



Executive Director's Report

September 2017

TAC continues to be successful in terms of membership, its products and services and volunteer participation. Overall, the association remains in good financial health.

The member retention rate is very strong at almost 94% despite consolidation of some member firms. As of early August 2017, TAC has 506 members, just a few less than at this time last year.

The size of the volunteer base remains very healthy. An impressive 740 individuals serve on TAC councils, committees and task forces and an additional 58 people benefit from receiving information about committee activities without being committee members.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS

About 380 attendees participated in the 2017 Spring Technical Meetings, and a similar number are anticipated at the Fall Technical Meetings, held in conjunction with the conference in St. John's. About 45 meetings are being convened, including project steering committees, councils and task forces, standing and sub-committees as well as several other special interest meetings such as the TAC Foundation and Board meetings.

Registration for the annual TAC Conference and Exhibition is a little lower than in recent years, but a total of approximately 600 delegates are expected to attend. The W.H. Yeates Exhibition has sold out. Over 200 abstracts were submitted to the technical program, which will include 50 sessions, panels and workshops, featuring about 200 speakers representing more than 130 organizations. Six different technical tours featuring sites and installations in and around St. John's are available to delegates.

Program highlights and elements of note:

- A special conference registration rate (25% discounted) for young professionals is offered this year. As of mid-August, 59 delegates registered using this rate.
- A Poken (www.poken.com) USB, a digital business card and briefcase that facilitates networking and information exchange, will be given to each delegate and exhibiting company.
- A new conference app will be easier to access, use and update both as a download and online. Also, a flyer style (rather than a full booklet) printed program will be provided to delegates in order to continue to encourage them toward accessing electronic version information.
- In order to assist students wishing to attend the 2017 TAC Conference and Exhibition, a student grant was made available for graduate and undergraduate (university and college) students in transportation-related disciplines. One student, Sara Maltese of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, University of Toronto, was selected by draw from the 15 applications.
- The International Speaker Program assists committees in encouraging speakers working outside of Canada to participate in conference panel discussions or workshops. Two applications were received and TAC will provide \$2,500 to support the attendance of each speaker. These are Dr. Lewis Fulton (Co-Director, Sustainable Transportation Energy Pathways Program, Institute of Transportation Studies, Davis, University of California) who will participate in a panel discussion hosted by the Connected and



Automated Vehicle Working Group and John Minor (Provost, Unmanned Vehicle University, Phoenix) who will participate in a panel discussion hosted by the Road Safety Standing Committee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A focus for TAC's Board of Directors over the last 18 months has been the development of a new strategic plan for the Association. Approved in April 2017, the plan incorporates new vision and mission statements, key focus areas that align with the vision and five strategic priorities that align with the mission. Finalized and published over the summer, [TAC's Strategic Plan](#) is available on the Association's website. A Town Hall Meeting will be convened on Tuesday afternoon, September 26th during the Annual General Meeting; members of TAC's Board will provide an update about the plan and encourage discussion with members about the Association's priorities.

As part of the new Strategic Plan, the Board is committed to addressing and communicating about emerging and critical issues in transportation. Recognizing that councils and committees dedicate much of their volunteer effort to discussing and addressing such issues, means to improve communication with the broader TAC membership and other stakeholders will be sought.

During roundtable discussion at the Board meeting in April 2017, Directors reported on a number of innovative projects in their jurisdictions, and discussed Vision Zero initiatives and the upcoming ITS World Congress. Further discussion of these topics is planned this fall; outcomes or recommended courses of action will be shared subsequently with councils.

The Board of Directors approved a break-even budget and work program for the first year under TAC's new strategic plan.

TAC'S LEARNING PROGRAM

Since April 2017, TAC's Learning Program delivered four webinars in which over 130 professionals participated. Topics covered were:

- New content and key changes in the 2017 edition of the *Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads*
- LED street lighting colour temperature and health impacts
- Design, construction and inspection of mechanically stabilized earth walls
- Traffic monitoring practices for Canadian provinces and municipalities

Other webinars being planned in 2017/18 include:

- Design and implementation of transit services for smaller communities
- LED street lighting colour temperature and health impacts
- Speed display devices
- Speed management practices in small municipalities
- Road safety

Council and committee members are encouraged to propose webinar topics using the on-line [webinar proposal form](#).



A classroom-based seminar series is planned to highlight what's new in the 2017 edition of the *Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads*. The first seminar will be offered on September 28th in St. John's followed by 12 events scheduled across the country. Opportunities to deliver the seminar in French are being sought; scheduling will take into account availability of the French version of the Guide.

Other seminars being planned in 2017/18 include a session in French on pavement asset design and management and two-day sessions with more in-depth coverage of the *Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads*.

PARTNERSHIPS

Key partner activities this year include:

- The completion of the project to develop a new *Canadian Traffic Calming Guide*, a joint project of TAC and the Canadian District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The publication will bear both organizations' names when it is released in the coming months.
- Partnering with ITS Canada to promote the ITS World Congress and be part of the exhibition pavilion in Montreal later this fall.
- Working with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to offer TAC-AASHTO Day in conjunction with the ITS World Congress.

In 2016, TAC hosted a focus group webinar with its partner organizations, which provided an opportunity for participants to identify common interests. Another event will be planned in 2017 to continue discussion of shared issues and consider potential collaborative opportunities.

TAC SECRETARIAT

Three English publications, plus the full ten chapters of the *Geometric Design Guide for Canadian Roads* have been released since April 2017. One French publication was also released. The titles are listed in TAC's publication tracking report, which was shared with councils and the Board of Directors prior to these meetings.

TAC's Transportation Information Services (TIS) provides traditional lending library and literature search services and maintains the library catalogue, adding nearly 100 new records so far this fiscal year.

The [TAC Year in Review](#) was published, highlighting accomplishments in 2016/17, a summary of issues addressed by TAC's councils, and audited financial results for the year past.

UPCOMING TECHNICAL MEETINGS

- Spring Technical Meetings, April 18 – 25, 2018 in Ottawa, ON

FUTURE TAC CONFERENCES

- 2018 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, September 30 – October 3
- 2019 – Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 22 – 25