



Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

Quarterly News & Updates

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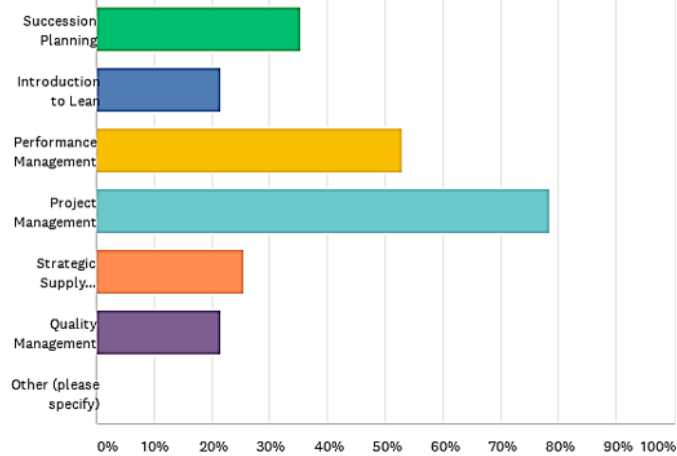
What's on the Horizon for RI LTAP?

The RI LTAP Center has been hard at work developing new! programs and opportunities.

Here are some examples of programs coming this Spring:

- Lunch and Learn Series (Starting in April)
- Laptop Loan Program (Available in Spring 2021)
- NEW! Virtual live instructor-led and on-demand training opportunities. (Schedule will be released in April)
- 2021 APWA Virtual Snow Conference (10 Seats Open). Be on the lookout for an announcement for a chance to receive a paid registration to attend!

Your Feedback Received: Training Needs Assessment



Thank you for taking the time to complete the Rhode Island LTAP Training Needs Assessment. All RI cities and towns participated. We appreciate the tremendous feedback.

We are working on our LTAP 2-year plan and your feedback is paramount. Some of the top areas of interest that you expressed include:

- *Asphalt Management Techniques
- *Asset Management/ Budgeting
- *Back Injury Prevention
- *Business Writing
- *Communication Skills for Managers
- *Creative Problem Solving
- *Culvert Maintenance/ Replacement/ Installation
- *Customer Service Skills
- *Dealing with Difficult People
- *Driving Safety/Defensive Driving

- *Erosion & Sediment Control
- *Ethics in the Workplace
- *File Management
- *Grant Writing/ Grant Management
- *Managing People Effectively
- *Microsoft Excel
- *Presentation Success
- *Stress Management
- *Understanding & Managing Diversity
- *Work Zone Safety

Workforce Development EDC-6 Practical Playbook- Identify, Train, Place



Strategic Workforce Development EDC-6

Roads and bridges are in need of repair. There is also a growing shortage of highway construction workers to make those repairs and other improvements critical to the highway system. A 2019 survey conducted by the Associated General Contractors of America found that construction firms across the country are struggling to fill open positions.

The sixth round of the FHWA Every Day Counts program (EDC-6) includes a strategic workforce development initiative to help companies and agencies overcome their workforce challenges.

This effort is a culmination of many years' work. A 2-year

pilot, from January 2017 to December 2018, explored how industry could collaborate with the public workforce system to recruit, train, and retain highway construction workers. Based on the findings of the pilot, FHWA developed a concise, practical playbook called “Identify, Train, Place” for others to conduct their own highway workforce development efforts.

FHWA also developed an outreach campaign called Roads To Your Future to help raise awareness of highway construction as a career opportunity. The campaign includes free, downloadable marketing materials for use by anyone to attract people to the industry. Most of the materials can be customized to add local contact information.

[READ MORE](#)

National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways

FHWA Extends Comment Period for Proposed MUTCD Updates to May 14

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials extended the comment period for proposed revisions to the “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD) to May 14, 2021. The 60-day extension will allow additional time for public participation in the MUTCD’s first major update in more than 10 years.

“This important document will set the tone for the future of our transportation system for the years ahead,” Federal Highway Senior Advisor Stephanie Pollack said. “We want to ensure our stakeholders have ample opportunity to address the diverse needs of travelers nationwide.”

This latest proposed update to the MUTCD would advance traffic operations and safety nationwide. The comment period extension is in response to stakeholder requests that additional time would help to address the scope and complexity of the notice of proposed amendments.

[Read more](#)

National Standards; MUTCD Proposed Rule

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways! (MUTCD) is incorporated in FHWA! regulations and recognized as the national! standard for traffic control devices used on! all public roads.

The purpose of this NPA is to revise! standards, guidance, options, and! supporting information relating to the traffic! control devices in all parts of the MUTCD.

The proposed changes are intended to! update the technical provisions to reflect! advances in technologies and operational! practices, incorporate recent trends and! innovations, and set the stage for! automated driving systems as those! continue to take shape.

The proposed changes would promote! uniformity and incorporate technology! advances in the traffic control device! application, and ultimately improve and! promote the safe and efficient utilization of! roads that are open to public travel.

[Read more](#)
www.federalregister.gov



Have Your Streetscapes and Treat It Too!

APWA, Chapter Chatter January 2021

A Rhode Island streetscape design project was recently featured in APWA's national publication, The Reporter. The Broadway Streetscape Improvement project in Newport, RI is an example of how competing interests, compliance regulations, and other challenges can be overcome if best practices are implemented to achieve multiple goals.

Broadway is a gateway to downtown Newport with its historic buildings, local restaurants, and local businesses. The redesign aimed to maintain the aesthetic of Newport's historic character while also implementing new amenities to provide more safety for vulnerable road users, and environmentally sustainable practices. Stormwater management was a priority, as catch basins and storm drains in this seaside City lead directly into community waters.

The project team incorporated BMP's into the streetscape elements, turning pedestrian place-making spaces into dual purposed urban bio-swales and hardscape features. The project also incorporates modular bio-swales, pervious pavers in its parking areas, and Flexi-pave tree wells. These stormwater treatment elements are so seamlessly integrated into the streetscape that most visitors do not notice their presence, beyond what they add to the beauty and aesthetic of the area.

Although compliance with mandates can be difficult, taking the extra time to create something beautiful that is also useful can go a long way to improving the environment. Clever design and integration of multi-use spaces can often address the needs and competing interests of the many stakeholders involved in a project.

[Read more](#)

Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

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