

New Center for Transportation Technology Transfer to Missouri Municipalities is Established at UMR

2002 saw the birth of a new center for transportation education and technology transfer at the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR): the Missouri Local Transportation Resource Center (MLTRC). Funded by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, and the University Transportation Center, the center serves as the Missouri branch of the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP). Through training programs, information resources, and purchasing programs, the center works to get the latest transportation resources out to city and county agencies across the state.



MLTRC takes a two-pronged approach to training. The first prong is the Customized Transportation Education Program (CTEP). Through CTEP the center helps agencies organize learning opportunities tailored to meet their specific needs. The second prong, the Proactive Training Program (PTP), is presently under development and will be initiated this fall. As part of the program, the center will offer a "short course" covering the three most-requested educational topics in each of the 10 MoDOT districts. MLTRC subsidizes the cost of all training offerings to keep the customer cost affordable and practical.

The center's information resources include a quarterly newsletter, lending library, distribution library, and website.



The quarterly newsletter *MOInfo* is a joint project with MoDOT's Research, Development, & Technology (RDT) division. The style and format of the newsletter were designed to appeal to a broad audience that ranges from county officials to transportation field engineers. Regular features include the following:

- "New in the Library" — highlights newly acquired library items and materials for distribution;
- "On the Horizon" — details upcoming learning opportunities and conferences across the country; and
- "Tech Brief" — summarizes the latest technical results from RDT transportation research activities in accessible language.

A plan has been put in motion to enhance MLTRC's education and technology transfer capabilities via use of the Internet. Phase I of the plan (fall 2002, spring 2003) included the development of a website framework and online forms for requesting training and joining the newsletter mailing list. The lending and distribution libraries will be published online with search and request capabilities as

part of phase II by the end of summer 2003. Phase III will begin in the fall and includes conversion of library training videos to a “streamable” and downloadable format.

Center operations are guided by Director Mohammad Qureshi, assistant professor of civil engineering; Program Manager Lonnajean Yoest; and the expertise of an advisory committee which consists of a diverse group of professionals, including MoDOT & Federal Highway Administration personnel, county engineers, and local elected officials. Center activities include substantial involvement of students both at the graduate and undergraduate level, in the hope of spreading interest not only in the transportation field but also in the concept of technology transfer.