

ITS/ITE CT Annual Joint Winter Meeting Recap

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Connecticut Chapter and the Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut (ITS-CT) held their annual joint winter meeting on Tuesday, January 27 at the Glastonbury Hills Country Club in South Glastonbury. A discussion of work zone safety was headed by Donna M. Shea, program director, Technology Transfer Center, University of Connecticut; Terri Thompson, Transportation Supervising Engineer, Connecticut Department of Transportation; and Tony Coventry, senior business development manager, Quixote Transportation Technologies Inc. There was a great turnout for this meeting with 54 in attendance and the presentations given were very helpful.

In an effort to supply motorists with a safe, efficient and eco friendly roadway transportation system, Donna Shea discussed work zone safety training and available resources for local agencies in CT, including ConnDOT staff. Two new additions, to the already existing educational certificate programs, are the Transportation Leadership Academy and the Professional Development Training for Planners. Contact Donna Shea for information on these new programs.

Local agencies can get their hands on some of this helpful information by visiting the UConn's Technology Transfer Center's website that has an extensive video and publication library.
<http://web.uconn.edu/ctilib/>

With the stimulus package in full swing, it is apparent there will be more work zones. Terri Thompson covered Connecticut's perspective on Work Zone Safety. She focused on minimizing the potential hazards to road users and highway workers through identifying, mitigating, managing and enforcing safety in work zones. With a goal to decrease work zone fatalities and injuries to workers and road users Terri discussed the approach FHWA will be taking to build on already developed standards and establishing minimum requirements for all work zones from Transportation Management Plans (TMP) to interactive Intelligent Work Zones.

For the final Work Zone Safety presentation, Tony Coventry discussed intelligent work zones and what a typical intelligent work zone consists of. The objective of an intelligent work zone is to inform the traveling motorist of the current driving conditions to create safer roads, reduce injuries, reduce congestion and delays and create more efficient construction areas. Tony also gave a quick review of two successful systems installed; Hydroplane Detection System on I-85 in Charlotte and a Dynamic Detour Alert System on I-40 near the North Carolina/Tennessee border.

If you would like additional information on the presentations please contact Koreen Bjorklund via email at Koreen.bjorklund@daktronics.com