Note: The Iowa LTAP Biweekly Resource is monthly for June to August and will be twice monthly again in September. If you have subjects/suggestions, please send them to any Iowa LTAP staff.

LTAP WEBINARS

This fall, we will be starting up our one-hour webinars again. We hope to feature some of the topics from the International Low Volume Roads conference held in Cedar Rapids this past July. Two of them have already been planned and links for registration are below.

Gradation Optimization Tool for Granular-Surfaced Roads, Thursday, 9/21 at 12:00 PM – The focus of this webinar will be a tool developed as part of a research project on cost-effectively recycling existing degraded granular surface materials. The tool allows engineers to mix existing roadway materials with fresh aggregates in optimized proportions to achieve a target gradation and plasticity that will maximize performance and durability. This spreadsheet-based tool has been distributed throughout Iowa and is available online. Registration for this webinar can be found here.

Risk Management Lessons Learned from Lawsuits Against Local Road Agencies, Thursday, 10/26 at 12:00 PM – A road agency’s legal duties and the implications of tort liability are discussed in this webinar. The speaker examined about 50 fatal and serious injury crashes on low-volume roads from his forensic experience, and the results of this analysis will be presented. Noteworthy findings include the role of driveways as a source of contamination of the roadway surface and the significance of transitions such as from a paved road to gravel road or from one cross-section width to another. Risk management strategies discussed include conducting operational reviews, paying attention to written and spoken words, regularly reviewing policies and manuals, safety training for maintainers, and good documentation. Registration for this webinar can be found here.

LTAP AFFILIATED EVENTS

ICEA Meeting at the ISAC Annual Conference, Thursday & Friday, 8/24 & 8/25 (Des Moines) – The Iowa County Engineers Association (ICEA) will have its affiliate meeting at the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) Annual Conference. The conference is held in Des Moines and is 8/23–8/25. Technical subjects will be presented to ICEA affiliate attendees on 8/24, and an ICEA Executive Board meeting will be held on 8/25. A detailed agenda along with registration, which is through ISAC, can be found here.

MINK Local Roads Meeting, Wednesday & Thursday, 9/13 & 9/14 (St. Joseph, MO) – MINK is an annual meeting that brings together officials from counties, state departments of transportation (DOTs), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) divisions in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. The agenda covers timely and practical topics on maintenance, administration, innovative ideas, safety, and funding. It’s a great place to share information, learn together, and talk shop. Attendees from any state are welcome. More information and registration, which is through Missouri LTAP, can be found here.
Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference, Tuesday–Thursday, 9/19–9/21 (Ames) – The 2023 workshop and conference is sure to be one you won’t want to miss! Along with a slate of several relevant presentations, you can look forward to “mousetraps and gadgets” and roundtable discussions. Attendees will have ample time to meet with their peers and many exhibitors. More information and registration can be found here.

PARTNER ACTIVITIES

GeoTextiles, GeoFoam, and Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil – Integrated Bridge System (GRS-IBS) (FHWA), Thursday, 8/24 at 1:00 PM – The use of geosynthetic materials and techniques can save time and money on road and bridge construction and maintenance projects. Learn how the use of geotextiles and geofoam, in conjunction with a mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall, improved safety on a three-mile stretch of narrow highway infamous for trucking mishaps in Benewah County, Idaho. Also, learn how GRS-IBS technology can help meet the demand for small, single-span bridges by reducing construction time and cost. Information about the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) Geosynthetic Mobile Application will also be provided. No registration is required. Go here to join (Meeting ID: 161 259 7631, Passcode: 900496).

Introduction to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Federal Requirements (FHWA), Wednesday, 9/6 at 1:00 PM – FHWA is introducing new training to assist local and tribal agencies with applying for transportation funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Some of the training topics to be covered include funding opportunities, federal project delivery requirements, steps to take prior to application, pre-award requirements, and resources to leverage throughout the federal project and grant application processes. Local and tribal agencies are encouraged to participate. For more information and to register, please go here.

APWA Iowa Chapter Fall Conference (APWA Iowa Chapter), Wednesday–Friday, 9/27–9/29 (Iowa City) – This American Public Works Association (APWA) Iowa Chapter-sponsored event is back in central Iowa for 2023. This conference has historically offered an excellent opportunity for those in the broad world of public works to expand knowledge, network, elect officers, and recognize award winners. Additional details and registration can be found here.

SPOT and Roadeo 2023 (APWA Iowa Chapter), Tuesday–Thursday, 10/3–10/5 (West Des Moines) – This APWA Iowa Chapter-sponsored event is back in central Iowa for 2023. Snow Plow Operator Training (SPOT) is being offered 10/3 & 10/4, and the ever-popular Roadeo event will take place on 10/5. The City of West Des Moines is hosting the event this year at its Public Services facility located at 8550 Grand Avenue. Additional details and registration for both options can be found here.