



# Learning in Progress

April 2012

Improving the Performance of the Transportation Industry  
Through Training

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## APRIL TRAINING SESSIONS

Interested in taking an NHI training course in April?

There are more than 25 NHI courses currently scheduled across the country in the month of April. Visit the [NHI Web site](#) to see a list of this month's training sessions.

If you can't make it to any of NHI's in-person, Instructor-led trainings, you can always take a self-paced, Web-based training (WBT). NHI now offers more than 125 WBTs. Click [here](#) to see a complete list of NHI's WBTs.

## Secretary LaHood Visits NHI

To learn more about the latest innovations in transportation training, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Deputy Administrator Greg Nadeau visited NHI's offices. The Secretary was briefed about recent NHI projects and hosted a Q&A session to address issues in transportation planning and policy.



Secretary LaHood addresses NHI staff.

## New Course Spotlight: Highway Traffic Noise: Basic

**TRANSPORTATION IN  
THE NEWS**

[DOT Secretary's Blog](#)

[AASHTO Journal](#)

[ASCE News](#)

**QUESTIONS?**

**E-mail NHI Marketing  
at  
[nhimarketing@dot.gov](mailto:nhimarketing@dot.gov)**

## **Acoustics (142063)**

This Web-based training (WBT) course provides an overview of acoustic principles related to highway traffic noise. The course incorporates the Interactive Sounds Information System (ISIS) -- a customized noise simulation model -- to demonstrate acoustic principles.

The goal for the Highway Traffic Noise: Basic Acoustics WBT is to explain the basic principles of highway traffic acoustics. It begins with the characteristics of sound and discusses how to apply basic concepts of acoustics to solve sample problems. It proceeds to the propagation of sound: a presentation on the four phenomena of divergence, ground effects, atmospheric effects, and shielding by natural and man-made features. The interaction between highway noise and barriers is described and key noise barrier concepts are presented (i.e., direct, incident, transmittal, reflected, and diffracted). Traffic noise sources are discussed, as well as a brief overview of traffic noise modeling and vehicle classification types.

This course is intended for FHWA staff; State department of transportation (DOT) environmental specialists, designers, planners or engineers; city or county environmental engineers, coordinators or specialists, and consultants. The training design for this WBT assumes that participants have basic computer skills (e.g., manipulating windows, using directories, a web browser).

Please visit the [NHI Web site](#) to learn more about hosting or participating in this course.

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