



NATIONAL HIGHWAY INSTITUTE

TCCC and NHI: Partners in Highway Training

By Stacy Stottmeister

Attention of the highway construction workforce poses an ongoing challenge for transportation agencies. At the same time, cutting-edge technologies for construction and system preservation demand new skills and highly trained personnel. To provide leadership at a National level in addressing the need for workforce development focused on the frontline of highway construction and maintenance, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with AASHTO and the Five Regional Certification Groups, created the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TCCC).

The TCCC is a partnership of FHWA, the National Highway Institute (NHI), State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), and the highway transportation industry. The council's purpose is to build and maintain training resources for the transportation workforce, primarily at the technician level at State, municipal, and county DOTs. Since the council's creation in 2000, it has grown to include hundreds of subject matter experts from across the Country and throughout the highway industry.

In the coming year, the TCCC expects to shift focus increasingly toward distance learning. According to Danielle Mathis-Lee, NHI's liaison to the council, the TCCC and NHI have partnered to develop a large number of trainings, and members are working to roll out Web-based trainings (WBTs) and Instructor-led courses in 2009 and 2010, with 13 Web-based courses already released to date. "NHI relies on input from subject matter experts to develop quality training," Mathis-Lee says. "The council works with NHI by providing subject matter expertise and funding for course development."

The three most recently launched WBTs cover a range of topic areas relevant to highway construction personnel: *Introduction to PCC Construction Inspection* (FHWA-NHI-131122), *Early Age Cracking – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134095), and *Basics of Cement Hydration – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134096). In FY 2008, enrollment in the TCCC/NHI collaboration courses alone reached over 1,600 participants. One participant commented that the course was "very well organized, simple, [and] easy to use."

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“The intent is to give agencies and contractors good, quick training for employees to help them save travel time,” says Chris Anderson, technical training coordinator for the Iowa DOT, who serves as chair of the TCCC’s course development team. “It’s a money-saving way to get the skills to the people who need them.”

All three courses were developed to review and improve basic highway and structure knowledge applied to construction and maintenance projects. The target audience for these WBTs includes entry- and intermediate-level personnel at State and local agencies and their industry counterparts involved in construction, maintenance, and testing processes for highways and structures.

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Other WBTs that have been developed through the TCCC and NHI collaboration include:

- *Basic Materials for Highway and Structure Construction and Maintenance* (FHWA-NHI-131117)
- *Ethics Awareness for the Transportation Industry* (FHWA-NHI-134069)
- *Basic Construction and Maintenance Documentation—Improving the Daily Diary* (FHWA-NHI-134071)
- *Math Module* (FHWA-NHI-134072)
- *Hardened Concrete Properties—Durability – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134075)
- *GPS Technology* (FHWA-NHI-134078)
- *Plan Reading* (FHWA-NHI-134081)
- *Fundamentals of Materials Used for Concrete Pavements – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134084)
- *Incompatibility in Concrete Pavement System – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134085)
- *Mix Design Principles – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134087)

The following are more TCCC and NHI trainings coming soon:

- *Construction of PCC Pavements* (FHWA-NHI-131121)
- *Concrete Pavement Preservation* (FHWA-NHI-131126)
- *Bolted Connections* (FHWA-NHI-134074)
- *Fresh Properties – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134097)
- *Construction – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134098)
- *QCQA – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134100)
- *Design of Pavement – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134101)
- *Troubleshooting – Concrete Series* (FHWA-NHI-134102)
- *Maintenance of Traffic – Intermediate* (FHWA-NHI-380098)
- *Maintenance of Traffic – Advanced* (FHWA-NHI-380099)

For more information on NHI and TCCC courses, visit the NHI Web site at: www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov.

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