Director’s Corner

We here at ATAP hope your summer is off to a fine – and safe – start! For the foreseeable future, we expect to deliver learning opportunities in a blend of live webinars and in-person workshops as we aspire to be more accessible to our state, county, and private constituents. For example, we recently held a two-part webinar entitled “Simplified Balanced Mix Design for Small Agencies and Commercial Projects,” led by Dr. Buzz Powell and Travis Walbeck of the National Center for Asphalt Technology at Auburn University. The webinar included the benefits, basics, and options for BMD as well as practical implementation exercises, giving attendees a chance to interact with Dr. Powell and Travis. In August, we are partnering with Adam Kirk, Principal Research Engineer at Kentucky’s Transportation Center, to administer a web series on Sign Placement, Installation, and Maintenance. We do more than provide courses, however. We can provide small-scale technical assistance, particularly on road safety topics, under the umbrella of our STACC program. Given the 10% increase in traffic fatalities across the nation from 2020 to 2021 – and the increase in safety funding through the new federal transportation bill – these are important times in road safety. We have many resources on our website that we hope are helpful on this front – ranging from a pedestrian safety toolbox to a broader list of project funding opportunities. Be sure to check out our Captain Crosswalk series on YouTube for a fun and educational take on pedestrian safety!

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- **Electrical and Other Hazards in Roadway Construction**
  - July 7
  - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  - Webinar
  - Earn 4 PDHs

- **Roadway Drainage Maintenance: The Key to Long Lasting Roadways**
  - July 13 and 14
  - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  - Webinar
  - Earn 6 PDHs

- **ALDOT Access Management Manual**
  - August 9 - Pelham, AL
  - August 10 - Huntsville, AL
  - August 23 - Mobile, AL
  - August 24 - Montgomery, AL
  - Earn 6 PDHs

Register @ eng.auburn.edu/atap/events
Pen to Pavement:
An Update on Helpful Printed Resources

Expect a replacement to the 2009 edition of FHWA’s Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices soon – a draft of the 11th edition was released in December 2020. Over 35,000 comments were submitted during the subsequent public comment period. The transportation bill signed into law last November requires that FHWA finalize and publish the new Edition by May 15, 2023.

The 2nd Edition of AASHTO’s Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities was released by AASHTO in January. This supersedes the previous edition from 2004. A lot has changed in 18 years, and the new edition is over twice as thick as its predecessor. The new guide focuses on identifying effective measures for accommodating pedestrians on public rights-of-way and providing appropriate methods for accommodating pedestrians, which vary among roadway and facility types.

The 7th Edition of the Highway Capacity Manual was released by the Transportation Research Board in April. The new version supersedes the 6th Edition from 2016 and is the first edition that has its full capabilities available in a digital version. Key updates include a new two-lane highway analysis method, enhancements to existing pedestrian analysis methods at signalized intersections and uncontrolled crossings, and a new network analysis method for freeways.
Throughout spring, ATAP travelled from Montgomery to Mobile to Pelham to Huntsville to conduct various on-site training workshops. In March, almost 100 attendees joined ATAP for Temporary Traffic Control workshops. The workshop taught attendees how to use the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), identify relevant state and federal guidelines and practices pertaining to TTC, and install appropriate TTC layouts for specific situations. Participants thoroughly enjoyed setting up different work zone scenarios using ATAP’s custom hands-on activity kits. In April, ATAP conducted five Flagger Workshops, instructed by Nancy Hudson. Topics covered in the workshop included qualifications for flaggers, high visibility clothing, hand signaling devices, sign placement, and flagger stations. The workshops also featured live field demonstrations on proper flagger procedures and signage. In May, ATAP transportation engineer, Veronica Ramirez, developed and delivered a workshop on retroreflectivity with the Elmore County Highway Department. Participants from eight different counties were guided through the assessment and management methods available for conducting sign maintenance with respect to retroreflectivity. Attendees were also taught how to use the retroreflectometer that is available on loan at no charge from ATAP to interested agencies. Stay tuned for more on-site workshops from ATAP by visiting https://eng.auburn.edu/atap/events!

“Play is the highest form of research.”

- Albert Einstein
If you are a county or city engineer who has a road segment or intersection with a history of safety concerns, STACC is here to help!

STACC resources are available to all localities, but we are particularly focused on smaller cities and counties. Through the STACC program, ATAP can meet you on site and help to diagnose safety problems and recommend associated countermeasures. Other examples of assistance that has been provided through the program include determining appropriate signage for horizontal curves, participating in road safety assessments and reviews, and analyzing crash data and reports. Contact us at atap@auburn.edu or (800) 446-0382 to discuss your safety concerns or schedule a site visit.

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