hotel, Helena, Montana
  - February 18-21

Flagging & Work Zone Training
  - To Be Scheduled/March

Regional Forest Service Training
- Missoula, Montana
  - March 17-21

MACRS Annual Meeting
- Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana
  - April 7-10

2003 Spring & Summer Events

MAY 7
Gravel Roads
Miles City, MT

MAY 12-15
Drainage Classes:
- Kalispell - May 12
- Missoula - May 14
- Butte - May 15

May 21
Gravel Roads
Miles City, MT

June, 2003
Equipment Training On Request
*Loader
*Forklift
*Motor Grader
(Gravel Roads)

SIGN UP NOW!
On February 11-13, 2003, LTAP and the City of Great Falls will be hosting the 2nd Annual Safety Congress at the Great Falls Civic Center. As with last year's Congress, a Work Zone Package will be given out to participants including signs, channelizing devices and sign supports. A sample of topics -- work zones, safety audit, cattle guard safety, MUTCD. Contact Donnetta Bohrman, LTAP Conference Coordinator at 1-800-541-6671 or (406) 994-6100, fax (406) 994-1697 or email: dbohrman@coe.montana.edu.

LTAP Director Speaks at League of Cities & Towns Conference

October 9, 2002, Steve Jenkins, LTAP Director, presented the PASER program to Public Works Directors who were attending the 71st Annual Conference in Butte for the League of Cities & Towns. Jenkins previewed the need for road inventories for cities and the importance to maintain documentation to keep track of road safety. He noted that the January APWA workshops will be covering more indepth information on PASER. Jenkins mentioned these workshops will also include presentations on APWA InfoLink.

LTAP Matters • Winter 2003
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, 1-800-541-6671 for information or checkout procedures.

p-366 Pavement Management Catalog This catalog is intended as a sourcebook of information regarding pavement management software and data collection equipment to assist officials in selecting systems to meet the needs of their communities.

p-387 Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Open-Graded Asphalt Friction Courses From National Asphalt Pavement Association, this report is on OGFC, A Hot Mix Asphalt mixture with interconnecting voids that provides improved surface drainage during rainfall.

p-389 Pavement Smoothness Index Relationships: Final Report This October 2002 research effort reports on developing a series of relationships between IRI and PI that can assist States in transitions to IRI or PI0.0 smoothness specification for HMA and PCC pavements.

p-390 Study of LTPP Laboratory Resilient Modulus Test Data and Response Characteristics: Final Report This report documents the first comprehensive review and evaluation of the resilient modulus test data measured on pavement materials and soils recovered from the LTPP test sections.

p-391 Back-Calculation of Layer Parameters for LTPP Test Sections, Volume II: Layered Elastic Analysis for Flexible and Rigid Pavements The report documents the first comprehensive review and evaluation of the resilient modulus test data measured on pavement materials and soils recovered from the LTPP test sections.

p-392 Validation of the Superpave Asphalt Binder Fatigue Cracking Parameter Using an Accelerated Loading Facility This study used an Accelerated Loading Facility (ALF) to validate the Superpave asphalt binder parameter for fatigue cracking, G*sin (delta).

p-431 Electrochemical Chloride Extraction: Influence of Concrete Surface on Treatment This interim report describes the progress made in ascertaining the cause of the abrupt drop in the amount of current that can pass through salt-contaminated concrete.

p-434 Guidelines for Detection, Analysis, and Treatment of Materials-Related Distress in Concrete Pavements Vols. 1, 2, & 3 - This report documents the investigation of MRD in concrete pavements and the development of a set of systematic guidelines for the evaluation of MRD.

p-435 Transport Properties and Durability of Concrete: Literature Review and Research Plan This report reviews the state of the art for measurement of transport properties in the laboratory and field and discusses the linkages between transport properties and models for various deterioration processes of relevance to highway concretes.

p-806 Results from a Safety Survey: Workforce Development for Transportation Professionals Goals of the survey were to assess what topics the transportation safety community would like to have and to evaluate how they would like to access the training courses.

p-831 Safety Effectiveness of Intersection Left- and Right-Turn Lanes This TechBrief outlines a new report regarding intersection safety effectiveness.

p-832 IHSDM Intersection Diagnostic Review Model Knowledge Base Report This report documents the results of the study, "Development of an Expert System for the Interactive Highway Safety Design Model (IHSDM)."

p-857 European Right-of-Way and Utilities Best Practices This report describes the scanning study of England, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands to review best practices in right-of-way and utilities services.
New Publications, Software & Videos

p-2544 Eddy Huibert, Montana Silversmith
Historical biography of a Montana Silversmith in the Big Horn Country.

p-2630 Modifications of Air Pollution Models for Complex Site Geometries Vol I & II
This is a two-volume study to improve air pollution dispersion models for depressed highway sites.

p-3510 ITS Peer to Peer Pamphlet
Outlines the Peer to Peer Program that delivers short term assistance according to your ITS needs.

p-3522 Using Metropolitan ITS Deployment Tracking for Regional ITS Planning
This report evaluates the utility of deployment tracking data and indicators to local planners by evaluating the ITS deployment planning experience in Tucson, Arizona.

p-3523 Metropolitan ITS Integration
The purpose of this report is to inform transportation managers and decision-makers of the value of ITS integration.

Software

SW-147 A Guide for Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement From National Asphalt Pavement Association

SW-128B What If Roads Could Last a Lifetime?
With Perpetual Pavement they can. Learn more about the latest innovation in asphalt paving from Asphalt Pavement Alliance.

SW-137 Winter Maintenance Training Materials
The Salt Institute covers high quality training materials for LTAP trainers use in winter maintenance training seminars.


SW-180 Culvert Installation and Maintenance Workshop
From LTAP North Dakota

SW-181 Compendium of Work Zone Research, Development, and Technology Transfer Projects, 1997 to 2002
The compendium contains 332 recent and ongoing projects related to work zone mobility and safety.

SW-183 FishXing
Culvert Design for Fish

SW-190 Gravel Roads-Maintenance and Design Manual
South Dakota Local Transportation Assistance Program (SD LTAP) with USDOT and Federal Highway Administration.

SW-263 LTAP Clearinghouse Yearbook 2002
Contains publications and presentations from the 2002 LTAP Annual Conference.

Videos

RM-185 Effective Pavement Preservation by Identifying Distress Conditions, Causes and Cures – 18 minutes

Quotes for Inspiration....

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
-Chinese Proverb

Problems are only opportunities in work clothes.
-Henry J. Kaiser
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.

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/articles to:
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