

Learning in Progress

September 2009



Improving the Performance of the Transportation Industry through Training

In This Issue

[Providing New Resources through Social Media](#)

[Updated Pricing; Improving Training](#)

[Customer Success: Alabama DOT's Ethics Training](#)

[Upcoming Web Conferences](#)

[New Course Spotlight](#)

[Transportation in the News](#)

[New and Updated Courses](#)

[Highway Traffic Noise Seminar a Huge Success!](#)

[TCCC Corner](#)

[Staffing Updates](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

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Providing New Resources through Social Media

Ever been "poked," "tagged," or learned of an event through someone's wall? If you have, you're probably familiar with Facebook. Because many of NHI's customers use Facebook, we developed an [NHI Facebook](#) page which includes our recently launched trainings, Web conferences, and any conferences we will be attending, in addition to other updates.

For those who prefer LinkedIn, our [LinkedIn](#) page serves as a resource for transportation professionals to meet other professionals with diverse backgrounds. We will also post NHI news here.

Our [Learning Forum](#) provides industry professionals the opportunity to discuss transportation issues online and ask questions, as well as provide feedback about current courses and trainings they would like to see.

Get Connected!

Updated Pricing; Improving Training

Our goal is to provide you with the most effective and innovative techniques, which can be applied directly in the field. Over the past few years we have incurred additional course delivery costs. As a result, starting January 1, 2010, we must slightly increase some of our course prices. We hope this will not impact your ability to receive high quality NHI training. We will maintain our pricing well below commercial rates and continue to develop low- and no-cost courses. **Please note that Fiscal Year 2009 pricing will still be applicable to 2010 courses requested by December 31, 2009.**

[Customer Success: Alabama DOT's Ethics Training](#)

Ethics awareness training is a requirement for most states. The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) was so happy with NHI's Web-based [TCCC Ethics Awareness for the Transportation Industry](#) (FHWA-NHI-134069) course that they chose it to fulfill their requirement. As of July 1, 2009, ALDOT reported that 3,428 employees had completed the course. A month later, the number was up to 4,360 -- that's 932 participants in one month!

"ALDOT was very impressed with the ethics training course that was created by NHI and TCCC. The material and online format allowed ALDOT flexibility in providing ethics training to a large number of employees with minimal cost and interruption to work schedules. The material reflected case scenarios that relate directly to the transportation department and was well received by the employees taking the course. The Training Bureau received positive feedback from the participants who are state employed at various job classification levels," said Maxine Wheeler, Chief of ALDOT's Training Bureau.

We are excited to have helped train such a large group in such a short amount of time!

Do you have a success story you'd like to share? We love to hear why NHI training was important for your group. Send a brief description of your experience to nhimarketing@dot.gov.

Upcoming Web Conferences

Since June, the **NHI Real Solutions Seminar Series** has hosted presentations on the following topics: eLearning and Distance Learning within the Transportation Industry (July), Using Critical Path Method (CPM) Schedule to Avoid and Measure Project Delays (August), and the Basis and Development of Probability-Based Design and Rating Methodologies for Highway Bridges (September).

The **NHI Innovations** series continued with the seminars Precast Concrete Pavement Systems (July), U.S. Domestic Scan Report: ACTT/Best Practices in Project Delivery Management (August) and Speed Management in Work Zones (September).

Did you know you can watch past seminars anytime? Check out the NHI Web site for recordings of previous seminars or to register for future [NHI Real Solutions Seminars](#) or [NHI Innovations](#) seminars.

Upcoming Real Solutions Seminar Series:

- November 19, 2009, 1 - 3 pm EST, NCHRP U.S. Domestic Scan Project 07-05: Best Practices in Bridge Management Decision-Making (Session I)
- December 17, 2009, 1- 3 pm EST, NCHRP U.S. Domestic Scan Project 07-05: Best Practices in Bridge Management Decision-Marking (Session II)

Upcoming NHI Innovations:

- October 7, 2009, 2:30 - 4 pm EST, Advancements in EPS Geofoam for Transportation Applications

Want to be notified when registration opens for any of these free Web conferences? E-mail nhimarketing@dot.gov.

New Course Spotlight: Practical Conflict Management Skills for Environmental Issues (FHWA-NHI-142060)

Ensuring transportation projects run smoothly requires collaboration among professionals from a range of disciplines including design, construction, operations, environmental protection, historic preservation, project planning, and project management.

Practical Conflict Management Skills for Environmental Issues aims to help project managers, design engineers, and environmental managers/specialists with departments of transportation, resource protection agencies, and consulting firms effectively respond to both substantive concerns and interpersonal relationship dynamics that arise during project planning and development. Lessons such as team interaction dynamics, multiparty negotiations, and tapping into personal strengths are intermixed with case studies, group exercises, and facilitated clinics to reinforce the concepts and their application. The ultimate goal is to make the best use of limited personnel and resources to serve the public.

To learn more about this training and to register visit the [NHI Web site](#).

Transportation in the News

We'd like to make this newsletter as relevant as possible to you. Starting this quarter, we will share some recent transportation-related news that you may find interesting.

House Approves 3-Month Authorization Extension; Does Not Address Rescissions

AASHTO Journal

9/23/2009

The House of Representatives voted 335-85 this evening to approve a bill that would extend federal highway and transit programs until the end of this year. Federal law authorizing spending on federal-aid highways, transit projects, and highway safety programs is set to expire Sept. 30.

[See full story](#)

Federal Transit Administration Reaches Major Recovery Act Milestone, Awards \$6.7 Billion To Nearly 600 Transit Providers Across the U.S.

8/31/2009

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that the Federal Transit Administration last week achieved a crucial milestone: it beat the September 1st deadline to provide all states and local communities 50 percent of their Recovery Act transit formula dollars.

[See full story](#)

Building slump stretches stimulus money

By Brad Heath

USA Today

8/26/2009

WASHINGTON - Federal stimulus money will pay for hundreds of extra roads, bridges and buildings this year because almost all of that work has been far less expensive than expected. [See full story](#)

New and Updated Courses

NHI continues to offer more courses that fit your schedules. Specifically, we've added more distance learning training options; Instructor led, Web-based, Web-conference, and blended training have increased from 12 courses in fiscal year 2008 to more than 40 courses in fiscal year 2009. As a result, participation in our Web-based training (WBT) has increased from 2,287 individuals to 4,627 individuals so far in fiscal year 2009 -- a nearly 50% increase! Fifty-nine new courses are currently in development.

Newly offered trainings include:

- [Load and Resistance Factor Rating for Highway Bridges \(130092\)](#)
- [LRFD Seismic Analysis Design of Bridges \(130093\)](#)
- [LRFD and Analysis of Curved Steel Highway Bridges \(130095\)](#)
- [TCCC Concrete Series \(131127\)](#)
- [Design of Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls and Reinforced Soil Slopes \(132042\)](#)
- [Construction of Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls and Reinforced Soil Slopes \(132043\)](#)
- [Practical Conflict Management Skills for Environmental Issues \(142060\)](#)

For the latest listing of all NHI courses, visit the [NHI Web site](#).

Courses of Excellence: July- September

Course	Title	Training Type	Average
420018A	Instructor Development Course (4.5-day)	ILT	4.91
141031	Business Relocation Under the Uniform Act	ILT	4.85
135067	Practical Highway Hydrology	ILT	4.83
420018	Instructor Development Course (3.5-day)	ILT	4.82
135041A	HEC-RAS, River Analysis System (3.5-day)	ILT	4.77
151043	Transportation and Land Use	ILT	4.75
130081	LRFD for Highway Bridge Superstructures- Concrete (2-day)	ILT	4.69
380075	New Approaches to Highway Safety Analysis	ILT	4.65
130055	Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges	ILT	4.64
142005	NEPA and Transportation Decision-making	ILT	4.63

380060	Work Zone Traffic Control for Maintenance Operations (Short Term)	ILT	4.60
130053	Bridge Inspection Refresher Training	ILT	4.59
130088	Bridge Construction Inspection	ILT	4.58
130078	Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges	ILT	4.56
380073	Fundamentals of Planning, Design, and Approval of Interchange Improvements to the Interstate System	ILT	4.52
130087	Inspection and Maintenance of Ancillary Highway Structures	ILT	4.51

Highway Traffic Noise Seminar a Huge Success!



Between August 18-20, 2009, the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department of Columbia College in Chicago hosted NHI's Highway Traffic Noise seminar. An overwhelming success, this 3-day seminar attracted thirty-one professionals from Germany, Canada and from 12 states: Vermont, Washington, Utah, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Michigan,

Indiana, and Illinois.

In addition to three Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff, highway, and tollway professionals from two states, eleven engineering and environmental consultants, one lawyer, five noise control manufacturing representatives, and a developer of noise analysis software also participated in the training.

Attendees concentrated for 18 hours on the basics of acoustics, Federal and State legislation, noise measurement, and modeling including FHWA's Traffic Noise Model (TNM) software application, acoustical barriers, and highway-project related noise abatement.

The diversity of the session's participants made the hands-on noise analysis and abatement exercises all the more informative thanks to the variety of expertise each student brought to examine the problems at hand. The course's success has sparked Pantelis Vassilakis, Chairman of the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department, to host other sessions, "We look forward to this event marking the beginning of a long-term and mutually rewarding relationship." We therefore plan to host another session in 2010 so that Columbia College Chicago can, in NHI's words "...illustrate what a fine job an enthusiastic, non-traditional (i.e. non-State) host can do in working with NHI."



TCCC (Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council) now has 20 WBT trainings available on the [NHI Web site](#) and the [NTTR database](#) for training resources.

At the end of August, TCCC trainings have registered more than 4,500 participants through the NHI Web site. In addition, we are sharing the TCCC trainings with seven States that have Internet restrictions or LMS (Learning Management System) needs, and have been able to reach more than 5,100 participants. That means NHI/TCC trainings have reached an impressive 9,600+ participants.

We attended the M-TRAC meeting at the end of September in Fargo, North Dakota. We met with several states and talked about the TCCC training development and delivery status. We also gave a presentation on quality online learning where we discussed the NHI/TCCC standards, styles, processes, and procedures for Web-based training development. Last, we attended open discussions to talk about States' problems and issues.

We are hearing good things from our customers for old and new TCCC trainings:

FHWA-NHI-131032: "This course was very satisfactory, probably one of the most informative."

FHWA-NHI-134001: "The instructor was very well informed on the broad spectrum of topics this course covers."

FHWA-NHI-134042: "Well organized with realistic problems to solve."

New Trainings Available

FHWA-NHI-131121 TCCC Construction of PCC Pavements

FHWA-NHI-131126 TCCC Concrete Pavement Preservation Series

FHWA-NHI-131127 TCCC Concrete Series

WBTs Coming Soon!

FHWA-NHI-131126A TCCC Preventive Maintenance and Pavement Preservation Concepts

FHWA-NHI-131126B TCCC Concrete Pavement Evaluation

FHWA-NHI-131126C TCCC Slab Stabilization and Slab Jacking

FHWA-NHI-131126D TCCC Partial-Depth Repairs

FHWA-NHI-131126E TCCC Full-Depth Repairs

FHWA-NHI-131126F TCCC Retrofitted Edge Drains

FHWA-NHI-131126G TCCC Load Transfer Restoration

FHWA-NHI-131126H TCCC Diamond Grinding and Grooving

FHWA-NHI-131126I TCCC Joint Resealing and Crack Sealing

FHWA-NHI-131126J TCCC Strategy Selection

FHWA-NHI-134074 TCCC Bolted Connections

FHWA-NHI-134105 TCCC Pipe Inspection

FHWA-NHI-134106 TCCC Surveying

FHWA-NHI-380098 TCCC Maintenance of Traffic - Int
FHWA-NHI-380099 TCCC Maintenance of Traffic - Adv
FHWA-NHI-380101 TCCC Safety Orientation

With new topics being added monthly!

Staffing Updates

Amanda Moss has joined us as a Marketing Coordinator. Sally Clarke has joined the NHI team as a Systems Planning and Support Associate. Welcome, Amanda and Sally!



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