

# TE Corner



The National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse Newsletter  
Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Summer 2012

## NTEC Concludes Successful TE Professionals Seminar

By Kyle Lukacs

The 2012 Transportation Enhancements Professionals Seminar was a great success this year in Detroit! The seminar began with welcoming words by the Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, Kirk T. Steudle P.E.. The keynote presentation by Keith Laughlin of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) followed. Keith explained the mission of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, why RTC helps fund the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, the history of non-motorized transportation, and the need to refine the message in the future.

Transforming Community Landscapes through Placemaking was the first panel of the seminar and featured members from the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The panel focused on the importance of placemaking, each agency's role, relevant placemaking projects, and initiatives to collaborate at the state and local level. Michigan is a leader in interagency placemaking efforts and frequently matches Transportation Enhancement funding with other funding sources.

The popular Project Round Robin was also on the first day of the seminar. Pam Liston of the Virginia DOT presented on the High Bridge Trail in Southside, Virginia. This project used TE funding to convert the historic High Bridge into a 31 mile rail-trail with new decking and observation points. Valerie Horton presented on the award-winning Front Street Restoration in Natchitoches, Louisiana. The Louisiana Coordinator described the restoration of the brick-lined street in the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. To maintain the historic character of the street, she explained that the bricks were rehabilitated by hand, archaeologists were on site during construction, and that the whole community came together for the project. Jeff Niezgodza of the Delaware DOT gave a summary of the work that had been done in Delaware over the past year. Jeff highlighted 9 separate projects throughout Delaware and special techniques they frequently use. Finally, Tim



Welcoming remarks by MIDOT Director Kirk T. Steudle P.E.

Mueller gave a recap of his first year as the Nevada DOT TE Coordinator and ask for feedback on his efforts.

A Veterans Panel was the second panel of the seminar and featured four exceptionally knowledgeable and long-serving TE coordinators. Valerie Horton of the Louisiana DOTD, Pat Fisher of the Oregon DOT, Mariano Berrios of the Florida DOT, and Paula Huizenga of the South Dakota DOT all shared their best and worst TE projects, experiences with the program, and advice for implementing the Transportation Alternatives Program. This was the first seminar Valerie, Mariano, and Paula have attended and it was an honor to have them in attendance.

A site visit on the second day brought attendees along for a tour of TE projects throughout the city. The first stop was to Midtown, Inc. to hear about Sue Mosey's efforts to revitalize Detroit and the Midtown area. Immediately following, the Woodward Avenue Streetscape and Detroit

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Please Visit the [2012 Seminar Homepage](#) for complete proceedings and presentations.

# TE Professionals Seminar Continued

Midtown Loop Greenway were toured. Next, the group visited the Detroit Wayne County Port Authority Terminal for presentations on the Detroit Riverwalk and William G. Milliken State Park by Karen Slaughter-DuPerry, John Kerr, and Kristen Bennett. After touring the Riverwalk, the group made its way to the Dequindre Cut before returning to the hotel.

Three breakout sessions were held before the MAP-21 Briefing and Q&A. Tracy Hadden Loh, of NTEC, presented on walking and bicycling travel behavior in rural areas, James Jackson, Bob Batt, and Kelly Bastian from the Michigan DOT presented on the agencies Youth

Development and Mentoring Program, and MaryJane Daluge presented on the Uniform Act and its relation to TE/TA.

The seminar concluded with a MAP-21 briefing by Kevin Mills of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Immediately following, Kevin and Christopher Douwes answered questions from the audience. Some questions were clarified and many more were generated. A large list of questions was produced and submitted to FHWA for official guidance. This session seemed very helpful for deciphering the rules and eligibilities of the Transportation Alternatives Program.

## Status of the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse

By Kyle Lukacs

Although the Transportation Enhancements Program has been combined with the Recreational Trails Program and the Safe Routes to School Program to create the Transportation Alternatives Program, the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse will continue conducting business as usual. In the coming months, we will clarify the role, branding, and future mission of the clearinghouse in coordination with our cooperative partners, the Federal Highway Administration and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

In the meantime, NTEC has released a series of new documents aimed at helping States and their regional partners decipher and implement the new Transportation Alternatives program. We welcome your feedback and recommendations as to what other materials we can help develop in the future. Please visit [www.enhancements.org](http://www.enhancements.org) for more information:

- **[Quantitative Selection](#)**: Highlights competitive selection processes in four states and offers recommendations.
- **[Program Manual Development](#)**: Provides an overview of program manual elements and can be used as a template for developing your own!
- **[MAP-21 Apportionments](#)**: Explains how funds are apportioned to the Transportation Alternatives Program.
- **[MAP-21 and Its Effects on Transportation Enhancements](#)**: Details the changes to the program structure, eligible activities, and environmental requirements.

### Federal-aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies

The Federal Highway Administration has just released a new online resource with key information for Local Public Agencies about guidance, policies, procedures, and best practices for administering Federal-aid projects!

[Click Here](#)



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