



Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program

Quarterly News & Updates

Fall 2023 | Issue 9

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Welcome, Fall 2023

Fall is here and with it comes changes in weather, vibrant foliage, and the last surge in roadwork for 2023 before winter arrives at our doorstep.

Autumn brings its own unique set of hazards in New England with fluctuating temperatures and the increased potential for severe weather including hurricanes, heavy rains, and even snow and ice on occasion. Be sure to think about safety as we enter this season with the following tips.



- Vehicle Maintenance
 - Check vehicles' heating and wiper systems and fluid levels, and be sure to check headlights, taillights, and turn signals to ensure they are functioning properly. Check tire pressure and ensure there is adequate tread on each tire.

- Drive Safely as it Gets Darker Earlier
 - Not only are daylight hours slowly reducing, but with Fall comes the end of Daylight Savings Time here in the Northeast and we set our clocks backward by 1 hour. This year that occurs on November 5th. Increase your following distance at dawn and dusk, during severe weather, and in areas with wet leaves.
- Be Aware of Wildlife
 - Wildlife, especially deer activity increases in the fall so watch carefully for deer running into and along the roadways. During the fall deer become bolder (yes, even around humans and vehicles) and travel longer distances in search of mates. Deer are most active between sunset and sunrise so always keep headlights on as the daylight wanes and use caution in areas known for deer and wildlife crossing.

Equipment Loan Update

New Equipment Available RI LTAP Equipment Loan Program

Earlier this year, the Rhode Island LTAP announced that our Equipment Loan Program is expanding. We are adding two new retroreflectometers that will be available for loan.

The handheld sign retroreflectometer, the RoadVista 922, is now available for loan with an optional extension pole to Rhode Island municipal road agencies.

Due to manufacturing delays, the handheld pavement marking retroreflectometer is not yet available. The pavement marking unit is expected to ship sometime this month, making the unit available for loan in November at the earliest. This timeframe, however, may change. We will keep you updated as additional information is received.

Two important things of note are the loan terms and the waitlist. The loaned unit will be available to the borrower for up to 2 weeks. If the borrower wishes to request an extension, a request must be made in writing prior to the equipment return date. All extension requests will be reviewed, and approval will be granted in 1-week increments based on the current waitlist and the equipment servicing schedule.

Loan requests are now being accepted for those interested in borrowing one of the units. To be added to the waitlist you must complete the Request Form. The form can be accessed by clicking the link below or scanning the QR code to the right. Note that the waitlist is generated on a first-come, first-served basis.



[Handheld Retroreflectometer Request Form](#)



Updates From Rhode Island LTAP

[Featured Training](#)



Tuesday Nov. 28th
8 am - 4 pm

&

Wednesday Nov. 29th
8 am - 12 pm

Financial plans provide an excellent opportunity for agencies to demonstrate to constituents that they are responsibly managing their transportation assets. Get the information you need to develop or further develop your TAM Financial Plans!

The blended training approach to NHI 136002 Financial Planning for Transportation Asset Management (TAM) includes a brief (one-hour) Web-based training (WBT) component. The WBT builds foundational knowledge of financial planning in the context of TAM and reviews common vocabulary and background information. Then, an instructor-led, classroom-based event completes the blended approach.

Over the course of 1.5 days, participants discover the key content areas of a financial plan and explore the approaches to developing one. A facilitator guides small working groups as they create a financial plan outline that includes each content area. The groups identify gaps that could reduce the plan's effectiveness and identify the next steps their agency must take to fully develop the financial plan. The teams' financial plan outlines are evaluated by the instructor. Participants leave the classroom with a useful work product that can be further developed and used in the agency's financial planning process.

Additional Information

When

- Tuesday, November 28th, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and
- Wednesday, November 29th, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where

- New England Institute of Technology (NEIT)
101 Access Rd, AC Building-Room 309, Warwick, RI

Registration

- Email DOT.Training@dot.ri.gov to register and include the following information:
 - Participant Name
 - Participant Email
 - Participant Job Title and Municipal Department

Upcoming Training

Seats are available to Rhode Island municipal and tribal employees for the upcoming classes listed below. These are a mix of in-person and virtual classes.

Contact the Rhode Island LTAP at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov to enroll in any of the listed courses or if you have questions. Be sure to include the participant's name, email address, and job title in your email when registering for a course.



Is there a training or technical assistance you're interested in, but haven't seen advertised? RI municipalities can request training and/or technical assistance through Rhode Island LTAP. Complete this [Request Form](#) and email it to us.

<p><u>ATSSA Flagger Training</u> In-Person Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023 8 am - 12 pm</p>	<p><u>Chainsaw Safety</u> In-Person Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023 7:30 am - 2 pm</p>	<p><u>NHI 136002- Financial Planning for Transportation Asset Management</u> In-Person Nov. 28th, 8 am - 4 pm Nov. 29th, 8 am - 12 pm</p>
<p><u>Snow & Ice Control</u></p>	<p><u>OSHA 30-hour for</u></p>	<p><u>Customer Service</u></p>

In-Person Dates to be Determined	Construction Online, Self-Paced To Register: Email dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov Include Participant's Name, Email, and Job Title	Online, Live January 5, 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 2024 9 am - 12 pm
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Available On-Demand Courses

There are currently over 450 courses available for Rhode Island LTAP partners in the RI Learning Center, the State's Online Learning Management System. See the list below for a sampling of courses!

If you are interested in viewing these or other available on-demand courses in the RI Learning Center, and you are a Rhode Island municipal employee or elected official, or are an FHWA employee contact us at dot.RILTAP@dot.ri.gov to set up an account.

- *Newly Updated* AASHTO TC3 Courses Include:
 - Introduction to e-Construction
 - Construction Inspection of Structures Series
 - Math Basics for Materials Technicians
 - Warm Mix Asphalt
 - Guardrail Basics
 - And more!
- Common Stormwater Violations & Tips to Avoid Them
- Ethics Awareness for the Transportation Industry
- Implicit Bias
- New RI LTAP Lunch & Learn Recordings
- Project Construction & Contract Administration
- Roadway Drainage Webinar Series

Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

What is PROWAG? The Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines, also known as PROWAG, are designed to ensure that street crossings, signals, sidewalks, and other facilities for pedestrian transportation are accessible to and usable by pedestrians with disabilities. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on August 8, 2023. The first draft was released in 2002 and since then the guidelines have gone through numerous revision and comment phases.

The published update, however, has not cleared all steps to be fully adopted and legally enforceable and still awaits certification by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Justice. Once the published guidelines are certified and adopted by both Federal agencies the rules will apply nationally.

Below are links to additional resources including the final rule, a summary of updates, and training videos from the U.S. Access Board, and more.

Links

Federal Register

- [Final Published Rule - Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines](#)

U.S. Access Board

- [About the ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines for the Public Right-of-Way](#)
- [Notable Changes in Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines Final Rule](#)
- [Recording of Oct. 5, 2023 Webinar - Final Rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines](#)

U.S. Access Board Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines Training Videos

- [What's New in the Final Rule Text](#)
- [Chapter 1: Application and Administration](#)
- [Chapter 2: Scoping Requirements](#)
- [Chapter 3: Technical Requirements](#)
- [Chapter 4: Supplemental Technical Requirements](#)

Upcoming Observances & Safety Events

October



Pedestrian Safety Month

October is designated as Pedestrian Safety Month. States, local leaders, traffic safety professionals, transportation planners and engineers, other stakeholders, and concerned residents are invited to join in helping to create a transportation system for all people to easily and safely walk. This year's campaign theme is Everyone is a Pedestrian.

In January 2022, the U.S. DOT released its National Road Safety Strategy that outlines its department-wide approach to working with stakeholders to achieve this goal and describes the actions that will be taken to make a meaningful difference over the next few years. At this strategy's core is a department-wide adoption of the Safe System Approach to address and mitigate the inherent risks present in our transportation system.

The Safe System Approach works by building and reinforcing multiple layers of protection to both prevent crashes from happening and minimize the harm caused to those involved in crashes that do occur. This holistic and comprehensive approach is a shift from a conventional safety approach because it focuses on human mistakes and vulnerability, while also designing a system with many redundancies in place to protect everyone.

Please use the campaign resource materials (links available below) to help increase awareness about how we can combat pedestrian crashes in our communities.

For more information, messaging, and graphics see the resources below.

Excerpt from: Traffic Safety Marketing and NHTSA

Learn More

Traffic Safety Marketing

- [Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [Campaign Resources - Everyone is a Pedestrian](#)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- [2023 Pedestrian Resource Guide](#)

Additional October Observances

- **National Protect Your Hearing Month**
- **Eye Injury Prevention Month**
- **Walk and Roll to School Day 10/4**
- **National Fire Prevention Week**
 - October 8 - 14, 2023
- **Teen Driver Safety Week**
 - October 15 - 21, 2023
- **School Bus Safety Week**
 - October 16 - 20, 2023
- **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week**
 - October 22 - 28, 2023
- **Walk and Roll to School Day**
 - Wednesday, October 4, 2023

November

Winter Weather Preparedness Week October 30 to November 3, 2023

While winter brings cold and sometimes downright frigid temperatures, it can also bring snow, sleet, freezing rain, strong



winds, and increased risks for Nor'easters and Blizzards. Winter storms also create higher risks of car accidents, hypothermia, heart attacks from overexertion, and more.

Nor'easters are storms that move along the East Coast of North America, and can occur any time of year but are typically the most frequent and most destructive between September and April. A Nor'easter can also be a Blizzard. Blizzards occur when strong winds (sustained wind or frequent gusts of 35 mph or greater for at least 3 hours) cause blowing snow and often limited visibility or whiteout conditions, which can make roads impassable. Thousands of people are injured or killed every year in traffic accidents related to slippery roads from winter storms.

Stay safe and know what to do before, during, and after a winter storm including:

- Know winter weather basics including terminology such as Watch, Warning, and Advisory
- Keep emergency supplies in place in your home, vehicle, work, and your work vehicle if applicable
- Keep carbon monoxide alarms in place, especially if using alternative heating devices
- Use only safe heating devices and never heat your home or other space with a stovetop or oven
- Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows
- Listen to local officials and comply with warnings and requests to stay off the road during and after winter storms, if possible
- If you are trapped in a car, then stay inside
- Limit time outdoors; If you must go outside, wear layers of warm clothing and watch for signs of frostbite and/or hypothermia
- Reduce the risk of heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling and walking in the snow

For more information and resources, see the links below.

Excerpt from: National Weather Service, NOAA

Learn More

Rhode Island LTAP - Everyday Safety Talks

- [Staying Fit for Snow Fighting](#)
- [Cold Weather Driving](#)
- [Cold Weather Precautions](#)
- [Cold Weather Slips-Trips-And Falls Safety](#)

Ready .gov

- [Winter Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Winter Weather Safety](#)
- [Build a Disaster Supply Kit](#)

National Weather Service

- [Winter Storm Safety Materials](#)
- [NWS Forecast Office - Boston/Norton, MA](#)
- [Winter Infographics](#)

NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory

- [Winter Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit](#)

Additional November Observances

- **National Diabetes Awareness Month**
- **Lung Cancer Awareness Month**
- **Drowsy Driving Week**
 - November 5 - 11, 2023
- **America Recycles Day 11/15**
 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023



Impaired driving has a devastating impact on families and communities everywhere. Weekends and holidays can be dangerous times on the roadway, especially during the holiday season. Two of the most celebrated holidays occur in December and both, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, have historically also been among the most deadly days of the year.

That's why December is recognized as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. Everyone is reminded to take personal responsibility and, before taking that first drink, have a plan that includes a designated or other sober driver such as a ride share or taxi to get home safely or plan for an overnight stay.

Remember too that alcohol is not the only source of impaired driving. Drugs such as marijuana, opioids, and even some over-the-counter and prescribed non-opioid medications can impair driving. Side effects such as drowsiness, slowed coordination, judgment, and reaction times, as well as altered vision can impair driving ability.

Impaired drivers cannot accurately assess their own impairment, which is why no one should drive after using any impairing substances. Remember: If you feel different, you drive different.

For more information, messaging, and graphics see the resources below.

Excerpts from: RIDOT, National Safety Council, NHTSA



Learn More

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

- [Office on Highway Safety - Impaired Driving](#)

Traffic Safety Marketing

- [Campaigns - Get Materials](#)

National Safety Council (NSC)

- [Impairment Begins With the First Drink](#)
- [All Types of Impairment Can Create Safety Risks](#)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

- [Drug-Impaired Driving](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Transportation Safety - Impaired Driving](#)

Additional December Observances

- **Holiday Season Drunk Driving Campaign**
- **National Handwashing Awareness Week**
 - December 3 - 9, 2023

- **Older Driver Safety Awareness Week**
 - December 4 - 8, 2023
- **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over High-Visibility Enforcement**
 - December 13, 2023 to January 1, 2024

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