

Great job done on road ratings

Thanks to a lot of hard work and cooperation, more than 98% of Wisconsin's municipalities and counties reported pavement ratings to WisDOT's Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR) as of February 2002. Just over 1,880 submitted condition ratings by the December 2001 deadline. WisDOT is working with the remaining towns and villages to obtain their roadway data.

The information will help communities set priorities for their annual road projects and develop multi-year budgets. It will also help the state identify needs for the local road network and develop biennial budget recommendations. The WISLR Web site should be working by August, letting local officials review their own pavement conditions and compare them to other Wisconsin communities.

"We really commend local officials and staff for their efforts," says Scott Bush, WisDOT Bureau of Transit and Local Roads. "Many had to learn both the rating process and the submission procedure for the first time to get this done." Much credit goes also to County Highway Department and Regional Planning Commission staff who taught locals how to develop PASER ratings in county-by-county workshops.

To help in the process the T.I.C. produced new PASER Manuals covering seal-coat roads, unimproved roads, and brick and block streets. These supplement the Asphalt, Gravel, and Concrete PASER manuals that have been in use for more than a decade.

Sixty percent of municipalities used PASERWARE, the T.I.C.'s pavement rating computer program to submit their condition ratings. Using PASERWARE was a big help to WisDOT and local staff. Having the data in a standard, electronic form made it easier to process and store. The software will also help local officials and staff compare annual projects, develop budgets, and rate their pavements again in two years.

"WisDOT staff also deserve a lot of credit," notes T.I.C. Director Don Walker. "They were very flexible. They helped people through the process and were willing to take data in a variety of formats."

Looking ahead to 2003, the recently collected roadway data can be helpful in another context as well: the new federal

requirement for asset accounting known as GASB 34. By next June communities with revenues less than \$10 million must begin reporting the value of their assets—dams, bridges, tunnels, sewerage systems, water systems, buildings, and roads. All the information needed to report the value of your road system should be available from your PASERWARE data.

New safety vests *from page 1*

"We provide class 2 vests to our workers and require them to use them around live traffic. The pants should be added for nighttime operations or traffic speeds over 55," says White.

More than one vendor meets state specs. The state contract is with Head Lites Corporation (<http://www.headlitescorp.com>; Contract #404-915; Tel 800/777-5630). The vest chosen is similar to the "Roadstar 200" shown on their website. Information is also at: <http://vendornet.state.wi.us>

Calendar

T.I.C. workshops

Details and locations are in announcements sent to all Crossroads recipients. For more information or additional copies, call the T.I.C. at 800/442-4615. Registration starts after announcements are distributed.

Winter Road Maintenance Prepare for winter operations. This workshop covers equipment preparation, the latest on ice control materials, and operations planning. It's a great opportunity to share experiences and tips for better winter operations.

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| Sep 23 | Rhineland | Oct 1 | Green Bay |
| Sep 24 | Hayward | Oct 2 | Brookfield |
| Sep 25 | Eau Claire | Oct 3 | Barneveld |
| Sep 26 | Tomah | | |

T.I.C. On-Site Workshops Several workshops are available to be conducted at your shop or office. If there aren't enough people from your agency to fill the workshop, invite nearby agencies. The cost is \$500 per class and maximum class size depends on the topic. For more information contact T.I.C. for a brochure. The following workshops are currently available:

Basic Surveying for Highway Departments
One day, 20 participants

Basic Work Zone Traffic Control
One day, 30 participants

Flagger Training
Half day, 20 participants

Flagger Instructor Training
One day, ten participants

Local Transportation Issues (ETN) The Transportation Information Center and the UW Local Government Center present five 2-hour workshops that focus on transportation issues. This series is available via Educational Telephone Network (ETN) at over 100 locations throughout Wisconsin.

You can register for one workshop or the whole series. Look for a brochure in August announcing topics.

UW-Madison Seminars

Local government officials are eligible for a limited number of scholarships for the following engineering courses. Use the form on page 7, call 800/442-4615, or e-mail tic@epd.engr.wisc.edu for details. Courses are in Madison unless otherwise noted.

Fleet Maintenance Management
Sep 25-26

Parking Lot and Site Access Design and Review, Sep 25-27

Soil Engineering for Non-soils Engineers and Technicians, Oct 15-16

Neighborhood Design and Traffic Calming, Oct 7-8

Managing Snow and Ice Control Operations, Oct 7-8

Implementing a Sidewalk Management System, Oct 25-26

Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Pavements, Nov 6-8

Environmental Impacts of Highway Projects, Nov 18-20

Effective Bridge Rehabilitation, Dec 4-6

Highway Bridge Design, Dec 9-11

Minimizing Pavement Damage Caused by Utility Cuts, Dec 11-12

Other Training Opportunities

The Snow Plow Roadeo of the Wisconsin Chapter American Public Works is your opportunity to test the best crew you've got against the best crews from other communities in friendly competition. It's also a great way to get everyone tuned up and ready for winter. It will be held Wednesday, September 18, 2002 at the Waukesha County fairgrounds. Call Mark Hochschild at 414/761-5372 for more details.