

Summary of Mn/DOT Library Activities

Prepared for the LRRB by Sheila Hatchell, Mn/DOT Library Director

Note that this report covers only 2 months – January and February 2008

Reference work

103 Ready Reference questions (less than 15 min)
81 In-depth reference questions (more than 15 min)
147 Literature searches performed
129 Web sites located
62 Articles/reports downloaded
36 Articles copied

Some of the questions we have answered:

LRRB- Related

- Trunk Highway snowplow route optimization formulas.
- Standards for mailbox supports.
- Traffic Flow on MN Hwy 46.
- Township roads – unofficial detours.
- 7 in-depth literature searches for the Mn/DOT Research Office.
- Do elderly drivers need more shoulder width because they have slower reaction times and need more shoulder width to recover on?
- What are the effects of different kinds of lighting on peripheral vision, especially for lighting isolated rural intersections?
- Traffic Calming techniques for high speed rural roads.
- Are there regulations regarding the use of NH₃ tanks on trailers for diesel fuel delivery to the fields for farmers? Many tanks have been converted in the past several years and I have heard that state highway patrols have issued tickets on those vessels.

Legislature-Related

- Cell phone use and traffic accidents.
- Role of insurance companies in road design.
- When did the Minnesota Highway Department use the title Chief Engineer? Who had the title? Where was it on the organization chart?
- Teen deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes: projections, counts, summaries, statistics.

General

- Republican National Convention – Do out-of-state buses need to be inspected? Do they pay a registration fee? Are there any special rules or regulations in place for drivers and vehicles working the RNC?
- Where to position lights on a commercial vehicle and what type of lights.
- History of early trails and roads for a sesquicentennial article.
- What was Hwy 8 in New Brighton before it was a highway?
- When was I-94 constructed through south Minneapolis?
- Looking for information on the failed attempt to build I-335 in northeast Minneapolis.
- List of Toll Policies around the country; Private-public partnerships and toll facilities; How to decide if a road/bridge/tunnel should be a toll facility.
- Master list of contracting terms and definitions that Mn/DOT uses.

Major Customers

*City and county engineers – from all over the state.

All of Mn/DOT – CO, Districts, Oakdale, Materials Lab, Water's Edge, and the Office of Communications.

University of Minnesota faculty and students.

Members of the public.

*Counties served in the past 2 months: Hennepin, Ramsey, Cook, Carver, St. Louis, Sherburne, Norman and Becker. We have sent numerous reports from our collection, located Web sites, and acquired materials via Inter-Library Loan. We also regularly receive requests for Mn/DOT/LRRB reports – several requests each week. We are scanning older reports and can deliver them via email within an hour of the request.

Comments received over the past two months:

- "I am a new county engineer. I could not do my job without the resources of the Mn/DOT Library."
- "Mn/DOT is fortunate to have a world class transportation library."
- "Wow, I never could have found that on my own."
- "Thank you. I spent 30 minutes looking for that report and finally gave up!"
- "You saved me a bunch of time! Thanks for your help and speedy response!"

Networks

- Legislative Reference Library – 4 requests filled by them.
- Minnesota State Law Library – 3 requests filled by them.
- Metropolitan Council Library – 2 requests filled by them.
- Special Libraries Transportation Discussion List – obtained two obsolete standards from 1961 that were not available anywhere else. Other standards from the past cost \$43 each, so we saved the dept. approx. \$100 by our networks.
- Special Libraries Transportation Discussion List – we are currently obtaining a report done by Korean authors and presented at an Australiasian conference.

Other important work that supports all library functions:

- Periodicals collection – checking in new issues, claiming missing issues, filing new issues, and purging old issues after their retention period is up.
- Cataloging – maintaining print, CD, and electronic resources collections, editing records, filing loose-leaf publications.
- Network services – update links to electronic reports, journals, and TRB publications available from the library's Web site. Even though LRRB members cannot access these, they receive the benefit because we can find what they are requesting and email them copies within a few minutes of their request.
- Inter-Library Loans (ILL) – we loan materials to other libraries in order to be able to borrow from other libraries. LRRB members have full ILL privileges and they use it.