



THE ROADRUNNER



April 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date:

October 28-31, 2024, are the dates for the 2024 Annual TACERA Conference. It will be held in College Station at the Hilton as last year.

Do you have an article you would like to put in our newsletter? Send them to us at TACERA or bryan.neaves@bellcounty.texas.gov

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

By Robert Berndt

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, numerous TACERA county representatives from the North Central Texas area gathered for a lunch meeting. County Engineers and Road & Bridge Professionals from Tarrant, Dallas, Collin, Denton, Johnson, and Wise Counties attended the networking event at Texas Live in Arlington. These county friends had lunch at Lockhart BBQ, met the new TxLTAP Representative and discussed TACERA & county issues.

Informal lunch gatherings are a great way to meet your county neighbors. These professional relationships will help everyone in the long run as counties work to provide the best services to our citizens. If you or your county would like to set up an informal lunch meeting, please contact the TACERA Office (512-260-1376 or tacera1@yahoo.com) and I will be happy to help with surrounding county contacts and sending emails.



David Matocha, TCPA, demonstrates how to apply sealant to pipe joints at a county facility on March 1. Central Texas employees had a one-day workshop to train how to install various types of pipes properly.

WHATS NEW?

The Bell County Road and Bridge Department purchased a new herbicide spray truck in February 2024. The new equipment replaces an 18-year-old skid mounted tank that ran a spray pump using a 12-volt battery. The apparatus improves spray power and control, accurately accounts for chemical used, and can apply different additives controlled from the cab.



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The 525-gallon freshwater tank and a T Jet brand pump, spray nozzles and hoppers are mounted on a Ford F450 truck frame with a stainless steel deck. The vehicle is four-wheel drive with a diesel engine. There are eight chemical containers with pumps to mix the fresh water and additives at precise rates to apply using the adjustable nozzles. There is a console the driver uses to set mix rates and keeps records of the chemicals used per road location.



Nozzles are at several locations around the truck. The spray may be set to treat edges of the pavement, at guardrail locations, as well as overspray up to 50' for broadleaf or Johnsongrass. Pump pressure and fan width are set from the driver's console. The all-wheel drive option was selected for brine application in cold weather conditions to prevent icing.



Chris Klepac is a foreman in the department and explained the benefits of the new equipment. This eliminates waste of chemicals because you use only what you need and never have excess mixed in a tank. Herbicide overspray for Johnson Grass and other tall weeds reduces the number of cycles for shredding right of ways. He hopes there will be fewer public complaints about visibility of tall grasses. The rates, location, and total chemical used are automatically stored in the computer and can be retrieved for records in the future.



WHAT IS TXLTAP?



What is TxLTAP anyway? Texas Local Technical Assistance Program (TxLTAP) is operated by University of Texas at Arlington's Division for Enterprise Development. In a nutshell, we receive funding from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in order to provide training, technical assistance,

and resources to city and county transportation and roadway personnel at no charge to them. The training provided through this program will increase the performance of transportation workers by ensuring they conduct their duties in a safe, efficient, environmentally sound, and cost-effective manner. Since this is available at no charge to them, this program allows city and county agencies to maximize benefits from their often limited fiscal and staffing resources.

TxLTAP also offers completely customizable technical assistance. Do you have a unique problem you don't know the solution for? TxLTAP has ways to help. First, contact the TxLTAP office to discuss your needs. TxLTAP's staff



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of professionals offer many, many years of in the field experience and education in transportation and traffic engineering, road and bridge maintenance, heavy equipment operations, safety and workforce development. Once we know your needs will have an advisor to contact you and provide assistance via the phone or arrange for a time to make an onsite visit to look at the problem firsthand, offer a solution, and provide training as appropriate.

Through training geared to local government circumstances, customized technical assistance, advice provided at events, and a library of resources, TxLTAP provides relevant and impactful information focused on road and bridge/culvert maintenance, the use of traffic control devices, and other techniques to promote traffic safety. Please visit our website (txltap.org) or contact us via phone (817-272-9678) or email (txltap@uta.edu). We look forward to assisting you!

Members of the Newsletter Committee are:

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Bryan Neaves	Bell Co
Ted Kantor	Ellis Co
Don Ward	Pav Restoration
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512-260-1376 **Hours: T-TH 9 AM- 4PM**

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