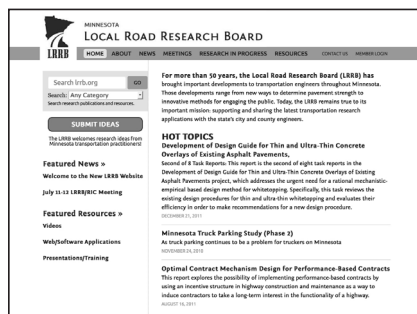


update

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

LRRB Launches New Website



Launched in June, the new site is packed with the latest practices and technologies to help you design safer, longer lasting roadways. The new site:

- Provides easy access to search content and submit ideas.
- Improves navigation and access to information.
- Eliminates redundancy and removes outdated information.
- Improves search functionality.
- Provides a cleaner looking design.

Visit www.lrrb.org to search news items, project information, videos, highlights, hot topics, and other resources. The new LRRB site also contains meeting information and an external news link to keep you up to date. Please email Sandy McCully (sandra.mccully@state.mn.us) with comments, questions, and suggestions.

MNLTP Wins NLTAPA Poster Contest

The LRRB and MNLTP Center's poster for the recently completed Gravel Road Maintenance and Design Online Training Course won the National Local Transportation Assistance Program Association's (NLTAPA) poster contest. Judges evaluated each poster based on its value to other LTAP centers, quality of layout, and relevance to the conference theme. Jim Grothaus accepted the grand prize, a jug of authentic New York maple syrup, at NLTAPA's 2012 national conference in Grapevine, Texas.

New Projects

Stop Signs to Speed Limits: Using YouTube Videos to Increase Driver Safety

YouTube™ The LRRB is developing four YouTube videos to help educate public officials and the general public. The videos, which will cover the topics of: how speed limits are set, proper locations for stop signs, stormwater best practices, and potholes, will feature interviews, animations, and on-location footage to increase roadway safety. These videos are expected to be complete in early 2013.

Traffic Monitoring Projects Seek Higher Efficiency, Lower Costs

- **Project One: Alternatives to Traffic Data Collection**
The LRRB is piloting a project to determine the efficiency of MnDOT's Traffic Volume Program (AADT counts). The study will consider whether MnDOT should continue conducting county and city traffic counts or if different data collection methods, including scenarios in which the county performs or outsources the counts, could better meet the needs of all agencies. The project, which includes a trial study in Jackson County and feedback from county and city engineers and other state DOTs, will evaluate various collection methods based on several criteria: time to install and conduct count, type and quality of data, cost/funding mechanism, and benefit/cost and safety during installation. Currently, MnDOT districts (except in the Metro) perform coverage counts on various roads.
- **Project Two: Field Evaluation of Traffic Data Collection Options**
While traditional road tubes typically collect most Minnesota traffic data, local agencies have asked the LRRB to investigate other low-cost (\$10,000 or less) options that can collect more traffic parameters for longer durations. This project will identify readily deployable, low-maintenance systems that state and local government agencies can use to monitor traffic figures – vehicle counts, classification, and speed. Evaluation criteria include system accuracy, data quality and durability, communication requirements, integration with GIS work flows, climate limitations, and worker and public safety.

Results from both traffic monitoring studies are expected to be available mid 2013 on the LRRB website: www.lrrb.org

Sign Management and Maintenance Course Available Soon Online



Beginning in 2014, maintenance staff will be able to complete the Traffic Sign Management and Maintenance course online. The new virtual platform, designed as a more practical alternative to traditional in-person training, will allow students to learn at their own pace and convenience. Currently in development, the online course will cover several topics including sign placement, materials, retroreflectivity, sign management (policies and practices), and special signing situations such as work zone traffic control and detour signing.



Minnesota Local Road Research Board
Research Services Section
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd., MS 330
St. Paul, MN 55155-1800

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Highlighted RIC Projects

ADA Transition Plans for Local Agencies

All public agencies, as required by the federal American with Disabilities Act (1990), must develop a transition plan identifying physical obstacles that limit accessibility and schedule necessary improvements. Despite federal regulations, many agencies still do not have transition plans, resulting in several civil lawsuits. Funded by the LRRB, the “ADA Resource Guide for Local Agencies” contains model transition plans, process guidelines, and current ADA laws to help organizations fulfill this requirement. Please visit www.lrrb.org/resources/applications to learn more and download a copy of this document. To learn how to use this document, attend the webinar “ADA: Is your agency compliant?” on October 25th, 2012 10-11am. See the MN LTAP website for more details. www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/

Complete Streets – A Resource for MN Local Agencies

National and State legislation is prompting local agencies to implement “Complete Streets,” a movement that aims to accommodate all users by providing safe, attractive, comfortable access and travel. Funded by the LRRB, “Complete Streets

Resource for MN Local Agencies” will serve as a guide to local organizations interested in developing their own policies. This Complete Streets resource will include local and national practices, various terms and activities, and tools and implementation strategies. The final resource is expected to be available on the LRRB website by the end of 2012.

Highlighted LRRB Projects

Minnesota Concrete Flatwork Specs for Local Government Agencies Now Available

A new product from the LRRB and Minnesota LTAP, this 35-page document provides specs for local agencies to follow as they move through the life of a concrete project. The new specs help reduce the confusion and misunderstandings often encountered during the bidding process and provide a clear set of guidelines to use during the construction project. You can access the document at the Minnesota LTAP publications page: www.mnltap.umn.edu/publications/handbooks. Minnesota LTAP is offering a training program this fall to aid in the implementation of Minnesota Concrete Flatwork Specifications; stay tuned for dates and locations.

2012 – 2013 Calendar of Events

- October 3-4:** Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo (St. Cloud Public Works Facility, St. Cloud, MN)
- October 22-23:** Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Annual Conference (DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, MN)
- November 13-15:** APWA MN Chapter Fall Workshop and Conference (Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN)
- January 22-25:** MCEA Minnesota County Engineer Association Annual Conference (Craguns Resort, Brainerd, MN)
- Jan. 30 - Feb. 1:** CEAM City Engineers Association of Minnesota Annual Conference (Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN)
- February 14:** TERRA Pavement Conference (University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN)