

TRANSPORTATION

Building Jobs through
Transportation **FOCUS** SPRING 2011

News and Information from the Rahall Transportation Institute



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US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to Serve as Keynote Speaker for International Transportation Economic Development Conference in Charleston, W.Va.

United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood has been confirmed to serve as Keynote Speaker for ITED 2011, the International Transportation and Economic Development Conference.

LaHood, a former U.S. Representative from Illinois (1994-2008), became the Secretary of Transportation under President Barack Obama in 2009. He leads a 60,000-employee agency that regulates American aviation, highways, railroads, public transit, seaways, traffic safety and pipelines, among other modes of transportation.

ITED 2011 takes place from May 1-3, 2011, in Charleston, W.Va., and is the fourth international conference to concentrate on the link between transportation and economic development.

In addition to LaHood, an "all-star" line-up of expert speakers includes: U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II; Earl Gohl, Appalachian Regional Commission; Chris Masingill, Delta Regional Authority; and Jean Claude Ziv from the Conservatoire

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Partner Schools:



Remember to register online for ITED 2011, May 1-3, Charleston, WV, at www.ited2011.org!

Scott Hercik, Transportation and International Trade Advisor for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Speaks at RTI's 2nd Transportation Seminar Series



**APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION**

On February 17, 2011, Scott Hercik, Transportation and International Trade Advisor for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), served as guest speaker for RTI's 2nd Transportation Seminar Services Event for 2010-11.

Hercik presented information about "Network Appalachia: Access to Global Opportunity" to an audience of approximately 50 transportation professionals, educators and students, at the Mar-

CONTINUED PAGE3: Hercik

SPRING 2011

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FROM PAGE 1: HERCIK

shall University Foundation Hall.

Network Appalachia is a regional study group established in 2007 by the ARC to carefully evaluate changing macro-economic trends, and project the effects of these trends, on the Region's future commerce and on the movement of goods to, from and across Appalachia. Network Appalachia was then tasked with reviewing the Region's transportation capabilities and their effect on Appalachia's access to both domestic and global markets.

Building on the Appalachian Development Highway System platform, the Study Group was asked to provide the Commission with a comprehensive package of recommendations on how to develop a 21st century transportation network that can maximize both economic and employment benefits to the Region and ensure that Appalachia will never again find itself "a region apart."

Hercik works with both public and private sector interests, with a special focus on the intermodal global supply chain and the economic and employment opportunities that are being shaped by the global economy of the 21st century. He previously served as a Senior Director for Planning and Development at Amtrak and held various planning, programming and administrative positions during 19 years at the Michigan Department of Transportation. Hercik is a graduate of Michigan State University. The presentation was followed by a brief "Question & Answer" session.

WVDOT, RTI Host One-Day Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Symposium in Charleston, W.Va.

RTI assisted the West Virginia Department of Transportation's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Division in hosting a one-day Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) symposium Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, W.Va.

The event, which was titled, "Connecting Businesses with Opportunities," allowed participants to gain knowledge from industry leaders regarding Federal and State Procurement Opportunities, Resources Available to Small Business Owners, Networking and Match-making Opportunities. Updates were provided on significant transportation projects, such as plans for construction and contractor bidding for US Route 35 and the Appalachian Development Highway System.

Scheduled speakers included Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, Governor Joe Manchin, Senator Bob Plymale, Secretary of Transportation Paul Mattox, as well as representatives from USDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Contractor's Association of WV.

The symposium was presented by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission and RTI.

Graduate Research Assistant Wins Carmen E. Turner Scholarship

Congratulations are in order for Graduate Research Assistant Janet Fraser for winning the Carmen E. Turner Graduate Scholarship from WTS, Philadelphia Chapter.

This scholarship recognizes outstanding female graduate students in transportation fields. The award is valued at \$2500 and was presented to Fraser in Philadelphia, December 16, 2010. Fraser completed a Master of Science in Intelligent Transportation Systems in 2010 and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree at Penn State University.



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FROM PAGE 1: ITED

National des Arts et Metiers, France.

I-TED 2011 will be the fourth international conference to concentrate on the link between transportation and economic development. This conference will focus on issues and challenges related to the economy, global concerns and financial constraints. Participants will discuss and address the emerging transportation needs of business and economic development communities at local, regional, state, national and global levels.

Subjects and perspectives will include public and private sectors; academic, practitioner and policy issues; theory, concepts and operational tools; and, all transportation modes and their relationship to economic development.

Key sponsors include RTI, the Transportation and Economic Development Committee of the Transportation Research Board, Appalachian Regional Commission, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., AASHTO, West Virginia Department of Transportation, Delta Regional Authority, National Association of Development Organizations, Economic Development Research Group and U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

After a welcome reception a detailed list of speakers and registration information is available at www.ited2011.org.

Two-Day PASS Training Courses Trains 20 in Beckley, W. Va.



Research Associates John Ball, P.E., and LeAndria Reed provided a Two-Day PASS Training Course for 20 transportation professionals in Beckley, W. Va. The training took place March 3-4, 2011, at the Raleigh County Commission on Aging.

The PASS Driver Certification Program ensures that community transit and para-transit drivers have current expertise in passenger assistance techniques and sensitivity skills appropriate for serving persons with disabilities.

RTI, Mountwest Community and Technical College Develop, Market New Transportation Associate Degree Program

RTI has taken a leadership role in linking Mountwest Community and Technical College (MCTC) to the transportation employer sector, by assisting in the development and marketing of a new two-year, associate degree in transportation. RTI designed and conducted a survey to determine the interest and employment levels of the potential student. "The largest population needing the degree is currently in the workforce," Dr. Diana Long, Workforce Development Director, said. To meet the needs of this workforce, many courses will be offered online or through credit by examination.

The program is designed to work in cooperation with accredited community colleges, and workers may transfer to MCTC for the core transportation courses. The degree will carry 3 areas of emphasis: Transportation Management, Transportation Technology and Transportation Occupational Specialty. The core courses to be developed include Overview of Transportation Systems, Transportation Law, Transportation Geography, Transportation Security, Overview of Transportation Technology and Transportation Economics. RTI will be involved in providing technical advice and service on advisory committees, as well as marketing and promoting the courses.





Researchers, Economists, Workforce Development Professionals Participate in Transportation Research Board 90th Annual Meeting

Transportation researchers, economists and workforce development professionals from the Rahall Transportation Institute participated in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 90th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. from January 23-27, 2011.

The purpose of the TRB Annual Meeting is to bring together transportation research professionals from all modes to one location, where they have the opportunity to experience more than 4,000 presentations in nearly 650 sessions and workshops. Policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers and representatives of government, industry and academic institutions may learn from more than 85 sessions and workshops that will address the spotlight theme for 2011: Transportation, Livability and Economic Development in a Changing World.

This year RTI presentations or committee representations included:

Dr. Jason (Chih-sheng) Chou:

- o Poster/Presentation: "Safety Implications of Violations in Concurrent-Flow Lane Operations (11-0292)." Session: "Safety: Analysis, Modeling, and Data." Jan. 24, 2011.
- o Poster/Presentation: "Exploiting Capacity of Managed Lanes in Diverting Traffic Around an Incident (11-0114), Session: "Road Pricing and Managed-Lane Research: New Tools and Promise for the Future." Jan. 25, 2011, 2:30-5 p.m.

Dr. Junwook Chi:

- o Poster/Presentation: "Short-Term Lock Traffic Forecasts on Ohio River System (11-1537)", Session: "Current Research on Inland Waterways." Jan. 24, 2011.
- o Committee Meetings: ADD10 Transportation and Economic Development Committee, Jan. 26, 2011, 10:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. and ADD10 Transportation and Economic Development Conference Planning Subcommittee, ADD10(1), Jan. 26, 2011, 8 -9:45 a.m.

Ms. Janet Fraser, Research Assistant and Doctoral Student:

- o Presentation: "Using Digg, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter (P11-0774)," as part of Enhancing Communications: Engaging and Promoting Active Communications Session, Jan. 23, 2011.

Dr. Diana Long, Director of Transportation Workforce Development:

- o Panel Session Speaker: UTC Community College Collaborations, Jan. 23, 2011
- o Committee Meetings: January 24, 2011, Building Transit Workforce and TRB Education Committee Meeting
- o Participating in sessions: Jan. 25, 2011, Attending two sessions Emerging Learning Concepts and Formats in a Traditional Undergraduate Classroom Education Setting and Transportation Education and Training Beyond the Traditional Classroom. Jan. 26, 2011, Attending the session Building the 21st Century Workforce: Mission-Critical Issues, Cross-Modal Opportunities, and Key Partnerships in Transportation Workforce Development.

Dr. Andrew P. Nichols, Program Director, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Assistant Professor – Engineering:

- o Poster Session: Intelligent Transportation Systems Development and Applications, Event Date: Jan. 24, 2011, 7:30- 9:30PM
Title: Investigating Key Factors Affecting Accuracy of Reidentification of Trucks over Long Distances Based on Axle Measurement Data (11-0015) - F01
- o Committee Meetings: Highway Traffic Monitoring Committee, January 25, 2011, 1:30-5:30 p.m. and Weigh-in-Motion Subcommittee, ABJ35 (2), January 25, 2011, 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

RTI Director & CEO Robert H. Plymale; COO Frank Betz; Transportation Engineer John Ball; GIS Project Manager Juan Barrios; Research Associate Alejandro Sanchez-Badillo; Director of Maritime Enhancement Patrick J. Donovan; Policy Analyst Kent Sowards; Research Associate Sang Yoo; and Transportation Infrastructure Program Director Wael Zatar also participated in committee sessions and meetings.





ARC Export Trade Advisory Council Conducts Workshop with Network Appalachia

The ARC Export Trade Advisory Council (ETAC) conducted a workshop in Washington, D.C., December 1, 2010. ETAC members were joined by members of ARC's Network Appalachia transportation planning and development group under the common theme, "Global Appalachia: Engaging, Competing, and Succeeding in the Global Economy of the 21st Century."

ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl welcomed ETAC members from all 13 Appalachian states, as well as representatives from the U. S. Commercial Service, and thanked participants for their commitment to the businesses, communities, and people of Appalachia. He encouraged them to continue their work together to strengthen the Region's economic and employment success in the 21st century.

The first order of business was an update on three new Appalachia USA initiatives for 2011, each designed to strengthen the Region's presence in the global marketplace and expand Appalachian exports and jobs. Leslie Drake, director of the U.S. Commercial Service's Charleston, West Virginia, U.S. Export Assistance Center, reported on plans for the 2011

*ARC Export Trade Advisory Council
ARC established the ARC Export
Trade Advisory Council in 1995 to advise the
Commission on developing trade policy issues
and to serve as an advocate for the Region
within the global businesses community.*

*Council members include trade direc-
tors or other officials from each of the 13
Appalachian states, a representative from the
Development District Association of Appa-
lachia, and a representative from the ARC
federal staff.*

Trade Winds Business Development Conference and Trade Mission, scheduled for early April 2011 in Mexico City. The event will feature a delegation of Appalachian businesses and officials, who will meet with senior commercial officers from the U.S. Commercial Service and business leaders from throughout South American, the Caribbean, and North America. The annual Trade Winds event is coordinated by the U.S. Commercial Service and endorsed by ETAC. ARC support enables Appalachian businesses to qualify for a 50 percent reduction in the registration cost of the event.

Mike Padjen, director of the Furniture Export Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce, and John Henry Jackson, Asia-Pacific trade specialist in the Mississippi Development Authority's International Trade Office, reported on plans for ETAC's Asia/Pacific Rim Export Initiative (A/PR Export) to be held in Shanghai, China, in September 2011. The A/PR Export delegation is focused on Appalachian furniture/home furnishings and wood/forest

products. The 2011 event marks the seventh consecutive year of promoting these Appalachian products in the heart of the Asian and Pacific Rim marketplace. ARC support helps reduce exhibition costs for participating Appalachian businesses at this major international trade show.

ETAC members then explored the potential for a new initiative to promote Appalachian mining and associated construction products and services. This could revolve around a delegation of African businesses that have expressed an interest in visiting the Region next year. Due to the significant level of interest in the initiative, a conference call will be scheduled with ETAC members to more thoroughly explore this opportunity.

Following lunch, the ARC federal co-chair introduced Suresh Kumar, assistant secretary for trade promotion and director general of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service at the U.S. Department of Commerce, who spoke with ETAC members about the National Export Initiative (NEI). Kumar, who is responsible for U. S. trade promotion and leads a team of 1,500 trade professionals working in 109 offices across the United States and in 127 offices in 79 countries, stressed the NEI's goal of doubling exports in five years, supporting two million jobs in the United States. He also spoke to both the challenges and the potential of expanding exports, and related employment opportunities in rural areas. In stressing the importance of collaboration, he thanked ETAC for its ongoing support for Trade Winds and committed to work with ETAC to build the success of its 2011 Asia/Pacific Rim Export initiative.





National Maritime Enhancement Institute Director Reports on New Marine Highway System Program at Network Appalachia Meeting

On December 2, 2010, the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) ARC's Network Appalachia (Net A) Transportation Planning and Development Group conducted a workshop in Washington, D.C. Net A participants were joined by members of ARC's Export Trade Advisory Council (ETAC), under the common theme "Global Appalachia: Engaging, Competing, and Succeeding in the Global Economy of the 21st Century."

Patrick Donovan, director of the National Maritime Enhancement Institute at Marshall University, reported on the new Marine Highway System program, including a \$1.76 million grant by the U. S. Maritime Administration to the Tenn-Tom Waterway Pilot Project.

In awarding the grant, Maritime Administrator David Matsuda said, "This project will help make better use of America's marine highway by reducing gridlock, improving the environment, and putting skilled mariners and shipbuilders to work."

Designated as a key tactical opportunity in the recent Network Appalachia Study, the Tenn-Tom project will feature new container-on-barge services linking inland locations in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee with the new international container terminal at the Port of Mobile, Alabama.

In addition, ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl welcomed representatives from 12 of the Appalachian states and thanked participants for their commitment to the businesses, communities, and people of Appalachia. He encouraged them to continue their work to strengthen Appalachia's competitiveness by enhancing the Region's access to both domestic and global markets.

CSX Transportation gave a presentation on the \$842 million National Gateway Corridor initiative, serving the states of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Jennifer Kinsella, CSX Director of Public/Private Partnerships, reported that the initiative will enhance intermodal rail service along key domestic corridors and strengthen global access by improving intermodal connections between inland locations and key gateway coastal ports.

During the next 30 years, National Gateway will triple market access to the ports of Baltimore, Maryland, Norfolk, Virginia, and Wilmington, North Carolina, reduce

emissions by eliminating 20 million tons of CO₂, and save 2 billion gallons of diesel fuel. Importantly, National Gateway will create 50,000 new jobs. Similar to the Norfolk Southern Heartland and Crescent corridor programs, the National Gateway initiative represents a unique public-private partnership that is improving the capacity, reliability, and cost-efficiency of Appalachia's access to both domestic and global markets.

Adrienne Gildea, from the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, praised the research and recommendations in the Network Appalachia report, describing how the plan could enhance energy and environmental efficiencies and establish an interconnected transportation network that builds the capacity, safety, and cost-efficiency necessary to help ensure Appalachia's global competitiveness in the 21st century. She encouraged the Net A group to move forward in implementing the plan. She also spoke extensively about the prospects for transportation reauthorization legislation and stressed the importance of rethinking America's approach to freight and passenger transportation in the future.

ARC Transportation and International Trade Advisor Scott Hercik reported on the Network Appalachia meetings between representatives from inland Appalachia and the Region's key gateway coastal ports. Such meetings have been successfully completed with the ports of Mobile, Alabama; Wilmington, North Carolina; Norfolk, Virginia; and New York/New Jersey. Plans call for the next meetings to feature ports in Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; Gulfport, Mississippi; and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Hercik also updated the group on efforts to strengthen ARC's cooperation with the Region's federally designated university transportation centers. A memorandum of understanding is being drafted to take better advantage of the research and planning resources offered by these Appalachian-based institutions.

Prior to adjournment, Net A members discussed how best to advocate for specific transportation improvement projects that can enhance Appalachia's access to both domestic and international markets and how such advocacy can support efforts to expand planning and investment in the Region's transportation system.





“Discover Engineering Day” at the Clay Center Provides 1,000+ Students with Hands-on STEM Learning Opportunities

The Clay Center recently hosted “Discover Engineering Day” February 19, 2011, a program aimed at introducing K thru 8 aged children to the field of engineering in a fun way.

Local engineering firms, colleges and universities gave children the opportunity to participate in dynamic hands-on, STEM learning activities and displays.

This year’s theme focused on steering girls towards engineering with the Black Diamond Junior Girl Scout troop from 9 - to 11am. From 11am - 4pm the event was open to the general public.

Linda Hamilton and LeAndria Reed represented RTI, with the only transportation-themed booth at the event. Technologies allowed participants to use LEGO DUPLOs to build various transportation vehicles inspired by their imaginations and what may be the transportation systems of the future.

Approximately 1,005 were in attendance for this all day event. Ages ranged from 4 – 16, with the average around 8 – 9 years of age with the Junior Girl Scouts making up the majority of those.



Discover Engineering sponsors include Bridgemont Community & Technical College, WVU Institute of Technology, Bayer USA Foundation, DOW, Matric and ZMM, Inc.

Participants of Discover Engineering Day include: West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Bridgemont Community and Technical College; DOW; West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; Project WET; NASA IV & V

Center; Rahall Transportation Institute; MATRIC; Technology and Engineering at Marshall University; H.C. Nutting, A Terradon Co.; West Virginia Association of Consulting Engineers; American Chemical Society; Association of Computing Machinery; American Institute of Chemical Engineers; American Society of Civil Engineers; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; WVUIT Biology Club; WVUIT Engineering and Technology Student Organization; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; Society of Automotive Engineers’ Society of Women Engineers; West Virginia University Extension Service 4-H Program; Marshall University Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter; and Kanawha County 4-H Teen Leaders

2011 West Point Bridge Design Competition Encourages Future Engineers to “Go Green”



RTI, the WV Younger Member Forum of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the WV Department of Transportation Division of Highways and the Huntington Post of the Society of Military Engineers are engaging future engineers in the West Point Bridge Design Contest. This hands-on, teambuilding, problem-solving experience provides middle and high school students with instruction time to apply math and science skills, learn about the engineering design process, be introduced to new technology and develop communication skills.

The 2011 theme, “Go Green,” began in January 2011, The National Contest has typically drawn over 15,000 teams and awards large cash scholarships and laptop computers to the top teams in the nation. In May, the WV Statewide Contest will take place throughout the state and recognize the top WV High School designs and the top WV Middle School designs entered in the 2011 West Point Bridge Design Contest. Last year approximately 300 teams entered from WV and over \$7500 in cash and prizes were awarded. These top WV teams will converge in the city of Huntington, WV, for an exciting 2011 WV Statewide Contest.





Upcoming Events

Conferences/Transportation Seminar Series/Technology Transfer Activities

- March 28-30, 2011** 24th Annual GIS-T Symposium, Hershey, PA
April 5-6, 2011 eCDL Product Demonstration at USDOT's HQ, Washington, DC
April 5-6, 2011 Marine Highways and Logistics Conference, Baltimore, Maryland
April 7, 2011 Cyberinfrastructure Day at Marshall University
May 1-3, 2011 I-TED 2011, Charleston, WV
June 6-10, 2011 2011 Leadership Development Conference, Washington, DC

Pre-K thru 12/Community Outreach Events

- March 31, 2011** West Point Bridge Design Contest, WV Statewide Qualifying Round Ends
May 14-20, 2011 National Transportation Week Activities
June 28-July 3, 2011 West Virginia Operation Lifesaver Rail Camp, Camp Pinnacle, Hardy County, WV
July 25-29, 2011 Young Builders LEGO Camp
July 25-29, 2011 Technology Building LEGO Camp
August 1-5, 2011 Technology Art LEGO Camp
August 1-5, 2011 Robotics Mini Challenges Lego Camp

Register online at www.njrati.org or call Sandra Jones at (304) 696-7098.

Upcoming
Events

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**EARLY
 REGISTRATION
 FOR ITED 2011 IS
 AVAILABLE ONLINE
 THROUGH MONDAY,
 APRIL 4, 2011 AT
WWW.ITED2011.ORG**

*Visit the website for
 a detailed schedule
 of speakers and
 lodging information.*

Return Service Requested



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