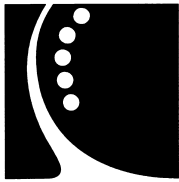

Telling the T2 Story



CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE *Technology Transfer Center*

Connecticut's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

What is LTAP?

LTAP is a program that delivers a direct, hands-on method for moving innovative transportation technologies out of the lab, off the shelf, and into the hands of the people who maintain our local streets and roads:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• public works directors and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• city and county engineers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• local highway safety officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• transportation planners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• street and road maintenance superintendents and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• skilled roadway laborers

History of LTAP:

In 1982, the Federal Highway Administration created the Local Technical Assistance Program. Currently, there are 58 centers nationwide. The LTAP program was envisioned to serve local governments, but its services transcend agency boundaries. State DOTs, municipal planning organizations (MPOs), regional planning agencies (RPAs), and private consultants to local agencies also rely on LTAP resources. The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center was established in 1983 as a part of this nationwide network.

Who is served by LTAP?

Across the country, 38,000 local agencies—small and large cities, rural and urban counties, and tribal governments— maintain nearly three million miles of roads and some 29,000 bridges. The mission of the national LTAP program is to help these agencies tap into new technology, information, and training so they can operate more efficiently and safely. LTAP serves these and other training needs through workshops, conferences, technology transfer expos and trainings in the field and the classroom. The Connecticut Technology Transfer Center provides more than 30 educational events each year and trains more than 3,000 Connecticut municipal staff each year.

Why is LTAP needed?

Local agencies face the dual challenge of meeting these growing needs with relatively flat, even shrinking, budgets. LTAP rapidly and inexpensively delivers training and technical assistance to connect customers with current advances in transportation technology.

The days are long gone when local agencies can solve their transportation problems merely by paving more miles of road. Today's city, county, and tribal governments juggle a multitude of increasingly complex challenges:

- enhancing roadway and work zone safety
- ensuring traveler mobility in all kinds of weather and road work
- providing safe and convenient facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- managing increased congestion without building more roads
- training a new workforce to replace a retiring one
- targeting training to an increasingly integrated transportation workforce
- complying with environmental laws and regulations like new storm water regulations
- managing administrative issues like compliance with new governmental accounting standards
- responding to the unique challenges of aging drivers
- incorporating new technologies to work more efficiently

LTAP Programs solve problems

LTAP provides local agencies with a variety of tools—training events, technology transfer resources, and personalized assistance—for improving their transportation operations. Many state DOTs also benefit from LTAP services.

Training is the heart of LTAP

According to our clients, significant training is needed in these areas:

- safety
- work zone traffic control
- winter maintenance, including snow and ice control
- signs and signals, including Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) training
- paved and unpaved road maintenance
- planning and design
- materials
- equipment

- environmental issues
- information management, including geographic information systems (GIS) applications
- asset and pavement management systems innovative finance and statewide planning

The Connecticut Road Master and Road Scholar Programs

The Connecticut Road Master and Road Scholar programs provide a broad curriculum to address these critical training needs with topics such as: road fundamentals, safety, drainage, snow and ice removal, and training management. The courses help participants develop professionalism and advance in their careers. Roads Scholars are recognized for their training and expertise.

- **365 individuals have graduated since our first graduation ceremony in 1996.**

The Connecticut Legal Traffic Authority Program

Connecticut Legal Traffic Authorities are officials designated by the municipalities to establish traffic regulations and authorize the installation of traffic control devices. This program offers specialized training for these officials.

- **52 individuals have graduates since our first graduation ceremony in 1996.**

Connecticut Technology Transfer Expo

Each year the Connecticut Technology Transfer Expo highlights the latest in municipal equipment, services and technology from vendors, professional organizations, and public service agencies. Municipal public works contestants put their knowledge and skills to the test in the Expo safety challenge.

- **Almost 3,000 individuals have attended our Expo since its inception.**

Connecticut Construction Career Days

Since 2002, **3,300** high school students, teachers and guidance counselors have participated in the Connecticut Construction Career Days. The goal of this program is to provide high school juniors and seniors with hands-on exposure to the diverse and exciting careers in transportation.

Assistance is a phone call away

Individualized, personal service is a hallmark of LTAP. LTAP libraries respond to nearly 150,000 requests for manuals, reports, videos, and CD-ROMs annually. That's about 600 requests per day. In addition, LTAP centers provide direct technical information, problem solving, and referrals over 35,000 times annually. That's about 135 customers helped every day.

Key transportation resources—technical information, research updates, legislative and regulatory news, and training opportunities— are delivered to local agencies through LTAP newsletters and publications.

LTAP maximizes resources

Through innovative partnerships, each LTAP center matches every federal dollar it receives with local funds and enhances the programs and services we offer our clients. Our partners include: University of Connecticut, Connecticut Department of Transportation, Connecticut OSHA, Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety, Connecticut Construction Industries Association (CCIA), Connecticut Highway Street Supervisors Association (CHSSA) and the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Association (CIRMA)

Growing training needs and transportation demands

Another challenge awaits LTAP. It is projected that nearly half of the current transportation workforce may retire by year 2010. At the same time, our roadways are becoming more and more congested and the traveling public expects smooth, safe, and delay-free travel at all times. LTAP can be a significant part of the solution by training new and current workers and assisting them in delivering a safe and efficient transportation system. LTAP is a reliable source for transportation information, training, and technical assistance—to local agencies, tribal governments, state DOTs, and many other customers. Through innovative partnerships, customized delivery mechanisms, and additional support, LTAP can rise to meet the needs and opportunities that await.

For more information about the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center program visit us at:

www.T2Center.uconn.edu