

MOVING FORWARD



“He who does not look ahead, remains behind.” (Spanish Proverb)

Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Research and Development

Summer 2002

Ohio LTAP Moves to ODOT

Monique R. Evans, P.E.

The Local Technology Assistance Program (LTAP) is a direct, hands-on method used by ODOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and our partners to move innovative transportation technologies out of the lab, off the shelf and into the hands of the people who maintain our local and rural roads. LTAP does this by providing technology transfer services, technical assistance, training, products, advice and educational resources to meet the needs of local transportation work forces.

ODOT, FHWA and the Ohio State University have had a long standing partnership to provide this program to the local transportation community in Ohio. For the past six months ODOT, FHWA and OSU have worked cooperatively to evaluate the effectiveness of this program in an effort to provide the best service possible to Ohio's local public agencies.

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research@dot.state.oh.us*

We agreed that ODOT has a strong and close relationship with these agencies that is bolstered by a number of existing outreach efforts. Because ODOT also possesses the expertise needed to provide practical training and technical assistance in most of the areas of interest to these agencies, we have decided to expand our outreach efforts by operating LTAP within the DOT.

Our goals are to improve and strengthen this program by better tailoring it to meet the changing needs of the local agencies and by leveraging the experience, knowledge and resources of the department to respond to those needs. During the remaining six months of this calendar year ODOT will search for an Administrator to develop and manage this program.

William McPherson has been appointed as the interim director of the program and will be responsible for handling the transition from OSU to ODOT.

The Official Site for ODOT's Office of Research & Development:

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/divplan/research>

He has also served as the Administrator of the Office of Consultant Services, the Administrator of the Office of Training, an interim District Deputy Director, an interim District Business and Human Resources Administrator, and was a catalyst in developing the County Manager positions and leading the initial training for those positions. Bill now serves as the special coordinator of the 88 ODOT counties and as the Title Six coordinator for the department. Prior to coming to ODOT Bill acquired more than 20 years experience in commercial and consumer products and corporate organization. He has expertise in areas such as staff team development, corporate structuring and corporate troubleshooting.

A detailed discussion of the future of Ohio LTAP will be provided during the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC), which will be held on October 22 and 23, 2002 at the Columbus Convention Center.

Spotlight on Urban & Corridor Planning's Suzann Gad

Suzann Gad currently serves as the Administrator for ODOT's Office of Urban and Corridor Planning where she has worked since 1998. She was originally hired to "re-engineer" ODOT's planning process, work products, and programs.



Working in conjunction with ODOT district and central office planning and environmental staff and Ohio's MPOs, Ms. Gad helped develop "ODOT's 5 Step Planning Study Process." The process advocates applying planning principles such as: public involvement; quantitative technical analysis; and alternatives evaluations to reach objective decisions and determine the best projects, policies, and programs to advance. The process incorporates many of the principals needed to address the National Environment Policy Act and has provided Ohio the ability to streamline the time for project delivery.

Currently, Ms. Gad is serving on a national state-wide planning conference committee through her involvement with the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Statewide Multi-Modal Planning Committee. She is also a member of the TRB's task force on environmental justice. In addition to her activities with the TRB, Ms. Gad is a member of a NCHRP panel on planning and programming for goods movement and freight in small and mid-sized metropolitan areas.

Ms. Gad has been involved in various research activities. Included among these activities is a recently completed study on freight and its impact on Ohio's roadway systems. One of the recommendations that developed from this study was to expand this work with neighboring states. Therefore, Ms. Gad is working with the Mid-West University Transportation Center at the University of Wisconsin to develop a coalition of mid-west state DOTs for the purposes of conducting a mid-west freight corridor study. In addition to freight studies, Ms. Gad is assisting in an access management study with the University of Dayton entitled "Evaluating the Effects of Prohibiting Left Turns and the Resulting U-Turn Movements." Another study with the University of Cincinnati is underway to analyze the impact of bypasses on small and medium size cities in Ohio. The recently completed study on best ITS management practices and technologies for Ohio with KHA of Ohio was initiated with Ms. Gad's assistance. Currently, Ms. Gad is focusing a majority of her time to updating Ohio's statewide, long-range transportation plan ACCESS Ohio. This multi-modal transportation plan will be the guide for the use of ODOT resources for the next thirty years.

Ms. Gad has a B.A. in Urban Affairs and Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds two Masters Degrees from the Pennsylvania State University: one in Regional Planning and one in Public Administration. She is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and an active member of the American Planning Association (APA). Currently, she serves on the state board of the Ohio Chapter of APA and as chairperson of the Columbus Section. She is a member of the Transportation Research Board Task Force on Environmental Justice. Ms. Gad has represented Ohio on subcommittees with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). She has also published numerous professional articles and won a variety of awards on planning related topics ranging from parks and recreation planning, solid waste management, long range transportation planning, and environmental justice, to planning processes. Ms. Gad has three children - two daughters in college, a son who is a high school sophomore, and a very spoiled Llaso Apso.

Freight Impact on Ohio's Roadway Systems

By: Suzann Gad, AICP,
Administrator, Office of Urban & Corridor Planning

Ohio's economy to a large degree depends on its roadways to transport freight to state, regional, national, and global markets. The number of trucks using Ohio's roads is expected to continually increase. By 2020, domestic freight tonnage is expected to grow by 75%. The total vehicle miles traveled by freight trucks in Ohio is projected to increase by 2.3% each year. Trucks account for much of the wear and tear on Ohio's roadways. One legally loaded truck puts as much distress on the roads as 9,000 - 10,000 cars. One large truck causes as much congestion as 2.5 - 3.5 cars on flat terrain and as much as 15 cars on steep slopes.

Recognizing this increased impact from truck freight, ODOT directed its SPR funding to focus on freight analysis. A study was initiated to determine how best to manage freight on Ohio's transportation system and how to improve freight access and mobility in the future.



In December 2000, Cambridge Systematics, Inc. was contracted to develop a freight profile of Ohio. This used the Transearch Database and WEFA to produce a profile and projections of freight growth in Ohio. The study also identified recommendations for addressing these impacts. Cambridge Systematics, Inc. has been working closely with the Office of Urban and Corridor Planning and the Office of Technical Services of ODOT's Division of Planning to determine how readily available freight databases could: provide information on freight flows; forecast freight truck flows on Ohio's roadways; be used to assess its impact on those roadways; and complement the development of ODOT's comprehensive, statewide, travel demand forecasting model,

which will include sophisticated freight-planning capabilities. It is anticipated that the model will be fully functional in 2005.

The study also conducted four case studies using freight data obtained through Reebie Associates to determine the value of the freight data and forecasts. The Highway Economic Requirements System (HERS) model was used to assess the impact of future freight-truck travel on Ohio's roadway system. An examination of freight data and forecast for the I-75 Corridor was performed. The potential to divert truck traffic from the Ohio Turnpike to parallel railroad lines was also examined as well as the use of freight data to support travel demand forecasting models used by Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Overall, this research has provided ODOT with a starting point for reassessing its policies and programs as well as developing a long range transportation plan that addresses the needs of freight while improving Ohio's economic competitiveness. The study is completed and the final report will be available on the ODOT Research Web page [www/dot.state.oh.us/research](http://www.dot.state.oh.us/research) and distributed in the near future.

TRB Call for Papers

The Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting on-line paper submission website is now open for new submissions for the 2003 Annual Meeting cycle and for consideration for publication in the TRB Transportation Research Record series in 2003. Papers can be submitted for presentation and/or publication at <http://submissions.miracd.com/trb2003/> from now until August 1, 2002. Solicited and unsolicited papers addressing any relevant aspect of transportation research are welcome. Some TRB standing committees also publish calls for papers addressing specific subject areas (at http://www4.nas.edu/trb/annual.nsf/web/Calls_for_Papers). Submission of papers does not ensure selection for presentation at the Annual Meeting or publication by TRB.

Please refer to the Annual Meeting Information for Authors at http://www4.nas.edu/trb/annual.nsf/web/information_for_authors for detailed paper formatting guidelines and templates. Note that word counts are now required for each paper during on-line submittal.

Calendar of Events

August - 2002

1st - Deadline for paper submissions to TRB 2003 Annual Meeting Cycle

5th-7th - Office of R&D Peer Exchange

September - 2002

23rd-24th - Midwest Regional Diversity in Transportation Workshop (Milwaukee, WI) - For more info contact Jason Bittner, bittner@engr.wisc.edu, or David Kuemmel, kuemmeld@marguette.edu

October - 2002

22nd-23rd - OTEC (Convention Center - Columbus, OH) - For more info go to <http://www.otecohio.com>

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