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Successful Inaugural Class of Operations Academy Senior Management Program

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Second Session Planned for November 2007

COLLEGE PARK, MD, April 17, 2007 - Congratulations are in order for the graduates of the inaugural session of the Operations Academy Senior Management Program held at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD, March 12-23.

Twenty two participants from across the country, participated in this intensive two week program of classroom lectures, workshops, working field trips and presentations by nationally recognized guest speakers. The two weeks of on-site training was preceded by forty hours of pre-study readings and exams. The completion of this program represents a significant accomplishment for each participant. It is an honor to even have been chosen for the program, since participants were selected from a long list of applicants.

The graduates agreed that the networking aspect of the program was one of its greatest benefits. Ling Li from Virginia DOT stated that the opportunity "for people in the same field to exchange ideas and experiences... was an invaluable aspect of the program."

In his congratulatory keynote speech, Jeff Paniati, Associate Administrator for Operations at Federal Highway Administration, emphasized the importance of developing a cadre of professionals with traffic operations skills. He stated, "The graduates of this Inaugural Session are our future leaders in the operations discipline and in the transportation profession. We look forward to following their careers." John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO, also participated in the graduation ceremonies and recognized the value of the Academy in that it addresses the Nation's need for individuals with knowledge of transportation operations.

Phil Tarnoff, Director of the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology at the University of Maryland stated, "What sets this program apart from

conventional training is the focus on transportation operation, delivered in a way that will ensure all students fully understand and remember the principles of transportation operations. The combination of presentations, workshops, and field trips allows students to learn, practice and retain the management, policies and technical concepts being presented.”

The next session of the program will be offered November 5-16, 2007. Nomination Forms are available at www.operationsacademy.org.

The development of the Operations Academy was funded by the I-95 Corridor Coalition and produced by the Center for Advanced Transportation Technology at the University of Maryland.

At the conclusion of the program, all twenty two participants had extremely positive things to say about the program. Below is a sampling of their feedback.

- “The Operations Academy was an excellent opportunity to interact with experts from around the country. This program provided a number of fundamental tools that operating organizations of the future will need. I recommend this course for planners, engineers and managers that are involved in transportation operations.” - Tim Wolfe, Arizona DOT
- “The Operations Academy provided a strong, relevant program which addressed many of the problems and issues I face on an on-going basis.” - Bill Legg, Washington State DOT
- “The Operations Academy brought the philosophy of conceptual operations into clear focus. It will build future leaders that will move into decision making positions.” - Tom Blaine, New Mexico DOT
- “This was an incredibly comprehensive program. I will be able to apply concepts learned right away, not only from the country’s expert in operations, but from our peer states’ experiences as well. I will recommend the program strongly to others in my state!” - Rob Limoges, New York State DOT
- “The Operations Academy provides an excellent understanding of why it is important that we begin to shift our agency’s focus from design and construction to operations and maintenance.” - Woody Hood Jr., Maryland State Highway Administration

Below is a list of March 2007 Graduates:

Tom Blaine
New Mexico DOT ITS Bureau

Frank Cippel, PE
PennDOT

Steve Clinger
FHWA

Patty Eason, PE
North Carolina DOT

Jonathan Hanson
New Hampshire DOT-Bureau of Turnpikes

Woody Hood
MD SHA - OOTS

Daniel Jacobs
MTA Bridges & Tunnels

Paul Jodoin
Massachusetts Highway Department

Tim Lattner
Florida DOT

Bill Legg
Washington State DOT

Ling Li, PE
Virginia DOT

Robert Limoges
NYS DOT-Operations Division

Wesley Mitchell
MD SHA

Scott Nazar
PennDOT

Michael Smith
Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition

Lee Starkloff
MD SHA

Gregory Stone
Maine Turnpike Authority

Mohamad Tales, PE, PTOE
New York City DOT

Paul Wai
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Jeffrey Weatherford
City of Houston DPW & Engineering

Aaron Weatherholt
Illinois DOT

Tim Wolfe
Arizona DOT

Additional information about the Operations Academy can be found at
www.operationsacademy.org.

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