

## **Update on CTS Activities** **(Linda Preisen and Julie Skallman)**

### **a) Research Development: Knowledge Building Priorities (Linda Preisen)**

#### Background

**June 2005:** Brainstorming at LRRB summer meeting with LRRB and RIC, to generate knowledge building priority topic areas. The priorities encompassed emerging, long-term challenges facing city and county engineers within the LRRB's four categories of research: Design, Construction, Environmental Compatibility and Maintenance/Operations.

**August 2005:** Meeting of city/county engineers and U of M faculty to further define the LRRB's knowledge-building priorities. For each priority, participants were asked to provide information on:

- a) Current State-of-the-Art: ("What is widely known/accepted about this topic? and/or what has past research shown?")
- b) Research Opportunities to Advance Knowledge ("Investigate the impacts of..., study the effects of..., or develop measures for...")

CTS staff drafted one-page summaries of the knowledge building priorities, including background and research opportunities. Knowledge Building Priorities communicated to U of M faculty and research staff in the RFP.

**Summer 2006:** Knowledge Building Priorities reviewed at the summer LRRB meeting. No changes made to the summaries.

**Summer 2007:** Knowledge Building Priorities updated to reflect results of "2006-07 City/County Engineer Survey," and reviewed at the summer LRRB meeting.

### **b) ITS Institute Update (Linda Preisen)**

Linda Preisen will provide a brief, verbal update of ITS Institute activities.

### **c) Update on the University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS)**

1. Keith Knapp has recently been hired as the Research Manager of the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute. Knapp's background and research interests can be found in the following biographical summary:

Knapp is a transportation engineer whose research focuses on the safety and operational impacts of numerous factors-such as geometrics, weather, and management policies-that influence the roadway environment. In addition to his work with CERS and the Humphrey Institute, he is also currently the Director of a multi-state Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center.

Prior to his work at the University of Minnesota, Knapp was an Associate Research Scientist at the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University. Knapp received his B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, a Masters of Engineering with a focus in Transportation from Cornell University in 1989, and a Ph.D. in Civil (Transportation) Engineering at Texas A&M University in 1997. He is a licensed professional engineer in IL, IA, MI, and WI.

2. The US DOT and FHWA Office of Safety have tapped CERS to develop and host an electronic National Rural Transportation Safety Clearinghouse. It will include resources related to the 4Es, data sources, best practices, research results, etc. It will be launched end of June, beginning of July.

**c) TERRA Innovation Series Event (Julie Skallman)**

The Transportation and Engineering Road Research Alliance (TERRA) will host an Innovation Series workshop on July 30, 2008 at the MnROAD facility in Monticello, MN. The workshop will feature an Open House, with Project Site Tours, Demonstrations, and Topic Forums.