

# REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEES

SEPTEMBER 2011 – EDMONTON, ALBERTA



This report highlights news and activities of the TAC Board of Directors, its councils and committees, and the secretariat. For more information on any of these items, please contact the staff at the secretariat individually or at [standingcommittees@tac-atc.ca](mailto:standingcommittees@tac-atc.ca).

More information is also available at:

<http://www.tac-atc.ca/english/councilsandcommittees/operatinginfo/>

Committee members are encouraged to access documents there, addressing:

- Projects in development – including descriptions, sponsors, and funding status.
- Climate Change Task Force update
- Summary of the roles and responsibilities of committee members
- Suggestions to assist with the planning, preparation and conduct of committee meetings

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Approved a budget and work program for year three of TAC's three-year business plan
- Approved the lengthening of the duration of the next business plan from three to five years
- Identified several emerging issues during the April 2011 Board meeting; the associated course of action to be approved at the September meeting

## COUNCILS AND TASK FORCES

- Council meetings are open to interested TAC members; agendas are available online at: <http://www.tac-atc.ca/english/councilsandcommittees/>
- Chief Engineers' Council
  - Fall agenda will include a variety of topics addressing safety and environmental issues as well as projects and issues of emerging interest to members
  - The 511 Task Force will bring forward its recommendations to the Council this fall
  - Discussions continue regarding establishing a benchmarking club, including defining terms and rules of engagement.
- Education and Human Resources Development Council
  - Monitoring application of a virtual mentor on knowledge management to assess costs and benefits of the electronic support system
  - Organizing initiatives to encourage student participation at TAC conferences
  - Reviewing Committee work plans
- Environment Council
  - Continuing discussions regarding a definition of sustainability for further consideration by TAC councils and committees
  - Pursuing discussions regarding the systems for incorporating environmental costs into decision-making
  - Receiving presentations on topics of interest including duty to consult, Migratory Birds Act compliance, alien species and impact of climate change on transportation infrastructure
  - Continuing focus on environmental impact avoidance and mitigation, and environmental legislation and regulation

- Urban Transportation Council
  - Continuing work on its technical projects and priorities
  - Completed a Statistics Canada questionnaire about use of the Census and National Household Survey data, which is part of the federal agency's 2016 Census Strategy Project
  - Continuing focus on discussion of planning, development, management and financing of sustainable transportation systems in urban areas
- Climate Change Task Force
  - Recommending to the Board of Directors a two year extension on their current mandate, which ends April 2012
  - Revising work plan to focus on needs identified by committees in recent survey
- Small Municipality Program
  - Proposing new terms of reference and work plan for Board approval
  - Recruiting members to renew the Task Force and broaden its membership
  - Hosting TAC's first Town Hall to address issues and challenges related to small municipalities and shape the future of the TAC Small Municipalities program

## **TAC SECRETARIAT**

- Advanced with the planning of the TAC Centennial
- Conducted on-line surveys and focus groups with TAC members and interviews with directors as part of the process for developing a new five-year business plan
- Progressed with enhancements to the new website, including a revamped Conference site (new content, promotional video, new online forms to facilitate registration), new material such as the *Year in Review 2010-11*, and various translations to better meet the needs of members in the official language of their choice
- Training (continues to be focused on TAC's intellectual property)
  - Delivered course on erosion and sediment control for the City of Edmonton
  - In partnership with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), completed development of learning material to support training based on TAC's Guide to Bridge Hydraulics
  - Collaborating with CSA and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering to offer bridge hydraulics training at venues across Canada
  - Organizing sessions on the geometric design guide to be offered at various venues
  - Developed virtual mentor systems on TAC's speed limit guidelines and school / playground zone guidelines and pursuing testing of the systems as an approach to on-line training

## **TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION SERVICE**

- Expanded library catalogue with addition of 177 items
- Continued publication of Transportation Intelligence Bulletin
- Initiated the 2011 Canadian Surface Transportation Research Survey

## **SPONSORED PROJECTS**

- 9 projects in development; report available at <http://www.tac-atc.ca/english/projects/indevelopment>
- 19 projects in progress as listed below; each described at <http://www.tac-atc.ca/english/projects/inprogress/index.cfm>
  - Applied Human Factors and Road Safety Engineering
  - Best Practices for Transportation Planning Studies: Workshop Materials
  - Best Practices Guide for the Use of Recycled Materials In Transportation Related Projects
  - Calibration of the Mechanistic-Empirical Pavement Design Guide
  - Changing Practices in Data Collection on the Movement of People
  - Effective Strategies to Influence Travel Behaviour
  - Geometric Design Guidelines for Special Roads
  - Green Guide for Roads
  - Guidelines for Planning and Implementing Transit Priority Measures in Urban Areas
  - Investigating the Potential for Truck Lanes in Urban Areas
  - Pavement Asset Design and Management Guide
  - Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual Update
  - Performance Measures for Road Networks
  - Review of Sign Sheeting Requirements
  - Salt Management Guide Update
  - Synthesis of Canadian Environmental Best Practices for Highway Construction, Operations and Maintenance
  - Synthesis of Practices for Implementing Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation Infrastructure Projects
  - Warrants for Adding Pedestrian Signals to Existing Signalized Intersections
  - Wider Pavement Markings for Standard Applications

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Recently released:

- Guidelines for the Network Screening of Collision-Prone Locations;
- Quantifying and Forecasting Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Urban Passenger Transportation Workshop Report
- Recommended Practices for Posting Ramp Speeds;
- Winter Road Condition Terminology User Guide/Guide d'utilisation de la terminologie sur les conditions routières

Being Prepared for Release:

- Accommodation of Utilities within Freeway Right of Way (Bilingual)
- Active Transportation: Making it Work in Canadian Communities (in French)
- Bicycle Traffic Signals (in English and French)
- Bikeway Traffic Control Guidelines Second Edition (in English and French)
- Geometric Design Guide updates (in English and French)
- Quantifying and Forecasting Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Urban Passenger Transportation Workshop Report (in French)

- Guide on the use and installation of Chevron Alignment Signs (in English and French)
- Guide to Bridge Traffic and Combination Barriers (in French)
- Guidelines for Construction and Operation of Winter Roads (in English and French)
- Guidelines for the Development and Management of Transportation Infrastructure in Permafrost Regions (in French)
- Guidelines for the Network Screening of Collision-Prone Locations (in French)
- Guidelines for Transit Lane Conspicuity through Surface Treatments (in French)
- Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada updates (in English and French)
- Recommended Practices for LED-Embedded Traffic Signs (Bilingual)
- Safe Accommodation of Vulnerable Road Users (in English and French)
- Synthesis of Practices for Median Design (in French)

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

- April 2012 Spring Technical Meetings in Ottawa, Ontario
- 2012 – October 14th to 17th, Fredericton, New Brunswick
  - Transportation: Innovations and Opportunities

#### **FUTURE TAC CONFERENCES**

- 2013 – September 22nd to 25th, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 2014 – September 28th to October 1st, Montreal, Quebec (TAC Centennial)
- 2015 – Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
- 2016 – Ontario (in conjunction with MTO's Centennial)