Tim Colling, PhD, PE
Director – Michigan LTAP
Michigan Technological University
tkcollin@mtu.edu
Why Care About Local Agency Roads?

State / Federal Roads
- Cost per mile: $3.3 million
- Total miles: 0.94 million miles
- Total Asset Value: $3.1 trillion

Locally Owned Roads
- Cost per mile: $1.08 million
- Total miles: 3.23 million miles
- Total Asset Value: $3.5 trillion

Figures based on FHWA policy figures of 77% local ownership and 23% State and Federal.
Need for the LTAP Program

• 1970’s –USDOT and state DOT’s recognize problem

• 1981 Congress acts “to meet the growing demands placed on rural roads, resulting from increased urban sprawl and the increased size and weight of trucks carrying goods from farm to market.”

• 1982 Rural Technical Assistance Program -10 center “pilot”

• 1986 Michigan Transportation Technology Transfer Center opens

• 1991 Name officially changed to Local Technical Assistance Program and centers established in all 50 states.
LTAP Founding Principles

• Provide the appropriate local context for services
• Educate local transportation workforce (training)
• Technology transfer (use of new and best practices)
• Provide technical assistance (implementation)
Focus of Services

1982-1992 Services focused on providing access to knowledge

- Basic skills and reinforcement learning
- Video library
- Publications library
- Mail distribution list (access to locals)
- Newsletters to distribute information

1992-2002 Innovation becomes an added focus

- Use of technology (computers)
- New process / products
- Internet starts to change access to information
1988 RTAP (LTAP) Conference

• Should I do a live satellite videoconference?

Teleconference Tips

SHOULD I DO A LIVE, SATELLITE VIDEOCONFERENCE?
WHAT DOES IT COST?
January 1988

YOUR OBJECTIVE

A live, satellite videoconference, no matter how it is sent or delivered to your target audience, is more expensive than other forms of teleconferencing, such as audioconferencing, audioconferences plus videotapes at every site, computer conferencing, etc. When is it cost effective? when is it truly needed? Here are some questions to think about, as you decide:

VISUAL NEEDS

1) What is your communications/training objective? What do you want people to do as a result of your conference?

2) Are there visual communication/training needs? What are they? Could they be accomplished by alternative means (handouts, videotapes, slides, computer graphics, overhead transparencies, etc.)? If there are no real action-oriented visual needs, would an audioconference, plus alternative visuals at every site, be the answer? And, if there are no Visual needs of any kind, wouldn't an easy, quick-to-arrange, cost-effective audioconference be the right approach?

TWO-WAY AUDIO?

3) Does the conference need to be interactive? In other words, do you need two-way audio or sound capability from many, perhaps all sites through a telephone call-in system? If not, send videotapes to all sites so they can view them at their convenience. A true video conference is live and interactive!
Focus of Services

2002-2012
• Internet opens access to information
• Bringing “research to practice” added focus
• Translating research and implementation of research
• Education becoming more specialized to local needs and context
• Organization of National LTAP Association (more state to state sharing)

2012-2021
• Innovations being pushed from local to national
• Education topics meet needs for license continuing education or other standards
• Engineering staff specialization
• Generating applied knowledge or tools on local topics
• Increased role for the center to represent local agencies on national issues
What Hasn't Changed?

• Limited resources – focus on filling gaps

• Locally actuated services (you drive it!)

• Need to identify next big challenges

• Focus on specific problems to try to generalize solutions

• Personal relationships remain critical
What is the future of LTAP?

• Constant adaptation

• Education to cover skills loss

• Locally generated and focused applied research

• Using innovation and technology to solve local agency problems
Where Do You Come In?

• Talk with us!

• Submit ideas / questions / problems

• Give education feedback

• Talk to LTAP advisory board
  • Bruce Kadzban
  • Kurt Zachary
  • Larry Brown