

Project Description:

The Transportation Learning Network (TLN) was developed to serve the transportation interests of the region and complements the efforts of its various members. It provides access to information and expertise not readily available to transportation professionals in the region. TLN identifies schedules, distributes and warehouses technology transfer for its member state DOTs.

Vision: To excel on a national basis as a premier transportation technology transfer organization that serves as a model for other states.

Mission: TLN provides quality and cost-effective customer-driven technology transfer utilizing alternative platforms that meet the needs of the state, county, city, tribal and private transportation professionals.

Staff develop a list of technology transfer presentations based on priorities determined by the 4-state members of the Transportation Learning Network; topics are researched, descriptions written, presenters identified, negotiate presenter contracts and schedule presentations.

There are monthly meetings of the programming committee consisting of members from the 4-state DOTs and an MPC representative. The committee approves identified topics and TLN staff move forward with announcing the events and putting into place a registration process. An evaluation link is provided to all participants.

The majority of presentations occur between October and April due to the construction season in the 4-states served by this program. During summer months, the staff and program committee members identify and prioritize technology transfer topics. Self-paced modules and previously recorded sessions are available on the learning management system.

In continued response to COVID concerns and the work-from-home environment, the Transportation Learning Network delivers technical transfer topics via webinars. Individuals are able to receive these very important topics via their computers, tablets and phones.

During this reporting period, there were 5 webinars presented with a total attendance of 118. The presentations were recorded and developed into self-paced modules available on the learning management system. All five topics were presented by Mountain Plains Consortium researchers. Titles were Hybrid Post Tensioning Columns, Analysis of ABC Bridge Column to Footing Joints, Unravel the Impact of COVID-19 on Micro Transit, Cellulose Nanofiber as an Asphalt Additive, and Removal of Escherichia Coli from Stormwater.

Modules have been created for most of the past recorded sessions going back to 2018. These are available on the learning management system for on-demand accessibility. Also, learners have the ability to print their own certificates of completion.

In addition to live presentations, over 150 recorded presentations and online modules were completed.

Significant Results:

Identifying and delivering technology transfer needs of the DOTs in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Live presentations are broadcast as webinars. The majority of these presentations are recorded and available for playback on the TLN learning management system. Along with the recordings, there are self-paced modules available 24/7. This program can reach many individuals to bring significant opportunities to increase knowledge without the need to travel great distances.

Circumstance affecting project or budget. (Please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set forth in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems). -- None encountered.