

# update

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

## 2013 LRRB Research Projects Approved

In December, the LRRB approved the following research projects:

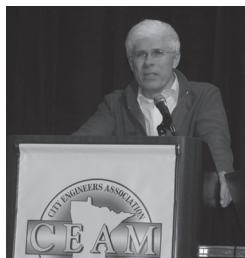
- Best Management Practices for Establishment of Salt-Tolerant Grasses on Roadsides
- Development of a Digital Highway Framework to Facilitate Crash Avoidance: Serving County Roads
- Flagger Operations: Investigating their Effectiveness in Capturing Driver Attention
- Guidelines for Permeable Pavement Systems
- Investigation of Optimal Mix Design of Full Depth Reclamation Stabilization with Cement and Emulsion
- Major Equipment Life Cycle Cost Analysis
- Minnesota Steel Pipe Service Life Map
- Next Generation Bridge Management Tools and Inspection
- Tack Coat Testing – Measuring Field Bond Strength
- Transportation Investment and Economic Development in Rural Minnesota

If you would like to take part in shaping any of these projects, please contact Sandy McCully at (651) 366-3768 or [Sandra.McCully@state.mn.us](mailto:Sandra.McCully@state.mn.us).

## 2012 Engineer of the Year Awards



MCEA 2012 County Engineer of the Year, Al Forsberg



CEAM 2012 City Engineer of the Year, Tom Mathisen

- The Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA) has named former LRRB member Al Forsberg (Blue Earth County) its 2012 County Engineer of the Year. Congratulations, Al!
- The City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) has named Tom Mathisen (City of Crystal) its 2012 City Engineer of the Year. Congratulations, Tom!

## Kjonaas Receives Service Award



RIC member Rick Kjonaas receives Gerald J. Rohrbach Service Award

In recognition of his excellent contributions to the pavement engineering profession, RIC member **Rick Kjonaas** received the Gerald J. Rohrbach Distinguished Service Award on February 14 during the 17th Annual Transportation Engineering and Road Research Alliance (TERRA) Pavement Conference.

## LRRB and RIC Member Updates

### LRRB updates:

- **Outgoing Member:** The LRRB thanks **Nicole Peterson**, LRRB Research Management Engineer, for her time supporting the LRRB board. Nicole moved to the MnDOT Project Management and Technical Support Group in January. The LRRB is in the process of finding a replacement for her position.
- **New Research Services Staff:** The LRRB welcomes **Nick Busse**, who joined MnDOT Research Services in November as the Marketing and Communications Manager. Nick will assist the LRRB with various upcoming marketing and outreach opportunities.



Current LRRB Members: (Back row) Laurie McGinnis, Steve Koehler, John Powell, Linda Taylor, Tom Ravn, and Tim Stahl (Front Row) Lyndon Robjent, Julie Skallman, Rick West, and Bruce Hasbargen

### RIC updates:

- **Jeff Hulsether** (City of Brainerd) was named the new RIC Chair.
- **Dave Robley** (Douglas County) was named the new Vice Chair.



Current RIC Members: (Back row) Dave Robley, Mitch Rasmussen, Jim Grothaus, Walter Leu, Rich Sanders, and Jeff Hulsether (Front Row) Farideh Amiri, Tim Stahl, Rick Kjonaas, and Maureen Jensen. Not pictured: Clayton Eckles



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## Highlighted RIC Projects

### You Tube Videos Increase Driver Safety

In an effort to increase roadway safety, the LRRB has produced three YouTube videos to educate the public. Two of the videos help drivers understand the correct purpose and function of speed limits and stop signs, minimizing the number of requests for lower speed limits and new stop signs throughout local neighborhoods. A third video encourages drivers to keep roads safe and smooth by reporting potholes. Each three-minute video features interviews, animations, and on-location footage. The videos are available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/MnDOTResearch>.



## Highlighted LRRB Projects

### Innovative Bridge Construction for Minnesota Local Roads

This report outlines new bridge design and construction methods used by Minnesota counties. Innovative techniques (several of which have already been used in other states) range from GRS abutments to crash tested open metal railings. The report also includes implementation ideas and recommendations as well as federal funding opportunities. <http://www.lrrb.org/pdf/TRS1203.pdf>

### Far-Field Testing of Noise Wall Effectiveness – Survey of State Practice and Literature Scan

Increasing complaints regarding highway noise along I-35W have prompted MnDOT to examine existing noise wall testing research and review how other state departments of transportation respond to similar complaints. This TRS compiles completed research for further study and evaluation by MnDOT. <http://www.lrrb.org/pdf/TRS1202.pdf>

## LRRB Members Present at Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting

Nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world attended the TRB's 92nd Annual Meeting on January 13-17 in Washington D.C. The LRRB thanks the following members for sharing their work at the conference:

- ***The Road Ahead will be a Road Less Traveled?*** (Session #739)  
Presentation developed by **Sue Miller** and moderated by **Rick West**
- ***Systematic Safety Programs in Practice: Otter Tail County, MN***  
(Session #113) Presented by **Rick West**
- ***Achieving Access Management Success through Stakeholder Involvement on Highway 101***  
Poster session facilitated by **Mitch Rasmussen**



Rick West presents at the 2013 TRB Meeting

## 2013 Calendar of Events

**March 5: Transportation Career Expo (Minneapolis, MN)**  
[www.cts.umn.edu/Events/CareerExpo](http://www.cts.umn.edu/Events/CareerExpo)

**March 14-15: Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota Annual Workshop (Rochester, MN)**  
[www.concreteisbetter.com](http://www.concreteisbetter.com)

**May 1: MN Roadway Maintenance Training and Demo Day (Rochester, MN)**  
<http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/roadway/>

**May 8-10: APWA Conference (Grand View Lodge, Nisswa, Minnesota)**  
<http://www.cce.umn.edu/APWA-Minnesota-Chapter/index.html>

**May 22-23: Annual CTS Transportation Research Conference (St. Paul RiverCentre)**  
[www.cts.umn.edu/Events](http://www.cts.umn.edu/Events)