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## TxLTAP July Newsletter

July 2024 | Volume 2 Issue 6

### Extreme Weather and The Transportation System - AASHTO

AASHTO's Extreme Weather and the Transportation System delves into heat waves and how they wreak havoc on transportation infrastructure, causing thermal expansion deterioration of bridge joints, asphalt, and protective coatings. State departments and local governments are responding with measures like enhanced monitoring, using rut-resistant materials, and adjusting work schedules to combat these challenges. For more insight and detailed projections, dive into the full report.

[Read More](#)



### Turn Around, Don't Drown: Flooded Roadway Crossings Can be Extremely Dangerous

Floods are the most frequent and costly natural disasters in the United States, with most flood-related deaths occurring in motor vehicles when people drive into flooded roadways. The City of Arlington emphasizes the danger of swift and powerful floodwaters, urging residents to heed barricades and avoid flooded areas.

[Read More](#)

### Mobile Asphalt Technology Center



Part of the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Infrastructure, the Mobile Asphalt Technology Center (MATC) is an accredited asphalt laboratory that brings hands-on education, testing, and demonstrations to stakeholders across the transportation industry. Based at the FHWA Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in McLean, Virginia, with their lab housed in a trailer MATC is on the move and making a difference across the country.

The MATC's traveling asphalt laboratory facility is fully equipped with traditional and state-of-



### Community Wildfire Protection Plan Guide

Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in natural areas like

the-art materials, mixture, and field-testing equipment.

[Read More](#)

## Small Cities/Rural Communities Perspective on Workforce Development Webinar



In today's rapidly evolving workforce landscape, industries across the board are striving to adapt to new challenges. The SC/RC Committee and Workforce Development Committee members are eager to share valuable recruitment and retention strategies tailored for public works in small cities and rural communities.

**Register and join the webinar:**

July 10, 2024 | 12:00-1:00 p.m. CT

[View More](#)

forests, grasslands, or prairies. They can spread quickly and devastate not only natural areas but also communities.

"Eighty-six percent of wildfires in Texas occur within two miles of a community. That means 86 percent of Texas wildfires pose a threat to life and property. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan can help protect against the threats of wildfire."

[Read More](#)



**Check Out Our Socials**



## Training Outside the Box

**By:** Jackson Pettyjohn

The Texas Local Technical Assistance Program (TxLTAP) /Public Works Institute offer comprehensive statewide training for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as well as cities and counties across Texas. Our programs cover a range of topics including safety, work zone traffic control, personnel development, infrastructure management, technical assistance and heavy equipment operation. Thanks to our TxLTAP grant, most of these trainings are available to all Texas city and county agencies at no cost.

Occasionally, we are also called upon to assist public sector entities in other states that lack the resources to run their own training programs. For instance, we've previously provided rigger/signalperson training for the Louisiana Department of Transportation. Additionally, for the past fifteen years, we've collaborated with Federal OSHA, the Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, Milton Caterpillar, and the New England Water Works Association to train and license over 1,500 equipment operators in a unique program.





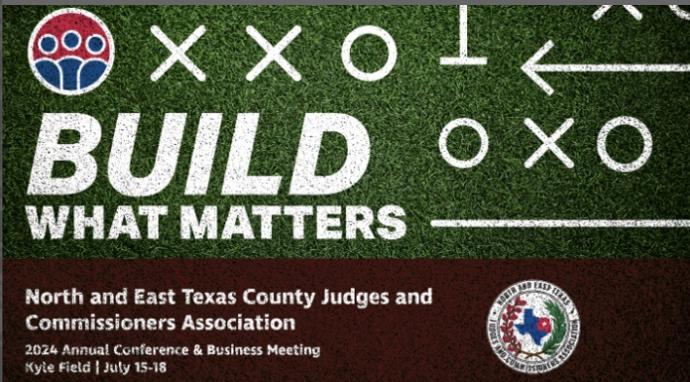
Recently, the Public Works Department of Laramie County in Wyoming reached out to us for help. Their Assistant Director of Public Works, John Poelma, faced a common issue: the dependency on motor graders, crucial for building and maintaining roads. These complex machines often have only a few, or even just one, qualified operator per county. When such an operator leaves or retires, there's an urgent need for replacements.



To address this, Mr. Poelma aimed to train 20 operators, but found it challenging to secure instructors for such a large program. Even major manufacturers like Caterpillar had limited trainers. Searching through the LTAP network and online, he found us at UT Arlington EEC TxLTAP.

Three of our experienced instructors, with backgrounds in TXDOT and as Air Force Equipment Trainers, volunteered to head to Cheyenne. We began the training program in May and expect to complete it by early September. This initiative highlights the unique and adaptable services we offer nationwide, setting us apart from other LTAP programs and training providers.

## Where TxLTAP will be!



North & East Texas County Judges & Commissioner's Association (CJCA) Conference



Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Legislative Conference

## TxLTAP Partners

FHWA

APWA

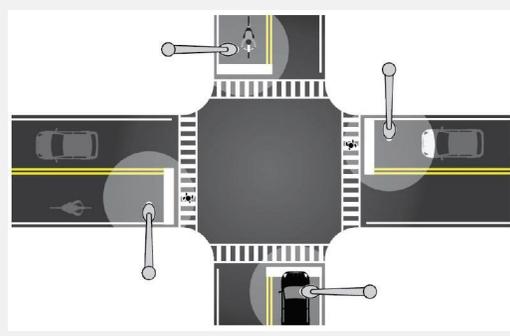
TxDOT

NACE

NLTAPA

## Nighttime Visibility and Illumination for Safety

As part of Connecticut's ongoing efforts to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes, a key safety initiative under discussion is the improvement of nighttime illumination. This initiative is crucial as the nighttime fatality rate on national roadways is three times higher than during the day, and 76% percent of pedestrian fatalities occur at night.



Enhancing lighting can significantly reduce these fatalities and injuries by making pedestrians and roadway elements more visible, and it also improves personal security. The Federal Highway Administration has long focused on improving safety at intersection, for pedestrians and bicyclists, and in preventing roadway departures. Improved visibility near pedestrian activity areas such as schools, parks, and urban cores can further enhance safety.

To ensure these benefits, it is essential to provide adequate lighting that meets or exceeds minimum standards and to engage with underserved communities to address their specific needs. The FHWA has created several resources to assist practitioners, including the Every Day Counts (EDC) initiative, the FHWA Lighting Handbook, and the Pedestrian Lighting Primer.

[Read More](#)

## Instructors Wanted

**TxLTAP is currently seeking instructors with extensive ASPHALT RELATED EXPERIENCE and METAL GUARD RAIL EXPERIENCE who are capable of traveling to various locations across Texas. Your expertise will play a crucial role in delivering high-quality training to local transportation professionals.**

**UTA**  
Division for Enterprise Development  
- TxLTAP -

**INSTRUCTORS WANTED**

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

**TXLTAP IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN:**

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

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

**UTA**  
Division for Enterprise Development  
- TxLTAP -

UTA | Division for Enterprise Development | TxLTAP  
817-272-2581 | blltap@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.

[Check out NLTAPA's Safety Talk over Temperature Extremes](#)

[Visit NLTAPA for More Tailgate Talk Topics](#)

TxLTAP | 140 W. Mitchell Street | Arlington, TX 76019 US

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