

in this issue >>>

Safety Circuit Rider Joins VA LTAP

Build a Better Mousetrap 2019

EDC 5 Spotlight

TC3 Online Training Library

Upcoming Training



Safety Circuit Rider Joins VA LTAP

Transportation Safety Engineer's Role is Critical to Serving Localities

The Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Virginia, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Transportation Research Council has announced the appointment of a full-time Safety Circuit Rider engineer, an important component of the Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program. The Center, which administers Virginia's LTAP, has hired Rebecca Golden as its first Safety Circuit Rider.

The appointment is the final piece to fully deploying the Safety Circuit Rider Program, which serves a critical function by helping local governments and agencies improve the safety of their road systems. The Safety Circuit Rider program was created to primarily serve small Virginia cities, towns and localities that maintain a total of about 11,000 miles of streets and roadways. The program provides four key services: in-classroom transportation safety training; one-on-one technical assistance and site visits, including grant and proposal development support for state and federal aid; and an annual low-cost safety initiative.

Golden comes to the position having spent more than 30 years as a project and design engineer in local government in eastern and central Virginia. After beginning her career at Newport News Shipbuilding, she worked for the city of Virginia Beach for four years. Starting in 1988, she held several positions of increasing responsibility at Hanover County Public Works, including director of public works and county engineer from 1994 to 2006.

From 2006 until 2014, Golden was the director of capital projects in Spotsylvania County, where she oversaw several intersection projects and the widening of State Route 3. After retiring from Spotsylvania County, she worked as a senior civil/transportation evaluator of the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies and senior technical advisor for the American Traffic Safety Services Association.

Her most recent position at the ATSSA directly served association members who are department of transportation traffic engineers and pavement-marking staff, pavement marking and signage manufacturers and installers, and traffic control contractors.

"The role of the VA LTAP Safety Circuit Rider engineer requires a unique blend of technical expertise, teaching experience and demonstrated people and communication skills," said Beth O'Donnell, director of the Virginia Local Technical Assistance Program.

"Becky understands the needs of Virginia localities at a boots-on-the-ground level and will quickly develop meaningful relationships by being both accessible and relatable to the Virginia LTAP audience. Above all, it was important to select a candidate who was mission-oriented and would complement the existing VA LTAP team."

As the Federal Highway Administration-designated Local Technical Assistance Program administrator for the state, UVA's Center for Transportation Studies acts as part of VDOT's training and professional development arm. Annually, the Center serves more than 2,000 transportation professionals in Virginia, offering employee training for every phase of road and highway building, maintenance and administration.

Center Contact Information >>>

VA LTAP
University of Virginia
351 McCormick Rd., Thornton Hall
Box 400742
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4742

Phone: 434-982-2897
uva-tta@virginia.edu
http://uva-tta.net

Staff
Beth O'Donnell, Director
elo2v@virginia.edu

Robin Carpenter, Program Manager
rbh3c@virginia.edu

Amy Richardson, Registration Coordinator
aer3k@virginia.edu

Judi Bowers, Program Associate
jrb5z@virginia.edu

Jim Zarling, Program Associate
jwz9m@virginia.edu

Becky Hughes, Account Manager
rab8n@virginia.edu

Jack Power, Student Intern

Build a Better Mousetrap Competition 2019



Have you or one of your co-workers recently built an innovative gadget? Have you developed an improved way to accomplish everyday tasks? If either of these is true, you've built a better mousetrap, and now is the time to show off a project your roadway agency is proud of in the VA LTAP's Build a Better Mousetrap Competition.

The VA LTAP is looking for projects that you, your employees, or crew designed and built or modified. It can be anything from the development of tools, equipment modifications, and/or processes that increase safety, reduce cost, improve efficiency, and/or improve the quality of transportation. The purpose of this competition is to collect and disseminate real world examples of best practices, tips from the field, and assist in the transfer of technology.

If you have something you think qualifies for this competition, submit your entries by Monday, June 3rd, 2019. Entries will be judged by the VA LTAP Advisory Board Members using the criteria of cost savings, benefits to the community and/or agency, ingenuity, transferability to others, and effectiveness. Winners will be recognized in an upcoming newsletter and receive a prize.

There are four categories for entries:

Inspection and Data Collection (automated/remote means, testing, time);

Asset Management Techniques (GIS, mapping, decision support systems);

Maintenance Tools and Methods (lifters, reachers, modifications, assembly);

Facilities Improvements (storage, access, operations, services).

Please submit a photo (3 megapixels or more). In addition, you also have the option to provide a spotlight video to demonstrate your entry's problem, development, and working solution. The winning entry will be submitted into a Regional Mousetrap competition (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) as well as a National Mousetrap competition to compete for prizes and, of course, bragging rights! For more information visit our website at www.uva-tta.net.

Upcoming Events!

TRB 98th Annual Meeting

January 13 - 17, 2019 in Washington D.C.

International Conference on Transportation & Development (ICTD 2019)

June 10 - 12, 2019 in Alexandria, VA

2019 National Work Zone Awareness

April 8 - 12, 2019 in Washington DC

National Association of County Engineers (NACE) Conference

April 14 - 18, 2019 in Wichita, KS

SAVE THE DATE >>>

What: Bridge Preservation for Locally Maintained Bridges Workshop

When: February 8, 2019

Where: Virginia Transportation Research Council, UVA

This course will provide an overview of best practices of bridge preservation for locally maintained bridges in Virginia. The topics will include the definition of bridge preservation, a summary of structure data, description of structure conditions, a description of the Virginia bridge/structure program and details of bridge preservation treatments. VDOT Bridge Preservation Specialists, Jeff Milton and Adam Mateo, will be leading the workshop. Registration opens December 4th.

EDC-5 *Spotlight*



Reducing Roadway Departures

Reducing fatalities on rural roads remains a major challenge in the United States. In 2016, 18,590 lives were lost on rural roads—more than half of all traffic deaths—even though only 19 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas. Two-thirds of these rural fatalities involved a roadway departure, where a vehicle crosses a center line, an edge line, or otherwise leaves its travel lane.

Roadway departure countermeasures that can be applied systemically include:

- Signage and markings that delineate lane edges and alignment changes and help drivers navigate.
- Rumble strips that alert drowsy and distracted drivers drifting from their lane.
- Friction treatments at curves or other important locations to reduce loss of control.
- Shoulders, SafetyEdgeSM, and clear zones to provide opportunities for a safe recovery when drivers leave the roadway.
- Roadside hardware that can reduce the severity of roadway departure crashes.

Benefits

- **Safer Roads.** Practitioners can systemically apply safety treatments that mitigate roadway departure crashes at areas diagnosed as high risk.
- **Quick Deployment.** Various pilot efforts have shown it is possible to implement a streamlined process to address the problem on more roads owned by more agencies, even with limited data, using existing crash modification factors and standards.
- **Flexibility.** A wide range of analysis, diagnostic, and countermeasure selection tools and processes are possible to fit the data availability and technical expertise of the agency, while considering the SHSP goals of the State.

Did You Know >>>

FHWA has a list of Proven Safety Countermeasures on their website?

The list of Proven Safety Countermeasures as now reached a total of 20 treatments and strategies that practitioners and implement to successfully address roadway departure, intersection, and pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

Transportation agencies are strongly encouraged to consider these research-proven safety countermeasures. Widespread implementation of the Proven Safety Countermeasures can serve to accelerate the achievement of local, State, and National safety goals.

Go to:

<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures> for more information on Proven Safety Countermeasures.

EDC - 5 Innovations

(2019 - 2020)

Advanced Geotechnical Exploration Methods

Collaborative Hydraulics: Advancing to the Next Generation of Engineering

Project Bundling

Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian

Unmanned Aerial Systems

Use of Crowdsourcing to Advance Operations

Value Capture: Capitalizing on the Value Created by Transportation

Weather Responsive Management Strategies

Upcoming Workshops

- Advanced Work Zone – 12/06/18, Charlottesville, VA
- Speed Management Techniques – 12/11/18, Arlington, VA
- VDOT Guardrail Installation Training – 12/12/18, Hampton, VA
 - Right of Way – 12/12/18, Arlington, VA
 - Transportation GIS – 12/12/18, Fairfax, VA
- Project Inspection – 12/13/18, Charlottesville, VA
- AutoCAD Civil 3D Fundamentals – 12/17/18, Charlottesville, VA
- Intro. to Highway Safety Fundamentals – 12/18/18, Charlottesville, VA
- Hydrology and Hydraulics – 12/19/18, Charlottesville, VA
- Geotechnical Fundamentals – 12/22/18, Charlottesville, VA
 - Business Writing – 1/8/19, Midlothian, VA
- Communication Fundamentals – 1/9/19, Midlothian, VA
 - Basic Work Zone – 1/15/19 Farmville, VA
 - Advanced Work Zone – 1/17/19, Midlothian, VA
- Intermediate Work Zone – 1/22/19, Harrisonburg, VA
- Alternative Interchange and Intersection Design – 1/23/19, Arlington, VA
- Project Management Basics – 1/23/19, Hampton, VA
- Stormwater Management – 1/24/19, Hampton, VA
- Alternative Intersection and Interchange Design Lab – 1/24/19, Arlington VA
- Introduction to Highway Safety Fundamentals – 1/30/19, Roanoke, VA
 - Basic Drainage – 1/30/18, Harrisonburg, VA
- Maintenance of Gravel Roads – 01/31/19, Harrisonburg, VA

Did You Know >>>

Online Training on Your Time

The Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TC3) offers over 190 web-based training (WBT) courses with additional courses planned as needs are identified. These WBTs were developed to support training weaknesses and gaps identified in the TC3 Matrices.

TC3 is a technical service program within AASHTO that focuses on developing training products in the areas of construction, maintenance and materials.

For more information on TC3 WBTs, please go to: www.tc3transportation.org



VA LTAP

Virginia's Local Technical Assistance Program

Providing quality education and technical expertise
for transportation providers