

# Common Cents

August 2008 Volume 1

NJDOT Asset Management Quarterly

## **Kuhn's Korner**

### **Welcome to Common Cents – NJDOT's Asset Management Quarterly!**

We've taken the title from Revolutionary War patriot – and New Jersey resident – Thomas Paine, who was rightly famous for espousing common sense in the aptly named pamphlet "Common Sense". Asset management is the systematic process of maintaining, upgrading and operating our assets cost-effectively, and it is a common sense approach for programming our limited dollars.

Common Cents is dedicated to improving the awareness and understanding of asset management at NJDOT. It is also a resource for sharing all of the good work going on at NJDOT. We plan to publish Common Cents on a quarterly basis, and it will be available on NJDOT's intranet page.

As Commissioner Kolluri stated in his For The Record earlier this year, "we are working toward improving our procedures for allocating and using resources, leveraging our strengths, and improving the integration of data, information and decision-making." Clearly, asset management is synonymous with good business practice.

The division I head, Capital Investment Strategies, has been tasked by Commissioner Kolluri to develop and advance the Department's Asset Management program. But we can't do it alone. We will need your interest, insight, ideas, and can-do attitude. Common Cents will focus on the Department's asset management efforts, and on the employees here who carry out these efforts. We look forward to working with you!

## **Asset Management Steering Committee begins work**

The Department's newly formed Asset Management Steering Committee kicked off its first meeting on April 30, 2008.

"Asset Management goes to the core of what we do as a transportation agency," said Deputy Commissioner Steve Dilts, the Chairman of the Committee. "Our vision is for the Committee to be a decision-making body that provides support and guidance to our agency's Asset Management program."

In addition to the Chairman, the Committee's membership is made up of the following: Rick Hammer, Assistant Commissioner, Capital Program Man-

agement, Bob Miller, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Planning and Development, Jeff Callahan, Assistant Commissioner, Operations, Candie Brown, Assistant Commissioner, Administration, Dave Kuhn, Executive Director, Capital Investment Strategies, Jim Hogan, Executive Director, Statewide Traffic Operations, Nelida Valentin, Executive Director, Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, Sue Hattman, Acting Director, Information Technology, and Steve Hanson, Chief Financial Officer. Bob Salman, Inspector General, and Dennis Merida, Administrator of the NJ FHWA Divisional Office, also participate in an advisory capacity.



### **Asset Management Steering Committee begins work ... continued**

“Asset Management is about the proper stewardship of our assets,” said Jeff Callahan. “We always face challenges in terms of our work, our staff and resources, so having the ability to guide and track our work and quantify the results, will be of great benefit.

The Committee will focus on developing an Asset Management Plan, and an Asset Management Improvement Strategy for the Department. “We need good management systems, but at the same time, the systems are only as good as the information we put into them,” said Jim Hogan. “What is the value of this data we are using, and is it ultimately helpful?”

“It’s also important that we ensure that Asset Management is not only data driven,” said Nelida Valentin, “but that we factor in our human assets who are making decisions, and how those decisions affect our customers.” For more information about the Steering Committee, please go to: <http://njdotintranet.dot.state.nj.us/about/asset/steering.shtm>



### **27 NJDOTers receive asset management training**

Twenty seven NJDOT employees attended a one day training class on Transportation Asset Management on May 1, 2008 at NJDOT’s Ewing Headquarters. Sponsored by the FHWA and the National Highway Institute, the class was taught by instructors Katie Zimmerman and Omar Smadi.

The instructors presented an overview of asset management, and taught its principles and provided exercises on asset management.

“The course provided a very good overview of the Asset Management philosophy,” said Susan Gresavage, Manager of Pavement and Drainage Management Technology. “The exercises gave the attendees the opportunity to explore some of the critical thought processes involved in developing an Asset Management program.

“The Asset Management training class was very informative. The class provided good insight into the importance of investing our funds wisely,” said Bob Signora, Project Manager in the Program Management Office. “It also reinforced the concept that it's imperative to repair and maintain our existing infrastructure.”

Additional training classes for NJDOT employees are being planned.



*“The three great essentials to achieving anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.” - Thomas Edison*

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