

Update on Iowa urban standards

In the next couple of years, Iowa will be the first state to implement statewide urban design and specifications manuals for public infrastructure improvements. CTRE, the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), contractors, the Iowa chapter of the American Public Works Association, county engineers, and the Statewide Urban Standard Design and Specification Manuals Steering Committee will be working together to create and implement *Statewide Urban Standard Design and Specification Manuals for Public Improvements*.

The proposed statewide manuals will be based on *the Central Iowa Standard Design and Specification Manuals*, originally developed by 34 Iowa jurisdictions. The statewide manuals will also include design and construction details unique to specific jurisdictions across the state and will address considerations like materials availability and soil conditions, which may vary among the six state districts.

Dale Harrington, CTRE's associate director for pavements, and Harold Smith, CTRE's pavements training and public works engineer, have met with 23 statewide planning organizations committed to participating in this project.

The next steps will be accomplished in the following order:

- develop a work plan for the next two years
- submit an amended interagency agreement to the original 34 jurisdictions for a license to use their design guides and specifications as the starting documents
- appoint members for a statewide steering committee, which will include representatives from Iowa cities, counties, contractors, the Iowa chapter of the American Public Works Association, and stakeholder associations
- organize district subcommittees to identify design and specification particulars to be included in the statewide manual

District subcommittees will be composed of engineering personnel from city, county, and state governments that cover the areas of regional planning associations, metropolitan planning organizations, and technical management area organizations. The resulting manuals will be truly a product of statewide cooperation and input. •

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

For more information

Summit proceedings will soon be published summarizing the event's activities and results. You'll be able to access the proceedings from the Iowa DOT and CTRE web sites (www.dot.state.ia.us/, or www.ctre.iastate.edu/). Hard copies will be available for loan through CTRE's

library; contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu.

For more information about the summit, contact Gerald Kennedy, Federal Highway Administration, Iowa Division, 515-233-7300, gerald.kennedy@fhwa.dot.gov. •