

update

News about transportation research and the work of the Minnesota Local Road Research Board

2012 LRRB Research Projects Approved

In December, the LRRB approved the following research projects:

- Investigation and Assessment of Colored Concrete Pavement
- Development and Integration of Advanced Timber Bridge Inspection Techniques for NBIS
- Lighting levels for Isolated Intersections Leading to Safety Improvements
- Determination of Effective Impervious Area in Urban Watersheds
- Building Local Agency Capacity for Public Engagement in Local Road Systems Planning Decision-Making
- Field Evaluation of Friction Measurement and Applicator Control Systems for Winter Road Maintenance on Low Volume Roads
- Design Considerations for Embankment Protection during Road Overtopping Events

If you would like to take part in shaping any of these projects contact Sandy McCully , 651-366-3768 Sandra.McCully@state.mn.us

LRRB and RIC Member Updates

The composition of both the LRRB and the RIC has changed in the past year.

Thanks to our Outgoing Members

The LRRB's Research Implementation Committee thanked **Sue Miller**, Freeborn County Engineer and **Tom Colbert**, City of Eagan Public Works Director, for their service at their December meeting. Sue served on the LRRB for five years and the RIC for one year. Tom has served the RIC for five years, and the LRRB for seven years. Tom is ending his term on the RIC one year early due to his retirement.

In February, the LRRB celebrated **Mitch Anderson's**, Stearns County, six years as a member of the LRRB.

The LRRB celebrated **Deb Bloom's**, City of Roseville, time on the LRRB and as Chair at their December meeting. Deb served on the LRRB for six years.



Thank you to Sue Miller and Tom Colbert

Thank you to Mitch Anderson (back row, 2nd from right) and Deb Bloom (front row, 2nd from right)

The LRRB and RIC recognized each Sue, Tom, Mitch and Deb with a plaque commemorating their contribution to Minnesota local road research.

LRRB updates:

- **John Powell**, City of Savage, is the newest member of the LRRB, replacing Deb Bloom, City of Roseville.
- **Lyndon Robjant**, Carver County joined the LRRB, replacing Mitch Anderson, Stearns County
- **Tim Stahl**, Jackson County will be serving a dual role on the LRRB and RIC and is replacing Sue Miller, Freeborn County.

RIC updates:

- **Nicole Peterson** was named the Research Management Engineer for the LRRB, replacing Ben Worel, who moved back to the Maplewood Materials Lab to work with MnROAD.
- **Klayton Eckles**, City of Woodbury has replaced Tom Colbert, City of Eagan
- **Dave Robley**, Douglas County has replaced Sue Miller, Freeborn County

2011 Engineer of the Year Awards

Sue Miller, Freeborn County Engineer was awarded "Rural County Engineer of the Year" at the annual National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Conference in April. The LRRB would like to congratulate Sue on the prestigious award.



Sue Miller with Lee Amundson, NACE awards committee member

Russ Matthys, city of Eagan, was recognized by the CEAM as the 2011 City Engineer of the Year. Russ was a TAP member for the Best Value Training Project.



CEAM 2011 Engineer of the Year, Russ Matthys with Eagan Mayor and Co-Workers



MCEA 2011 County Engineer of the Year, Dave Robley with Doug Grindall

New RIC member and past LRRB member **Dave Robley PE**, Douglas County was named the 2011 County Engineer of the Year by the MCEA.

The LRRB would like to congratulate Sue, Russ and Dave on their awards.



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Social Media TRS

In December 2011 the LRRB published a Synthesis on the use of social media by Cities and Counties. The report addresses: What agencies are using them? Which social media outlets are they using? How are they using them? Of particular interest was transportation-related communications through social media channels.

www.lrrb.org/benefitme.aspx



Minnesota's Best Practices and Policies for Safety Strategies on Highways and Local Roads

As a spinoff from the County Road Safety Plan efforts, a resource intended to help agencies better understand the best practices of various traffic safety strategies and implement a policy for each strategy has been developed. Each safety strategy covered in the handbook provides information on the best practices which include:

- Description and definition
- Safety characteristics
- Classification of proven, tried, ineffective or experimental
- Typical characteristics of candidate locations
- Roadway operations
- Typical costs
- Design features

The best practices are all based on studies and research done and are consistent with guidance prepared by FHWA, AASHTO and NCHRP. The sample policies that are given with each safety strategy are meant to help reduce the potential exposure to claims of negligence associated with motor vehicle crashes on an agency's roadway system.

www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_safety_strategies.html

National Articles highlighting LRRB projects

In the past year, there have been two articles published in national magazines that highlight some of the initiatives and accomplishments of the LRRB:

- *12 Tools for Budget-Challenged Road Engineers* was published in July 2011 in Public Works Magazine and highlights various research projects that the LRRB funded to help locals (i.e. Traffic Generators, Roundabouts, Project Memorandum Writer, etc.)
<http://pwmag.com/industry-news.asp?sectionID=760&articleID=1604941>
- *87 Ducks in a Row*, was published in October 2011 in Roads and Bridges quarterly publication TM&E (Transportation Management and Engineering) and highlights the County Road Safety Plans. This article is not available online but can be requested from the MnDOT Library
www.dot.state.mn.us/library/online-journals.html

Gravel road maintenance online learning

This online course, the first offered by Minnesota LTAP, was created to help local agencies provide training for in a more cost effective manner. The curriculum is similar to traditional classroom training but accessible to students who are unable to travel or prefer a "work at their own pace". This course helps students better understand the materials, techniques, and equipment needed for maintaining gravel roads. It will also review new techniques and ideas in gravel road maintenance. The course consists of 10 lessons, each containing a narrated presentation, video clips, reading assignments, a quiz, time to reflect on what has been learned, and time to develop an action plan.

www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/topic/maintenance/gravel/online.html

2012 Calendar of Events

May 23-24: 23rd Annual CTS Transportation Research
Conference, Saint Paul RiverCentre
www.cts.umn.edu/Events