TXLTAP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Fort Worth Regional Training Center

In February of 2023, LTAP personnel met with the Training Director for The City of Fort Worth's 600-person Public Works Division. During this meeting, it was determined that their post-Covid training needs were significant. As a guideline, UT Arlington Public Works Institute has set limits on the number of LTAP/CCT grant-funded training courses that each city/county can receive within the fiscal year. This maximizes the overall reach of the grants, making sure that every interested city/county can participate.

As part of our training discussion, it was determined that the City of Fort Worth could partner with the surrounding cities and counties. This will allow smaller municipalities the opportunity to take advantage of our grant-funded program. A agreement was proposed and accepted that would allow Fort Worth to receive additional grant-funded courses if they could demonstrate a concerted effort to include the surrounding cities and counties. The result is now known as the Fort Worth Regional Training Center and is a model for a successful multiorganizational training program.

This regional training program is designed to provide employees in a particular region the required knowledge, skills and resources to succeed. By pooling resources and expertise, this program will ensure consistent training throughout the region, foster collaboration towards future projects or initiatives, and offer professional development beyond what any one organization could provide on its own.

Fort Worth kicked off their training program by offering two CCT300 Flagger courses at their facility. Initial responses were astounding. Within the first 2 days of offering the training, all 50 seats were filled by 7 different cities spread across 2 counties.

This successful regional training model will be offered and presented to other larger Texas cities and counties in the future. It is the goal of UT Arlington Public Works Institute to maximize the reach of the LTAP/CCT grants and provide the highest quality training available across the State of Texas.

In this issue:

Every Day Counts 7: NextGen TIM

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) is the coordinated response to traffic accidents and other unplanned events that occur on our roadways. The objective is to handle these incidents safely and quickly, to prevent further accidents and restore traffic conditions back to normal as quickly as possible. Traffic accidents increase the likelihood of secondary crashes and pose a threat to the safety of both first responders and the traveling public. TIM programs increase safety, improve travel reliability, air quality, energy use, and commerce on all roadways.

The Federal Highway Administration's National TIM Responder Training has taught more than 600,000 first responders how to clear incidents collaboratively, safely, and quickly. These techniques include incident notification, scene size-up, safe vehicle positioning, scene safety, command responsibilities, traffic management, and incident clearance and termination.

Technology is the future of TIM improvements. Ideas similar to smart vehicle lighting, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and debris removal tools can provide countless benefits to first responders and roadway users. Several benefits are:

- Increased Safety
- Improved Operations
- Better Situational Awareness

Examples of NextGen TIM currently in practice by state and local agencies includes:

- Indiana Department of Transportation: Warning Trucks. These warning trucks are equipped with attenuators, arrow boards, and digital alert systems and are placed ahead of incidents to decrease the amount of hard breaking occurring near the scene.

- Washington State Patrol: UAS. Washington State Patrol has reduced the time needed to measure, map, and photograph serious injury or fatal scenes by 70% through the use of drones.

- Pennsylvania Turnpike: Specialized Push Bumpers. The Pennsylvania Turnpike has added specialty bumpers to their vehicles in order to move roadway debris more effectively and without the need for the operator to leave the vehicle.

- Colorado Department of Transportation: Truck mounted attenuator. CDOT has created an unmanned follow vehicle that provides a safety zone behind a lead paint vehicle. Used mostly in rural areas, this following truck has the ability to wirelessly match the speed and direction of the lead vehicle. The follow vehicle has a crumple zone built into the rear and creates a safety zone for the slow-moving paint truck while it is putting paint on rural highways. If the unmanned follow vehicle is struck from behind, the manned paint vehicle and its occupants should remain unharmed.
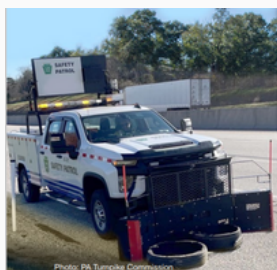
Focus on Training: Work Zone Traffic Control/Qualified Flagger (520)

One of our most requested courses at TxLTAP is Work Zone Traffic Control/Qualified Flagger (520). This course is in high demand because it is a prerequisite for anyone seeking to work as a flagger in construction and roadwork zones. 520 provides the necessary skills and knowledge to maintain safe traffic flow. Basic flagger training involves both classroom and hands-on practice. Upon completion, participants receive a flagger card that requires renewal every 4 years.

Safety is of paramount importance when it comes to traffic control setups. Proper safety measures are necessary to protect the workers, motorists, pedestrians, and everyone involved in or around the work zone. Here are several key reasons why safety is essential in traffic control:

- Worker Safety: Traffic control setups often involve workers who are exposed to various hazards, including moving vehicles, heavy machinery, and construction materials. Implementing safety protocols such as PPE, high-visibility clothing, and training can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries to workers.
- Motorist Safety: Traffic control setups aim to maintain a smooth and controlled flow of vehicles through work zones. By effectively guiding motorists with clear signage, visible markings, and well-trained flaggers, the risk of collisions, confusion, and congestion can be minimized.
- Pedestrian Safety: Proper signage, barricades, and designated pedestrian walkways help direct pedestrians away from potential hazards and guide them safely around the work zone. This is particularly important around schools and high foot traffic areas.
- Hazard Mitigation: Adequate warning signs, barricades, and delineators help identify roadway hazards such as uneven surfaces or open excavations, giving them time to adjust their speed and driving behavior accordingly.
- Emergency Response: In the event of an emergency near or in a work zone, an effective traffic control setup ensures that emergency vehicles can access the site quickly and safely. Clear pathways, signage, and coordination with emergency services facilitates timely responses, potentially saving lives and minimizing damage.
- Compliance with Regulations: Regulatory bodies such as transportation departments or occupational safety agencies enforce specific safety regulations and guidelines and adhering to these is crucial to ensure legal compliance, avoid penalties, and uphold the highest safety standards.
- Public Perception: Traffic control setups are often highly visible to the public, and their perception of safety is essential.
- Mitigation of Litigation: The more accidents, injuries, or fatalities that occur in work zones, the more legal actions you will face.

To ensure safety in traffic control setups, it is crucial to implement comprehensive planning, thorough risk assessments, and regular safety inspections. Training courses educate workers on how to effectively use the principles and standards found in the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) as well as a broad base of skills critical to traffic safety in work zones.

TxLTAP Lending Library Available Equipment

TxLTAP Lending Library is an incredible resource for cities, counties and instructors across the State of Texas to borrow equipment related to road and bridge construction projects at no cost. If you are interested in our Lending Library Program, please complete the online form on our webpage, www.txltap.org, or contact us via email at txltap@uta.edu.

Equipment Lending Requirements include reading the detailed equipment instructions before use, taking care of the equipment and returning all equipment within the agreed upon time frame.

- BW Technologies Gas Alert Max XT II Detector
- iCON VHF Transceiver
- iCON Desktop Transceiver Charger
- Jamar Tech TDC Ultra Traffic Data Collector
- Delta MTG Marking Thickness Gauge
- Black Cat II Plus Radar Kit
- TC-400 Portable Radar Speed Sign
- Road Vista Handheld Retroreflectometer
- Carson Microflip Pocket Microscope
- Reiker Digital Ball Bank Indicator/Inclinometer
- RAC Geo II GPS DMI
- 3M Sayfline 50' Fall Protection Kit/2 User
- MetroCount RoadPod VT
- AMS Dual Mass Dynamic Cone Penetrometer
- Smart Tool with case Digital Level

Instructor Spotlight

GLEN CARDIFF

Glen Cardiff is a retired TxDOT Maintenance Supervisor with 25 years of experience working with engineers and staff in developing traffic control and road maintenance. In 2017, after retiring from TxDOT, Glen began teaching Work Zone/Flagger classes to cities and counties throughout Texas for UTA PWI. He enjoys traveling and meeting all of the city and county employees while training. Glen is driven to provide safety skills for the students and drivers on our roadways through proper traffic control and flagging.
Glen has been happily married to his wife, Lisa, for 34 years. They have wonderful 3 children and 6 amazing grandchildren.

What was the most valuable part of this course? "Glen Cardiff"
"Great Instructor."
"Instructor knows very well what he's teaching."
"Instructor's use of (our) names really showed he cared for his students."
"Thank you Glen Cardiff for a job well done!"