

Volume 2 Issue 3 - April 2024

Share Your Innovative Ideas

Be a Part of Build A Better Mousetrap This Year

Build a Better
MOUSETRAP

is a national recognition program through the Federal Highway Administration that highlights locally relevant, innovative solutions and provides a platform to share innovations to everyday challenges that local and tribal transportation professionals encounter on local roads.



[FHWA 2023 Winners](#)

Transportation News

It's That Time of Year

Late Spring is the time that Texas Public Works Departments get busy, gearing up for the warm and dry summer months when they can maximize repair time. The following article written by Matheu J. Carter, P.E., Municipal Engineering Circuit Rider, Delaware T²/LTAP Center, Delaware Center for Transportation, touches on the basics of post-winter walk-throughs when prepping for summer.

Time for Spring Cleaning...and Fixing and Patching

In a few weeks, winter may be behind us. As such, you will soon be making the pivot from winter maintenance to spring and summer activities. If you do...



Read
more



Spring Road Repair Basics

Spring is here and so is the time to repair roads damaged by the previous winter's freezing and thawing, deicing efforts, snowplows, and vehicular incidents/accidents. Efforts should focus on 4 main areas of our roadways:

Sign Damage

Inspect all road signs for damage. Make sure the signposts are still firmly rooted and both the sign and the posts are without any bends or dents. Use a retroreflector to make sure signs are within your city/county's safe zone for visibility. Repair or replace any that are not consistent with your city/county guidelines.

[X. REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Guardrail Repair

Inspect roadway guardrails for damage sustained through winter plowing or vehicle accidents.

[II. IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND PLAN APPROPRIATE ACTION | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Pavement Markings

Winter weather, snowplows and deicing efforts can severely impact the quality of pavement markings. Check pavement markings for standards and reflectivity. Schedule necessary repairs/repainting as needed.

[Pavement Markings Regulations / Standards | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

Potholes

Improperly laid roadways, the freezing and thawing of winter, and deicing practices all contribute to the deterioration of Texas roadways. Unfortunately, once the roadway begins to break down, the decline can be quick. Identifying the signs of early erosion or disruption can prevent pothole formation. For those areas already formed, there are many options for repairing.

[Addressing the perennial plague of potholes | Roads and Bridges \(roadsbridges.com\)](#)

Employing Veterans in Public Works

APWA, U.S Dept. of Labor Partner to Get More Veterans in Public Works

APWA and the U.S Dept. of Labor have partnered up to get more Veterans in Public Works. Washington D.C. is looking to bridge a workforce challenge in public works and local governments throughout the U.S., the nation's largest public works organization today announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to advance a program designed to get more veterans in these vital professions.

[Read more](#)



Highway Safety : FHWA's Plans on Road Safety

Zero is Our Goal

Safety is FHWA's top priority. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the FHWA is collaboratively advancing the implementation of the National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS)—the U.S. DOT's comprehensive plan to significantly reduce serious injuries and fatalities on America's roads. This strategy embraces a Safe System Approach, which builds multiple layers of protection around road users and is based on the reality that although people make mistakes, those mistakes do not have to be fatal.

[Read more](#)



FHWA Office of Bridges and Structures

Bridges & Structures

The Federal Highway Administration's office of Bridges and Structures plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and functionality of the nation's roadway network by providing policy and technical guidance related to bridges, tunnels, culverts, and other structures.

With oversight of over 610,000 highway bridges, more than 500 tunnels, and various other structures across the USA, the office distributes approximately \$7 billion annually to assist transportation agencies in planning, designing, building, repairing, and inspecting these vital components. Through active participation in committees, research initiatives, and training programs, the office fosters innovation and advances in engineering tools and technology, ultimately enhancing the safety and performance of infrastructure nationwide.

[Read more](#)

FHWA Public Roads Magazine is Here!

Public Roads Spring 2024 Issue

Public Roads is the premier quarterly magazine of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Each issue covers the latest in highway research and development, innovation and technology, and program advancements that benefit the Nation and create safer, more resilient roadways and structures.

Features:

- Innovative Density Profiling of Asphalt Pavement
- Interchange Configurations: Planning-Level Analysis Tool Identifies Expected Safety Performance
- Alternative Uses of the Right-of-Way
- The New George Washington Memorial Parkway Bridge
- Speed Safety Cameras

[Read more](#)



NACE Annual Awards

See NACE in Action!

The National Association of County Engineers is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association in their 7th decade. NACE advocates to federal officials and lawmakers the importance of funding county-owned assets. Their members rely on NACE for information and awareness on the latest innovations in engineering technology, best practices, management systems, and software.

The National Association of County Engineers presents 3 awards annually. Criteria for each award is outlined under each award on the NACE Website. The annual awards include the Rural County Engineer, Urban County Engineer, and Project/Program Manager of the Year.

These highest awards are bestowed to deserving NACE members, recognizing county road officials for their applications or management of efficient engineering management principles for the economic design, construction, maintenance and operation of public works facilities, roads, bridges or related projects. Stay tuned to NACEs upcoming announcements and events.

[View Award Categories](#)

Focus on Training

Harris County Precinct 2 Focuses on Regional Training



Earlier this year, Harris County Precinct 2 completed the LTP/CCT515, Installation and Maintenance of Signs and Pavement Markings course offered by TxLTAP. Armando Arellano, Harris County Precinct 2 Project Manager, shared the following:

"We took the opportunity to reach out to other local government entities, and the response was overwhelming. The entities were grateful and quickly filled up the roster. It was a fantastic opportunity to finally meet and connect with other entities and to highlight the valuable opportunities that TxLTAP provides. I wanted to share this update with you and express my sincere gratitude to you and your team for making this collaboration happen."

Entities who joined the training with Harris County PCT 2:

- City of Baytown
- City of Seabrook
- City of Galena Park
- City of La Porte

- City of Pearland
- Jacinto City

It is the goal of UT Arlington, Division for Enterprise Development, Public Works Institute, to maximize the reach of the LTAP/CCT grants and provide the highest quality training available across the State of Texas. Regional training provides employees in a particular region the required knowledge, skills and resources to succeed. By pooling resources and expertise, regional training ensures 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.

If you or your city/county would like further information on planning a regional training event, please email txltap@uta.edu for assistance.



LTP610: Storm Drainage Pipe Installation/LTP611: Storm Drainage Pipe and Precast Box Culvert Installation Best Practices

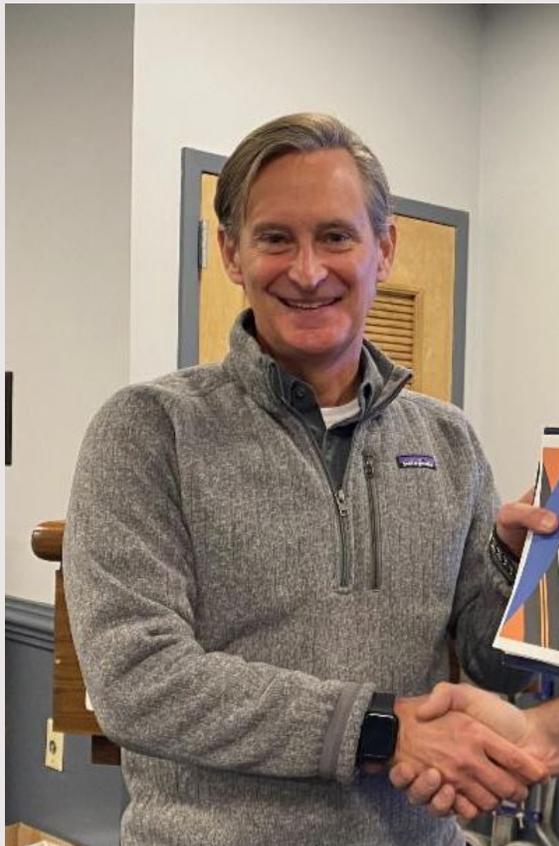
Maintaining an efficient and reliable stormwater drainage system is crucial for safeguarding infrastructure such as roads, underground pipes, cables, walkways, and more, thus minimizing potential damage.

- **Flood Prevention:** In times of heavy rainfall, storm drains serve to gather excess water, thus averting flooding in streets, residences, and public spaces. Efficient drainage diminishes the likelihood of property harm and guarantees the safety of inhabitants.
- **Erosion Control:** Stormwater runoff has the potential to erode soil, resulting in landslides and the depletion of fertile topsoil. Drainage systems direct water away, preserving landscapes and thwarting soil erosion.
- **Infrastructure Protection:** By diverting water away from thoroughfares, structures, and utilities, storm drains shield infrastructure. They counteract damage caused by stagnant water and soil saturation.
- **Water Quality Improvement:** Stormwater often carries pollutants, such as oil, chemicals, and debris. Adequate drainage systems filter and treat runoff, refining water quality before it enters natural water bodies.

- **Safety and Accessibility:** Efficient drainage ensures safe road conditions by impeding the formation of puddles and icy patches. Both pedestrians and motorists benefit from well-maintained stormwater systems.

LTP610/611 are designed to provide road and bridge crews with the best practices for properly installing storm drainage pipe and precast box culverts. LTP610 is delivered with a blended approach of 4 hours of classroom instruction and 4 hours of hands-on field instruction. It focuses on trench safety and pipe installation. LTP611 is an 8-hour day of classroom instruction focusing on pipe installation, trench safety, and innovative small bridge replacement with precast box culvert installation. For more information, email txltap@uta.edu.

Instructor Spotlight



Walt Catlett

Walt Catlett is the President of Catlett Engineering, a veteran owned small business. He serves as the Safety Circuit Rider for the National Center for Rural Road Safety. He helps manage Virginia's Safety Circuit Rider Program, which has produced more than thirty Road Safety Champions in the past two years. Walt is the State Director for the Arkansas Concrete Pipe Association. He also serves as the State Engineer for the Texas and Oklahoma Concrete Pipe Associations where he oversees their education and outreach efforts.

Walt is an active instructor for multiple Local Technical Assistance Programs to include Texas LTAP, Oklahoma LTAP and Virginia LTAP. He was the Education and Outreach Director for the National TTAP Pilot where he led a team of thirteen subject matter experts who delivered training, technical assistance, and technology

transfer across the twelve BIA Regions. He is an instructor for Virginia's Essentials of Engineering Excellence (E3) program. He is the course facilitator/instructor for Virginia DOT's Locally Administered Projects Qualification Program (QP). He serves on Arkansas DOT's Research Advisory Council.

He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, PA. Mr. Catlett served in the United States Marine Corps and United States Army Reserves for a combined 30 years.

Walt married his high school sweetheart, Suzanne. They have been together for forty-two years. They have three children and one granddaughter. Walt enjoys hanging out at the house and jogging a few miles now and then. He loves learning, and being an LTAP instructor has allowed him to continue learning through his students. He is a Fightin' Texas Aggie.

"Amazing class. Walt really knows what he is talking about and keeps everyone engaged well and makes sure that they are in fact learning what is being covered."

"Walt always does a great job of keeping topics focused and entertaining while maintaining educational value."

"Great course and even greater instructor. I always enjoy courses led by Walt."

"Great job by instructor, very knowledgeable."

Information Exchange

Upcoming TxLTAP Conference Schedule

Visit our exhibit and meet our team at these upcoming conferences:

April 23-25: West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association

June 3-5: Texas APWA Annual Conference

June 24-26: South Texas County Judges & Commissioners Association

July 15-17: North & East Texas County Judges & Commissioner's Association Conference

Advisory Board Positions Available

The TxLTAP Advisory Board consists of engaged individuals who represent Texas' diversity in terms of geographical location, population size, and government organization. The board members have a variety of skills, including insight into particular challenges and trends, current conditions, and technology research. The advisory board convenes at regular intervals throughout the year to provide management with valuable insights into the distinctive and overarching requirements of the program's users. If you are interested in joining, please email us at txltap@uta.edu.

[Contact TxLTAP](#)



INSTRUCTORS WANTED

Are you looking for your next
adventure in the great
State of Texas?



TXLTAP IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN:

Email Your Resume and
Letter of Interest to:
TxLTAP@uta.edu



- ✓ Work Zone
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Heavy Equipment
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Flagging
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Electrical



UTA | Division for Enterprise Development | TxLTAP
817-272-2581 | txltap@uta.edu | 140 W. Mitchell St. Arlington, TX 76019

Interested Candidates

NLTAPA Available Tailgate Talks

These "Talks" provide supervisors with



packages of materials, targeted towards a broad array of public works equipment and practices, that make it easy for them to carry out important safety talks. They are intended to be short and focused. Over time and together with existing practices and policies, they help build a culture of safety within local agencies.

[NLTAPA Tailgate Talks](#)

Connect with our Partners

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