

# update

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

Making a difference.



## FY2016 LRRB Research Projects Approved

In December, the LRRB approved the following research projects:

### Bridges and Structures

- Cost-Competitive Timber Bridge Designs

### Maintenance

- Expanding the Success of Salt-Tolerant Roadside Turfgrasses through Innovation and Education
- Pothole Prevention and Innovative Repair (LRRB/MnDOT)

### Materials and Construction

- Evaluation of Stabilized Full Depth Reclamation (LRRB/MnDOT)
- Performance Monitoring of Olmsted County CR 117/104
- Slope Stabilization and Repair Solutions
- Life-Cycle Cost Analysis Tool for Minnesota Pavements

### Policy and Planning

- The Transportation Futures Project (LRRB/MnDOT)

### Traffic and Safety

- Examining Signing Options for Improving Safe Driving Behaviors in Work Zones (LRRB/MnDOT)

A brief summary of each project is available at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/research/RFP/FY2016/awards.html>. To participate in any of these projects, please contact Hafiz Munir at (651) 366-3757 or [hafiz.munir@state.mn.us](mailto:hafiz.munir@state.mn.us).

## 2014 Engineer of the Year Awards

- The Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA) has named **Doug Fischer** (Anoka County) its 2014 County Engineer of the Year. Congratulations, Doug!
- The City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) has named **Shelly Pederson** (City of Bloomington) its 2014 City Engineer of the Year. Congratulations, Shelly!



Doug Fischer



Shelly Pederson

## Member Updates

### LRRB Updates

- **Paul Oehme** (City of Chanhassen) has replaced John Powell (City of Savage) on the LRRB board.
- **Mitch Rasmussen** (MnDOT State Aid) has replaced Julie Skallman (MnDOT State Aid) on the LRRB board.

### RIC Updates

- **Guy Kohlhofer** (Dodge County) has replaced Mitch Rasmussen (MnDOT State Aid, formerly with Scott County) on the RIC board.



Paul Oehme



Mitch Rasmussen



Guy Kohlhofer

### Additional Member Announcements

- **Julie Skallman** retired in December after more than 38 years of state service. For the past 16 years, Julie served as the MnDOT State Aid Engineer. Julie has made several contributions to the LRRB since being appointed in 1999. Congratulations, Julie!
- **Mitch Rasmussen** was recently named the new MnDOT State Aid Engineer. Mitch previously served as the Scott County Public Works Director/County Engineer for the past nine years.



Julie Skallman

## Highlighted LRRB Projects

### Benefits and Costs of Increasing Truck Load Limits

State legislatures and the U.S. Congress balance many factors when setting size and weight limits for large trucks on interstates and the National Highway System. When these limits are raised, local agencies must address several infrastructure, traffic, safety, environmental, and economic impacts.

Prepared by CTC & Associates, this Transportation Research Synthesis helps counties and cities in Minnesota prepare for future weight limit increases by summarizing the many potential impacts (including costs and benefits) of increased truck load limits on our local highways. For a list of findings, please visit: <http://www.lrrb.org/media/reports/TRS1503.pdf>.

### Investigation and Assessment of Colored Concrete Pavement

Colored concrete is a great way to dress up normal street and roadway projects. While full-depth colored concrete has become increasingly popular in Minnesota, early deterioration (particularly near contraction joints) is prompting several local agencies to tear up their colored concrete projects within just a few years of installation.

Sponsored by the LRRB and conducted by MnDOT, this study identifies materials and design and construction methods that contribute to early deterioration; develops recommendations for improved specifications for materials, mix designs, and construction practices for colored concrete in cold climates; and offers suitable repair and rehabilitation techniques. For more information, please visit: <http://www.lrrb.org/media/reports/201426.pdf>.



The City of Centerville plans to tear up its colored concrete due to early joint deterioration.

## Highlighted RIC Projects

### Traffic Sign Maintenance and Management Online Training Course

Registration is now open for a new online course that provides a concise, cohesive set of sign maintenance and management materials to employees of cities, counties, and municipalities. The course aims to help agencies develop and maintain plans and processes to meet MN MUTCD standards in their respective jurisdictions. Participants



complete the course at their own pace. To register, please visit the course web page: [www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/topic/traffic/linesign](http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/topic/traffic/linesign). The cost of the course is \$65 (or \$75 to register for a Continuing Education Credit).

## Additional Announcements

### 2014 LRRB At-A-Glance Available Online

The *FY2014 Local Road Research Board At-A-Glance* is now available online.

In addition to serving as a quick reference guide to our research program, this document also contains research highlights, budget summaries, and videos. Please visit the following link to learn more: [http://www.lrrb.org/media/reports/FY2014\\_LRRB\\_At-A-Glance\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.lrrb.org/media/reports/FY2014_LRRB_At-A-Glance_WEB.pdf). The *MnDOT Research Services & Library FY2014 At-A-Glance* is also available at: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/research/documents/FY2014At-A-Glance\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/research/documents/FY2014At-A-Glance_WEB.pdf).



## 2015 Calendar of Events

### March 3-5: Minnesota's Transportation Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, MN

<http://mntransportationconference.org/>

### March 12-13: Concrete Paving Association of Minnesota (CPAM) Annual Workshop & Awards Banquet

Breezy Point Conference Center, Breezy Point, MN

<http://www.concreteisbetter.com/>

### May 6-8: American Public Works Association (APWA) Spring Conference

Grand View Lodge, Gull Lake, MN

<http://www.apwa-mn.org/>

### May 13: Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Roadway Maintenance Training and Demo Day

Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount, MN

<http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/roadway/>

### May 20-21: Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) Transportation Annual Research Conference

Saint Paul RiverCentre, Saint Paul, MN

<http://www.cts.umn.edu/events/>