



# ILLINOIS INTERCHANGE

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## SOCIAL MEDIA can be effective part of public engagement plans

Social media can be effective as a strategic and select part of public engagement plans, according to findings of a University of Minnesota study.

The project investigated current knowledge about public engagement through social media nationwide and in Minnesota. It also developed guidance about how social media may be used to reach and engage diverse populations in the state about transportation planning and projects.

Co-principal investigators of the multiyear study were Professor Ingrid Schneider of the Department of Forest Resources and Associate Professor Kathryn Quick of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

“Public engagement for transportation planning and programs is not only required, it’s a crucial component in policy and project success,” Schneider says. “Since 2000, advances in technology and communications provide opportunities to engage with more people in new ways.”

For their analysis, the team used multiple methods: a literature review, telephone interviews, and four case studies.

“The literature review indicated social media needs to be part of a multi-pronged engagement plan,” Schneider says. “While 90 percent of U.S. adults are online and 69 percent use social media, a social media-only plan may not reach people over the age of 65 or with a high school education only. Platform use also varies considerably: African Americans and Latinos, for example, use video-sharing more than other groups.”

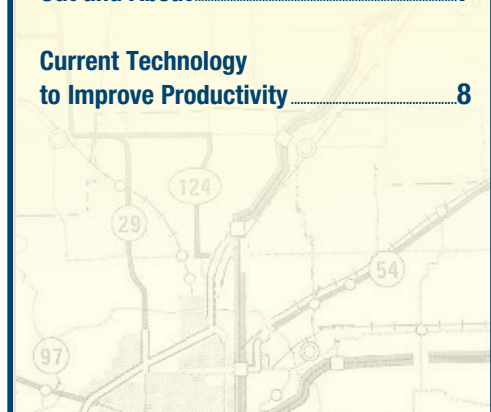
Phone interviews of more than 800 Minnesotans found that 72 percent use social media, and 11 to 21 percent participated in some way for planning transportation programs, policies, and projects in the previous year. In addition, 36 percent expressed interest in using social media to get information, provide feedback, or make suggestions related to transportation programs, policy, and planning.

The case studies compared transportation projects in Minnesota: two with significant social media use (Richfield, Red Wing), and two with low use (Saint Paul, Detroit Lakes). Findings revealed that the two projects with higher levels of social media had more connections with stakeholders. The quality and effectiveness of those connections, however, varied.

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Please pass this on to other interested parties in your office.

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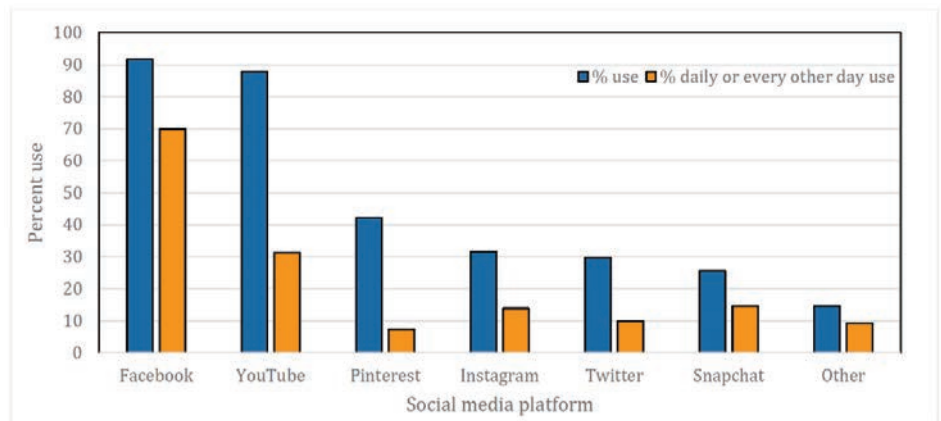
**Social Media Continued from p.1**

“Government social media primarily informed audiences, while community-created pages fostered deeper engagement and dialogue,” Quick says. “In addition, the quality of social media, and their combination with other outreach technologies, influenced stakeholders’ perceptions of the engagement efforts.”

The project was funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Minnesota Local Road Research Board (LRRB).

“MnDOT and LRRB are committed to listening to and learning from the public,” says Renee Raduenz, MnDOT market research manager. “Social media provides a unique, efficient, and potentially inclusive tool in those efforts. This research brings us one step closer to understanding how we can maximize the power of social media to its fullest.” Taken as a whole, the findings suggest at least four main opportunities to strengthen meaningful social media engagement:

- Social media cannot stand alone or be used as a substitute for more traditional and collaborative public engagement methods. Additionally, it is most effective when it is shared and dynamic: Pay attention and contribute to community-created social media pages, and provide a regular diet of new information and updates for people to stay engaged.
- Consider the demographic qualities of the key stakeholders to determine how social media can be most useful.
- Employ best practices for social media management, such as using hashtags to organize data, posting dynamic content (project videos, live streams), and clearly stating social media guidelines.
- Expand and/or develop research and evaluation plans to understand and assess future social media engagement efforts.



Percent overall platform use and daily or every other day platform use among Minnesota State Survey 2016 social media users

**NEW EMPLOYEE**

Tiana Mathis joins the IDOT Technology Transfer Center on August 16th as part of the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program through UIS. Tiana currently resides in Jacksonville after coming downstate from the Chicago area. She graduated with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in Communications focusing on Public Relations at Purdue University. She was accepted into the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) Program at UIS in Springfield where she will start in the Fall of 2018. Tiana has worked as a substitute teacher at the Jacksonville School District. She also has been an assistant manager at Enterprise Holdings Group and a Night Manager with a hotel chain in Chicago.

Tiana will be handling a wide arrange of duties within the T2 center. She will be helping with processing the Flagger tests and producing the Flagger Cards to students who successfully pass the Flagger class and test. She will also be helping the staff by organizing class locations for the Spring 2019 training program. Tiana will be involved with the February 2019 Illinois Interchange Newsletter in producing articles for the newsletter. Please help me welcome Tiana to our team at the T2 Center.



# CHAINSAW OPERATION

## Keeping Your Limbs

Operating a chainsaw safely and effectively is important for anyone that plans to use a chainsaw. Not losing your limbs, while cutting tree limbs, is a goal for anyone that is operating a chainsaw. Public works employees, whether in the street department, water department, waste water department, or fire department, often need to clear trees and limbs from right-of-ways, roadways, or water/sewer lines.



### Before Starting a Chainsaw

1. Check controls, chain tension, and all bolts and handles to ensure they are functioning properly and are adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Make sure the chain is always sharp and the lubrication reservoir is full.
3. Start the saw on the ground or on another firm support. Drop starting is never allowed.
4. Start the saw at least 10 feet from the fueling area, with the chain's brake engaged.

Source: OSHA QUICKCARD

### Some Chainsaw Terminology

1. **Felling** - Safely cutting down a tree, including making a series of cuts that causes a tree to fall to the ground
2. **Reactive Forces** - a. **Pushback** - Cutting with the top of the bar will push the saw back toward the sawyer. b. **Pull-in** - cutting with the bottom of the bar will pull the saw away from the sawyer. c. **Kickback** - Cutting with the top quarter of the bar nose will cause the tip of the saw to

thrust up or sideways toward the sawyer.

Source: USDA Forest Service Saw Operations Guide, 2016 Electronic Edition v 1.3.1

### Personal Protective Equipment

Using proper personal protective equipment can help prevent or reduce the severity of an injury while operating a chainsaw or being around a chainsaw in use.

#### Head Protection

- A hard hat must be worn at all times. Do not place stickers, drill holes, or paint on a hard hat. All of these things will weaken it.

#### Hearing Protection

- According to OSHA, chainsaws can create noise levels of up to 95 to 115 decibels. Always wear an appropriate hearing protection device.

#### Eye Protection

- There's no going back once your eyes have become damaged. Be sure to always wear safety glasses with side shields or goggles while operating or around a chainsaw. Always wear safety glasses even while wearing a hard hat with a face shield.

#### Leg Protection

- Wear trousers and chaps with ballistic nylon fabric, which have fibers woven tightly together to help stop a chainsaw if it comes into contact with fabric.
- Only wear chaps that feature the UL certified mark label, meaning that they have been tested for safety.
- Keep chaps clean. Chainsaw operators want the ballistic nylon fibers to remain loose and fluffy, not matted together. Chaps are washing machine safe; however, do not put them in the dryer.
- Replace chaps if damaged.

#### Foot Protection

- Wear safety work boots at all times – No tennis shoes!





A TECHNICAL SERVICE PROGRAM OF:



**The Illinois Technology Transfer Center is excited to bring FREE online training to our customers! Please read below, sign-up and take advantage of this great FREE online training.**

FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) finalized an agreement for a project that is fantastic news for local and tribal transportation professionals. Through funding from FHWA, the agreement provides these practitioners access to the AASHTO TC3 library.

Access to the exceptional portfolio of training the AASHTO TC3 library provides, advances the mission of FHWA's Center for Local Aid Support (CLAS) – providing training and technical assistance to local government and tribal transportation practitioners across the United States through the Local and Tribal Technical Assistance Programs.

AASHTO's goal with TC3 is to create and maintain a fully optimized curriculum to respond to the changing needs of the transportation technical workforce. Courses provided by TC3 are developed through a collaboration of national best practices and a network of knowledgeable subject matter experts. This connection to practitioners ensures the curriculum informs transportation leaders with potential solutions to the challenges they face today and in the future.

So, if you are a transportation practitioner working for a local or tribal government and want to improve your construction, maintenance, and material selection processes and projects, please take the opportunity this agreement provides to access the AASHTO TC3 catalogue that provides over 120 courses and some of the best online training available anywhere. To browse and access TC3 course offerings, go to <https://tc3.transportation.org/>

You will need an AASHTO account to access the FHWA sponsored online training courses. If you have not previously registered for an AASHTO account, please go to

<https://register.transportation.org>, select Register, and then enter your email address to create an AASHTO account. Please use your agency email address to register.

To gain access to available training courses, please follow the steps below and use the provided promotion code to access sponsored training courses:

1. Go to <https://training.transportation.org> and enter your email address and password on the left menu to Log In.
2. Search through the available training courses to select the course(s) that you would like to access and add them to the Shopping Cart.
3. When you are ready to checkout, click Shopping Cart on the top menu and enter the following promotion code and select Apply:

Promotion Code:  
**D5X3-B3D9-52CB-4XCX**

4. Click Checkout to proceed with placing the order.

To launch purchased training courses, select My Training from the menu at the top of the page. This will display a list of purchased courses that you can complete.



## General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioner

The 2017 General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioners Training was a huge success in 2017. Final attendance of 501 for the 14 training sessions was the biggest turnout on record. The training was held around the state in 14 different locations. The folks from Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) and Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association (TOIRMA) presented the Budget and Levy at each of the locations. We also had a combination of County Engineers, State Senators, IDOT District personnel, and IDOT T2 staff present topics at each of the locations. We look forward to 2021 with even more ideas on how to enhance the training. Please see the attached training location insert of an agenda from the Knox County training.



**Illinois: 102 Counties -1,456 Road Districts/Townships -1,298 Municipalities**

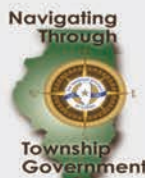
Knoxville American Legion • Tuesday, September 12, 2017

### 2017 General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioner Training

Date	Location	District	T2 - Presenter	Attendance
7/27/2017	Effingham County Emergency Operations Center in Effingham, IL	7	Barry Kent	56
8/10/2017	IDOT Central Office Hanley Auditorium in Springfield, IL	6	Barry Kent	21
8/15/2017	District 3 Headquarters in Ottawa, IL	3	Tim Peters	34
8/17/2017	John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL	9	Barry Kent	28
8/22/2017	St. Clair County Courthouse Board Room in Belleville, IL	8	Tim Peters	30
8/23/2017	Geneseo Community Park District Community Center in Geneseo, IL	2	Stephanie Stoverink	35
8/24/2017	Carroll County Farm Bureau in Mt. Carroll, IL	2	Stephanie Stoverink	29
8/29/2017	Madison County Highway Department in Edwardsville, IL	8	Cancelled	0
8/30/2017	Kankakee Community College in Kankakee, IL	3	Stephanie Stoverink	24
8/31/2017	Rockford Mass Transit District in Rockford, IL	2	Stephanie Stoverink	33
9/05/2017	Urbana Civic Center in Urbana, IL	5	Barry Kent	57
9/08/2017	Schuyler County Highway Department in Rushville, IL	6	Tim Peters	43
9/12/2017	American Legion in Knoxville, IL	4	Barry Kent	53
9/13/2017	Morton Township Building in Morton, IL	4	Tim Peters	28
9/15/2017	District 1 Headquarters in Schaumburg, IL	1	Tim Peters	30
8:00-8:30 Signup • 8:30-4:00 Training				Total: 501
Contact your County Engineer for more information				

### 2017 General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioner Training Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter
8:00-8:30	Registration and Sign-Up	IDOT Technology Transfer Center Staff
8:30-8:45	Welcome and Introductions	IDOT Technology Transfer Center Staff
8:45-9:45	Do's and Don'ts (Prevailing Wage, Social Media, Open Meetings Act, FOIA)	John Redingshafer, Attorney, Hwy, Roadway Worker & Allen, P/C
9:45-10:30	Small Drainage/Bridge Inspection	Duano J. Ratermann, P.E., Knox County Engineer
10:30-10:45	Stretch, Break, Ask Questions	
10:45-11:30	Traffic Signs/MUTCDC	
11:30-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-1:15	Budget/Levy	Barry Kent IDOT Technology Transfer Center Staff
1:15-2:00	Motor Fuel Tax (MFT)	Sponsors TOIRMA or TOI
2:00-2:15	Stretch, Break, Ask Questions	Deb Baxter, TWM Consulting
2:15-3:00	Seal Coating	
3:00-3:45	Working Together Intergovernmental Agreements and Emergency Management	Rick Beyers, Asphalt Materials, Inc. & Emulsions, Inc.
3:45-4:00	Open Discussion/Adjourn	Nicole L. Grube, P.E., Fulton County Engineer
Contact your County Engineer for more information		
IDOT Technology Transfer Center Staff		





# ILLINOIS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER

## 2018-19 Training

### Training Class

Instructor

### ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plans

Tim Peters (IDOT)

### ADA/PROWAG (Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way) Seminar

Traci Baker (FHWA) and Carrie Nelsen (IDOT)

### Basic Essentials of the Uniform Act, Real Estate Workshop for LPAs

James Kyte (FHWA)

### Basic Math Refresher Training

Barry Kent (IDOT)

### Basic Supervisory Skills

Barry Kent (IDOT)

### Excavating-Trenching

County Highway Department

### Flagger Training

Stephanie Stoverink (IDOT)

### General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioner

Barry Kent (IDOT)

### HEC-RAS Training

Consultant

### IDOT Phase 1 Course

John Sherrill (IDOT) and Felecia Hurley (IDOT)  
 Carlos Feliciano (IDOT) and Charles Riddle (IDOT)  
 Kevin Stallworth (IDOT) and Janel Beile (IDOT)  
 Sherry Phillips (IDOT) and Janis Piland (FHWA)  
 Jerry Stevenson (FHWA) and Ken Runkle (IDOT)

### Illinois Roads Scholar Program

APWA Chicago Metro Chapter in conjunction with IDOT T2

### Implementing Safe Work Zone Operations Strategies

FHWA

### Instructing the Implementing Safe Work Zone Operations Strategies Training Course

FHWA

### MFT (Motor Fuel Tax) Accounting & Compliance Review

Consultant

### MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) Training

Dean Mentjes (FHWA) and Marshall Metcalf (IDOT)

### Permeable Pavements Workshop

FHWA

### Project Administration Seminar

IDOT T2

### QBS (Quality Based Selection) Training

Tim Peters (IDOT)

### Seal Coats (Oil and Chipping)

Terry Fountain (Consultant)

### Snow and Ice Control

Tim Peters (IDOT)

### TMOST (Tractor Mower Operator Safety Training)

Consultant

### Understanding USACE and IDNR/OWR Permitting Requirements for Road Projects

Donna Jones (Army Corp of Engineers) and Steve Altman (IDNR) – Downstate  
 Keith McMullen (Army Corp of Engineers) and Steve Altman (IDNR) – St. Louis District  
 Julie Rimbault (Army Corp of Engineers) and Gary Jereb (IDNR) – Chicago area

### WMFT (Web Motor Fuel Tax)

Barry Kent (IDOT)

### Work Zone Safety

Juan Pava (IDOT) and Dean Mentjes (FHWA)

### You, Others & Their Real Colors *(Real Colors Series Program)*

**Real Solutions** *(Real Colors Series Program)*

**Real Applications** *(Real Colors Series Program)*

**Real Teams** *(Real Colors Series Program)*

Stephanie Stoverink (IDOT)



# OUT AND ABOUT

come meet the T2 staff!

## The Illinois Technology Transfer Center events in 2018

- January 7-8 in Washington DC at the Winter **NLTAPA** meeting
- March 18-19 in Springfield at the **TCTR** DBE conference
- March 27-28 in Decatur at the **ECIHCA** seminar
- April 11-13 in Bloomington at the **IACE** annual Spring meeting
- May 2-4 in Peoria at the **APWA** Illinois Chapter conference
- May 7-11 in Effingham at the **APWA** Illinois Roads Scholar Program
- May 23-25 in Villa Park at the **APWA** Chicago Metro Chapter conference
- June 19-20 in LaHarpe at the **WCIHCA** seminar
- July 23-26 in New Orleans at the **NLTAPA** conference
- August 6-7 in Peoria at the **THCOI** conference
- September 14 in Edwardsville at the **APWA** Snow Rodeo
- September 20-21 in Chicago at the **IML** conference
- October 10-12 in East Peoria at the **IACE** annual Fall meeting
- October 16-17 in Bloomington at the **IPWMAN** conference
- November 12-13 in Springfield at the **TOI** education conference

The T2 center has a strong relationship with the following:

- APWA**  
*(American Public Works Association)*
- ECIHCA**  
*(East Central Illinois Highway Commissioners Association)*
- IACE**  
*(Illinois Association of County Engineers)*
- IML**  
*(Illinois Municipal League)*
- IPWMAN**  
*(Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network)*
- LTAP**  
*(Local Technical Assistance Program)*
- NACE**  
*(National Association of County Engineers)*
- NLTAPA**  
*(National Local Technical Assistance Program Association)*
- NTTD**  
*(National Transportation Training Directors)*
- TRB**  
*(Transportation Research Board)*
- TCTR**  
*(Today's Challenge Tomorrow's Reward)*
- THCOI**  
*(Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois)*
- TOI**  
*(Township Officials of Illinois)*
- TOIRMA**  
*(Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association)*
- WCIHCA**  
*(West Central Illinois Highway Commissioners Association)*



**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Rodeo**  
**Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville**



## BUREAU OF LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS LEVERAGES CURRENT TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, BOOST COST SAVINGS

The Bureau of Local Roads and Streets recently overhauled their record-keeping process for local public agencies, resulting in time and money saved.

BLRS had maintained project files for thousands of local public agencies in a traditional paper-based filing system that was outdated and cumbersome.

In contrast, the bureau used a modern, web-based application for project and funding tracking. This application, commonly referred to as the WMFT system, is used daily by BLRS statewide.

Working with the Bureau of Business Services and Bureau of Information Processing, BLRS leveraged the existing WMFT application to create the department's first virtual filing system. Using the existing architecture and search functions of the WMFT system, the bureau was able to move quickly to implement this system at no cost to the department.

The new virtual filing system is efficient and cost-effective. Because paper files are no longer needed, paper and printing costs have been eliminated. Once documents are uploaded to the system, according to disposal rules, the originals can be destroyed, saving storage costs.

Labor costs have also been reduced. In the past, when retention schedules were met, a file from the district was manually combined with the file in Central Office before it could be microfilmed. With the virtual system, the files are already stored in one location. When documents meet retention criteria and are ready to be microfilmed, they can simply be pulled from the WMFT system.

With documents uploaded as they are approved, files are available to all BLRS employees in real time. The system will also be available to other bureaus. For example, if the Bureau of Construction has an ongoing local agency project and

needs to review a document, staff can simply access the WMFT system and retrieve the document rather than requesting the file. These innovations make the need for copying and mailing files a thing of the past.

For more information about the virtual filing system, contact Barry Kent, technology transfer program manager, at 217-785-2350 or [barry.kent@illinois.gov](mailto:barry.kent@illinois.gov).





The Technology Transfer (T2) Program is a nationwide effort financed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and individual state departments of transportation. Its purpose is to transfer the latest state-of-the-art technology in the areas of roads and bridges by translating the technology into terms understood by local and state highway or transportation personnel.

The Illinois Interchange is published quarterly by the Illinois Technology Transfer Center at the Illinois Department of Transportation. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect views of the Illinois Department of Transportation, or the Federal Highway Administration. Any product mentioned in the Illinois Interchange is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a product endorsement.

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**<https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/technology-transfer-center/index>**