

Human Factors for Transportation Professionals

DESCRIPTION:

As transportation professionals, improving transportation system safety is one of our primary responsibilities. To fulfill that responsibility, we use standards and guidelines based upon generations of engineering experience. This leads to roads that are inherently designed with safety as a principal goal. When coupled with modern vehicles that are as safe as ever, you might expect a continual reduction in traffic deaths and injuries.

Why is this not happening?

While roadway design and vehicle improvements are unquestionable, they represent only 2/3 of the system's crash causation contributors. As transportation professionals, we often forget the other 1/3 of the system's crash causation contributors – the driver and his behavior.

You might say, "I cannot control the driver." While we certainly are not in a position to control the driver's behavior, we do have significant influence over how she receives (or doesn't) the messages we send with our geometric alignment, signs, marking, and signals. In fact, we often send the driver conflicting messages then wonder why he makes the wrong decision.

This course provides you an introduction to human factors, specifically as they relate to roadway engineering, operations, and maintenance. With this knowledge, you will better understand why drivers make what often appear to be senseless decisions. You will then learn how to apply proven techniques to modify your roadways and help guide the driver to desirable decisions.

These human factors components, when understood and properly addressed, provide the foundation for improving the performance of users including inexperienced drivers, unfamiliar drivers, and older drivers. Through a combination of mini lectures, group activities, demonstrations, and case studies, you will gain competency in the major human factors components that contribute to driver performance on your roadway network.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Recognize that Human Factors has a role in highway design, operations and safety decisions.
2. Identify and discuss human factors information that is included in today's guidelines and standards.
3. Characterize human capabilities needed for using roadways.
4. Apply basic human factors principles to resolve issues related to highway design, operations and safety.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Federal, State, and local transportation, traffic and safety engineers, maintenance personnel, planners, and other transportation professionals who are involved in making transportation systems work.

INSTRUCTOR:

Keith A. Trimels has 20 years of experience in the transportation industry. He has designed, built, and maintained roads throughout the western U.S. His experience ranges from materials testing to multi-million dollar project management and business development.

Mr. Trimels has worked in both the private and public sectors, and most recently was a nationally recognized safety and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) engineer with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before serving as the Western Regional Manager for a national ITS consultant. He is currently a Principal with IDT Group where he incorporates his broad experience into technical, leadership, and organizational training for transportation organizations and others.

Registration Procedure

- 1) Please contact Gail Ikeda at 956-8367, 956-8851 (FAX) or gail@eng.hawaii.edu by **Friday, August 24, 2007**.
- 2) Attendance is limited, and preference is given to local government employees.
- 3) Private company participation is on a space available basis at a fee of \$65 per person. Please make checks payable to the **Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)** and mail to: *Hawaii LTAP, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, 2540 Dole Street, Holmes Hall 383, Honolulu, HI 96822.*

Cancellations

Please contact us if you must cancel your registration or if someone will be substituting for you. Refunds will be made if notice of cancellation is received at least 3 workdays prior to the workshop date.

Parking

Parking is available at the University of Hawaii Hilo for \$3.

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August 31, 2007

University of Hawaii Hilo
Ho'oulu Terrace, UCB Room 127
200 W. Kawili Street

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Workshop sponsored by the

**Hawaii Local Technical Assistance
Program**

in cooperation with the
*Hawaii State Department of Transportation
University of Hawaii's
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