



**TECHNOLOGY TALKS**  
(excerpts from FHWA weekly reports)  
**Early October Report, 2006**

**California Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP);** was signed by the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency on Tuesday, September 26, 2006. The California SHSP addresses safety needs in the following 16 Challenge Areas: **Impaired Driving; Leaving the Roadway and Head-on Collisions; Driver Licensing and Competency; Safety Belts and Child Safety Seats; Driver Decisions about Rights of Way and Turning; Young Drivers; Intersection and Interchange Safety; Walking and Street Crossing; Older Roadway Users; Speeding and Aggressive Driving; Commercial Vehicle Safety; Motorcycle Safety; Bicycle Safety; Work Zone Safety; Post Crash Survivability and Safety Data Collection; Access and Analysis.**

**Maine-New Brunswick to Construct Border Crossing:** Maine DOT will soon advertise a contract to build the St. Croix River Bridge; the first new US-Canadian border crossing in over 30 years. The crossing will provide a new link between Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick. The new crossing will be a significant improvement over the existing seriously obsolete station. A goal of the project is to improve international trade between New England and the Canadian Maritime provinces. Completion of the crossing is planned for the fall of 2008. Multiple FHWA offices have contributed to the advancement of this project.

**Oregon to Provide Loans for Truck Upgrades:** The Governor recently announced an innovative partnership that will provide loans to truckers for '**SmartWay**' truck retrofits. 'SmartWay' retrofits, an EPA/freight industry program, provides emission reduction and fuel savings through auxiliary power units, engine idle reduction technology, low rolling resistance tires, improved aerodynamics and exhaust after-treatment devices. It is estimated that each retrofit kit will allow a truck to reduce fuel consumption by up to 5000 gal/year, enough to pay for the kit within one to three years. The partnership includes a \$3 million loan from the Oregon State Infrastructure Bank. This is the first use in the nation of a SIB loan for this purpose and the FHWA division office coordinated with HQ and ODOT to determine federal-aid eligibility for the SIB through the STP and CMAQ programs.

**Tennessee DOT and FHWA conduct a High Performance Concrete Workshop for bridges:** All aspects of the process including mix design, specifications, testing, construction best practices, and a review of other state's lessons learned were covered. The meeting was well attended with over thirty individuals from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) construction, materials, and structures divisions in attendance. TDOT hopes to incorporate HPC in a future test project. Instructors were; Lou Triandafilo, FHWA Recourse Center; Mike Bergin, Florida DOT; Mike Praul, FHWA Maine Division; Celik Ozyildirim, Virginia Transpiration Research Council; Paul Tikalsky, University of Utah.

**Washington State: City of Seattle Confirms They Want the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replaced with a Tunnel:** The decision for the tunnel came two days after the state raised the cost estimate of the project which could be between \$3.5 billion and \$5.5 billion -- most likely \$4.6 billion. The comparable estimate for a new elevated roadway (viaduct) ranged from \$2.2 billion to \$3.3 billion, with the most likely cost estimated at \$2.8 billion.

**Wisconsin Provides Nearly \$9.8 million in Transportation Enhancement (TE)**

**Grants:** Wisconsin announced 28 Federal TE awards that will help complete bicycle and pedestrian-related projects, improve historic transportation structures, and enhance downtown streetscaping efforts in communities throughout the state. The projects approved for funding in the 2007 - 2009 state fiscal year range in cost from an \$841,000 award for a bicycle/pedestrian trail in Milwaukee County to a \$34,400 award that will help install bicycle racks on municipal buses in Racine. While most require a 20% local match, two \$400,000 projects are receiving 100% federal funding through the Safe Routes to Schools program.

**\$5.3 million in Elderly/Disabled Transportation Awards:** Wisconsin's Governor announced 57 awards totaling \$5,266,091 in state and federal funds that will help purchase specialized transit service vehicles to assist elderly and disabled individuals throughout the state over the next two years. Grant recipients provide a 20% local match. The 2006 and 2007 grants include approximately \$3.6 million in federal dollars and about \$1.7 million in state funds.

**Resource Center to Promote Roundabouts at planned Spring, 2007 Showcase in**

**CA:** The Spring 2007 Roundabout showcase will be one of a series of Product Demonstration Showcases (PDS) given with the help of LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) centers across the country. The showcases are intended to encourage and hasten the implementation of field proven technologies and processes among the country's local transportation agencies. The Showcase is expected to focus on how the local officials will coordinate with the fire department and transit authority to alleviate concerns that larger vehicles will have difficulty passing through the roundabouts, how they plan and deliver "how-to-navigate roundabouts" workshops for the public and how they will involve a public relations firm to carry-out an expanded driver education campaign for roundabouts. For more information contact Marie Roybal at [marie.roybal@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:marie.roybal@fhwa.dot.gov)

**Office of Safety/ITS/NHI: Improving Highway Safety with ITS Training Course:** On September 7, the ITS Professional Capacity Building (PCB) Program's T3 series offered an Executive Summary webinar: **"Improving Highway Safety with ITS" (NHI course # 137044)**. This session ranks among the highest attendances for a T3 presentation as there were over 90 connections representing 140 participants from across the Safety and ITS spectrum. At least thirty-nine (39) were from State and local governments; twenty-four (24) were Federal; nineteen (19) were Safety and/or ITS companies; six (6) were Safety and/or ITS organizations; four (4) were from universities; and one (1) was from a foreign government (Ministry Transportation of Ontario). All of the T3 sessions are archived and participants can listen to and view past T3 presentations. This

particular session should be available on the archive section of the PCB website <http://www.pcb.its.dot.gov/T3/archives.asp> by the middle of October.

**RD&T: HSIS Conference:** On October 26-27, Carol Tan, FHWA's Safety Management Team Leader, is hosting the annual FHWA Highway Safety Information System (HSIS) Conference in Chapel Hill, NC. **HSIS** is an FHWA-maintained safety database comprised of roadway, crash, and vehicle files. Participants at the conference will focus on safety projects of national interest, research needs, current data uses, and other related topics. The conference is open to safety and data personnel from each of the participating HSIS State DOTs, which include Illinois, North Carolina, Maine, Minnesota, California, Washington, and Ohio. For more information concerning this conference, contact Carol Tan at [carol.tan@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:carol.tan@fhwa.dot.gov).