

Research Forum Provides Valuable Information to Students and Transportation Researchers

A summary of the 2010 Spring Research Forum

MoDOT Summary Statement

On February 24, 2010, the Department held a Spring Research Forum in Columbia, Missouri. The Forum invited research professionals in the transportation industry to participate in panel presentations, followed by a brief question and answer session. Additionally, MoDOT presented their 2010 Innovative Researcher of the Year to Dr. Carlos Sun from the University of Missouri – Columbia for his research evaluating the Motorist Assist Programs in St. Louis.

Research Forum Summary

Mara Campbell, Director of Organizational Results, welcomed the participants of the research forum and thanked them for their attendance.

Featured Speakers

Ms. Campbell introduced Kevin Keith, MoDOT's Chief Engineer. Mr. Keith thanked everyone for their attendance. He explained that MoDOT is using research to solve problems in a practical and innovative way. For example, over the past six years, MoDOT has saved nearly \$1 billion dollars thanks to the innovative principles behind Practical Design. Mr. Keith stated that the biggest need for ground-breaking research is in the area of maintenance. In fiscal year 2009, approximately \$800 million of the budget is spent on maintaining our current system, and with the impending financial "cliff," using this budget to its fullest potential is imperative. To conclude, Mr. Keith fielded questions from the research forum participants.

Ms. Campbell introduced Ken Foster, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Missouri Division. Mr. Foster discussed FHWA's role in Missouri transportation as well as their role in MoDOT's research projects. He discussed how FHWA, MoDOT and researchers work together. Mr. Foster fielded questions from the research forum participants.

Panel Presentations

Ms. Campbell introduced the panelists presenting on Adaptive Signals: Michael Sullivan of Rhythm Engineering, Jessica Hutton of Midwest Research Institute (MRI) and Julie Stotlemeyer from MoDOT. The panel discussed the success of artificial intelligence in traffic signals, specifically on an 11 signal section on MO 291 in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

During lunch Bill Stone, Organizational Performance Administrator, discussed MoDOT's research needs. Mr. Stone discussed how MoDOT gathers, filters, and selects research ideas and research proposals. Further, Mr. Stone explained how researchers can get involved with MoDOT's research program. Lastly, he provided examples of successful innovative proposals and/or partnerships that have occurred over the past few years.



Research Forum Summary (cont'd.)

Ms. Campbell introduced the panelists presenting on the research conducted for the New I-64 Project: Ron Morris from MoDOT, Thomas Ryan of HDR, Inc. and Bill Stone from MoDOT. The panel discussed the successes of the integration of work, traffic flow, projects and local economic impact that occurred on the I-64 Project in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ms. Campbell introduced the panelists presenting on work zones: Praveen Edara from the University of Missouri – Columbia, Troy Pinkerton, and Bill Stone from MoDOT. The panel discussed the successes the traffic and work zone modeling spreadsheet created by Mr. Edara. The spreadsheet provides transportation professionals a user-friendly work zone analysis tool that is most successful on rural interstates, divided roadways, and multilane undivided highways.

Round Robin Question and Answer Session

Research forum participants then took part in a topic specific, round robin question and answer session. Participants had the opportunity to discuss both on a national and high-level overview research with Mara Campbell; the research process, administration of research, and the request for research problem statements form with Bill Stone; technical aspects of research with Jennifer Harper; and traffic specific questions with Troy Pinkerton, Dan Smith and Julie Stotlemeyer.

Wrap Up

Ms. Campbell reminded everyone that the timeline to submit research statements is April 30, 2010. Additionally, she requested that all participants complete a short evaluation of the forum. She thanked everyone for their participation and involvement with MoDOT research.
