

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Ready to Roll - Seasonal Preparations

Dear Nevada Transportation Professionals,

As the days grow shorter and cooler weather approaches, our transportation teams are getting **“Ready to Roll”** for the season ahead.

Preparing roads for the colder months takes planning, teamwork, and attention to detail. From routine maintenance and pavement repairs to checking equipment, clearing drainage systems, and preparing for changing road conditions, this work upholds our transportation network. Cooler temperatures, rain, frost, fog, and eventually winter weather can quickly impact driving conditions. We can all do our part to ensure our roads are safe and dependable.

In this issue, we'll take you behind the scenes to see how crews prepare the roads for the months ahead, provide some safety preparations for drivers, and celebrate the life and contributions of one of our beloved instructors.

We're ready to roll out seasonal maintenance efforts to keep everyone moving in Nevada!

Respectfully,
Carrie Brown, MSML
NVLTAP Director



What's Inside?

Instructor Spotlight	2
Preparations for Seasonal Changes	3
Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter	4
Remembering Scott Alquist	5
First Annual Transportation Peer Exchange.....	6
Providing Training That Matters!	7
Photo Contest	7
Road Scholar Program	8
Funding Opportunities.....	9
Technical Assistance	9
Training Season.....	10



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NVLTAP INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

Ron Eck is a professor emeritus of civil engineering at West Virginia University and Director of the West Virginia LTAP Center. Ron's professional focus has been on traffic engineering and roadway safety. Additionally, he has been involved in forensic engineering for 40 years and has testified in roadway cases in 20 states. We are excited to spotlight Ron Eck in our fall newsletter and hope you all enjoy learning more about him as well!



Dr. Ronald W. Eck, P.E.

NVLTAP: What was your first job in the field or the most interesting job you've had?

Ron: The most interesting work I have been involved with has been forensic engineering. The gathering of evidence, analyzing information, identifying causes of crashes, forming opinions and then communicating those opinions in depositions and at trial is interesting and intellectually stimulating.

I became interested in this topic when I served as a forensic engineer in several cases where road agencies had been sued. I found the process, from Complaint to testifying at trial, very interesting and recognized that there are risk management lessons to be learned from such claims.

NVLTAP: What is the best piece of professional advice you've received?

Ron: "Good communication is everything."

NVLTAP: What's one thing you hope participants take away from this course?

Ron: That they shouldn't let fear of a lawsuit against them or their agency stop them from implementing new/innovative techniques or solutions. As long as they follow accepted practices and techniques, an agency can defend itself against tort claims. Actually, most claims against road agencies involve allegations that the agency failed to follow their policies/guidelines or failed to maintain the facility, not because they did something new or different.

They can apply what they learned the next time they "ride their roads" by being able to identify certain roadway situations often associated with tort claims. In addition, they can apply their knowledge by following applicable policies and guidelines in their work and documenting their work.

NVLTAP: What brought you to teaching and what do you enjoy the most about it?

Ron: Actually, it was probably poor instructors I had in school, in college and in continuing education classes. To me this was unacceptable. So I tried to gain an understanding of basic learning principles and sought to apply this along with subject matter expertise to help convey relevant information to participants in the class.

No pun intended, but I got started "by accident". An attorney who knew I was a civil engineer called me and asked if I could help him in a roadway design case. I accepted the assignment and, as they say, the rest is history. As described above, I found the work to be very interesting and it provided great case studies to use in class.

NVLTAP: What do you enjoy most about teaching **Keeping Your Agency (and You!) Out of Court?**

Ron: I enjoy teaching "Keeping You and Your Agency Out of Court" (also known as Tort Liability and Risk Management) since the material is applicable to all transportation employees, whether they are involved in maintenance, operations, construction or design.

The fact that I learn something new in every class. Also the post-class interactions where participants email questions to me or share photographs/anecdotes relevant to the class.

NVLTAP: What transportation topic has your attention right now?

Ron: Right now, the topic of "liability neutral language" is top of mind. This involves using words and language, both written and spoken, that does not increase a public agency's tort liability risk exposure. It is true that "words have power."

**Learn more about another Nevada LTAP instructor in
our next quarterly newsletter!**

Preparations for Seasonal Change



Winter road maintenance in Nevada begins well before the first autumn leaf falls. As early as August, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) begins equipment preparations, testing anti-icing systems, and stockpiling materials to assist in road safety and to ensure roads are passable during fall and winter.

NDOT readies their snowplows and additional snow and ice removal equipment while stockpiling thousands of cubic yards of salt and sand. Crews also prepare by mixing sand with salt and brine, helping the material stay on the roadway in cold conditions. Liquid salt brine is produced and applied before storms to help delay ice formation.

Technology also plays an important role. NDOT maintains anti-icing systems on bridges and monitors Road Weather Information System (RWIS) stations that provide real-time information on pavements, air temperatures, and moisture. Weather forecasts and road conditions help crews target treatments where and when they are needed most.

During major storms, NDOT maintenance crews operate around the clock using rotating shifts. NDOT also coordinates with the Nevada State Police Highway Patrol to manage traffic, assist motorists, and implement temporary closures when conditions become hazardous.

Effective winter maintenance starts with preparation. Having equipment ready, materials available, accessing reliable weather information, and developing proactive treatment strategies make a significant difference when winter weather arrives.

References:

<https://www.reno.gov/government/departments/maintenance-operations/snow-ice-control.php>
<https://www.dot.nv.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6546/395?cftype=News>
<http://dot.nv.gov/projects-programs/road-maintenance>

Preparing Your Vehicle for Winter



As our state workers prepare the roads for us, we too can do our part to ensure safety during the colder months as well. Whether it's snow, sleet, or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. Driving slowly, signaling early, and being mindful of snowplows are all great habits for winter travel. Nationwide in 2023, snow and sleet contributed to **320 fatal crashes** and an estimated **22,293 injury crashes** based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrations finding. Preparation is crucial to staying safe.

Slick roads make it more difficult to stop and control your vehicle. Before winter, be sure to have your tires checked, possibly rotated, and inflated to the manufacture's recommendations to ensure quality traction for the upcoming seasonal change. As temperatures drop, so does your tire pressure. Inspect your tires at least once a month during colder months. Additionally, check for any damage, cuts on sidewalls, bumps, and punctures.

Just like tire pressure, battery power is also affected by the cold weather. Lower temperatures can often mean lower battery power. Having a mechanic look over your vehicle's battery, belts, charging system (if electric), is suggested before winter arrives.

Even with all the vehicle checks and preparations, emergencies can happen. It's important to be prepared and have an winter **emergency kit** in your car.

The American Automotive Association (AAA) suggests your emergency car kit contains the following:

- Phone chargers.
- Flashlight with extra batteries.
- Reflective or warning triangles.
- First-aid kit.
- Drinking water and non-perishable food for travelers and pets.
- Traction aids (sand, salt, non-clumping cat litter, or traction mats).
- Ice scraper or snow brush and small shovel.
- Extra coat, sweatshirt, spare gloves, hat, and blanket.

If you do find yourself in an emergency, AAA recommends the following:

- Stay with your vehicle.
- Do not try to walk in a severe storm.
- Do not overexert yourself.
- Ensure you exhaust pipe is not blocked or clogged.
- Use whatever you can to keep warm.
- Limit running the engine and heater to conserve gasoline.



By planning ahead, driving cautiously, and using the right winter maintenance practices, you can contribute to the safety of our winter roads. There is no better time than now to prepare for winter! Let's keep our communities safe and reduce winter weather-related crashes together.

References:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>
<https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/winter-driving-tips/>
<https://www.homedepot.com/c/ab/Best-snow-plows-for-your-plowing-business/9ba683603be9fa5395fab901ee944443>

Remembering Scott Alquist

Some instructors teach a course; others leave a lasting impression. **Scott Alquist was an instructor who made a real impact.**

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of one of Nevada LTAPs' well respected and admired instructors, Scott Alquist.

Scott was a valued member of the transportation community. His knowledge, dedication, and desire to help others left a lasting impact on so many.

Scott had a gift for making important safety lessons understandable—and memorable. Whether teaching Confined Spaces, OSHA 10 and 30, Trenching, various weather-specific training, or Workplace Safety, he connected the material to real-life situations and encouraged people to look out for one another.



Through years of training, Scott shared his knowledge, experience, humor, and passion for safety with countless workers. His students consistently described him as knowledgeable, engaging, professional, and passionate.

Scott's impact went far beyond the classroom. Students expressed that his training gave them *"more confidence in my safety at work,"* and *"helped me get prepared for anything."*

Students often noted his humor and personality shined just as much as his expertise:

"Scott kept it fun."

"Scott was clear with content and funny and engaging."

"Instructor was awesome, funny and knows his stuff."

"Scott was great, professional, fun and knowledgeable."

Perhaps the greatest testament to Scott's legacy is that his lessons continue long after his classes have ended. Every time someone recognizes a hazard, makes a safer choice, asks a thoughtful question, or looks out for a coworker, a piece of what Scott has taught them lives on.

Scott will be deeply missed by his colleagues, friends, and all of those who have had the privilege to learn from him. Our heartfelt condolences go to Scott's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time.

Scott didn't just teach safety; he instilled the importance and value of safety within every individual he taught. Nevada is safer thanks to Scott Alquist.

Nevada LTAP's First Annual Transportation Peer Exchange

On September 23, Nevada LTAP hosted its first **Annual Transportation Safety Peer Exchange**. This event brought together instructors, researchers, and private and public transportation professionals to promote a strong safety culture across Nevada. The virtual peer exchange showcased industry partnerships with quality safety outcomes for their roads.

Starting off the day of learning, **Mariela Solis** of Nevada LTAP highlighted how Storey County established a simplified, low-cost pavement management system using **PASER** inspections. Continuing with Nevada LTAP staff, director **Carrie Brown** then spoke about the importance and connection between public health and transportation, emphasizing how injury prevention strategies can be integrated into local planning.

Meg Robertson of the Massachusetts DOT expanded on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). She also discussed the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards for accessible pedestrian barricades. Such standards support the protection of pedestrians with visual or mobility impairments around construction sites.

Andi Bill of Wisconsin LTAP then outlined the traffic safety data lifecycle, explaining how combining crash, telematics, and hospital records help identify roadway risks before accidents occur.

Walt Catlett, one of Nevada LTAP's key instructors, provided a breakdown of the eight-step Road Safety Audit (RSA) process. This training was followed by **Todd Morrison**, another excellent Nevada LTAP instructor, who showcased emerging protection tools. These tools included Automated Flagger Assistance Devices (AFADs) and smart safety vests to reduce worker exposure.



Participant Feedback:

"The speakers were all super knowledgeable and engaging. They displayed such an effortless understanding of their topics to make learning easy. I really enjoyed that the moderator kept the event on schedule and provided plenty of opportunities to take 'bio breaks.'"

"The peer exchange clarified how other agencies are using existing tools in their communities."

Scott Tison of Alabama LTAP reviewed Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) fundamentals to minimize work zone crashes and project delays. **Kate Davison** of North Carolina LTAP ended the day by sharing NC DOT's Work Zone Inspector certification program to ensure rigorous oversight from deployment through inspection.

Thank you to all our presenters and participants for making this event a great learning experience for all!

Nevada LTAP will be hosting another Peer Exchange in 2027. To submit ideas of topics to explore, please fill out our 2026-2027 Nevada LTAP Needs Assessment.

Providing Training That Matters!



Nevada LTAP is seeking feedback on creating our 2027 training calendar. To ensure future course offerings align with the real-world needs of our local agencies and transportation professionals, Nevada LTAP is conducting a survey to gather feedback on training priorities.

Participating in feedback is quick and simple! Scan the QR code featured on the image above or click [HERE](#).

Your feedback will determine the topics, training formats, and dates LTAP will prioritize for the 2027 training schedule. Take a moment to share your input and help shape a calendar that best fits your team!

Nevada LTAP

PHOTO CONTEST

HAVE YOUR PHOTO FEATURED IN OUR 2027 CALENDAR!

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: CARL SHRIDER 2025

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: STEVEN ALONZO 2025

Scan or click [here](#) to submit your photo

Scan or click [here](#) to pre-order a copy of the calendar

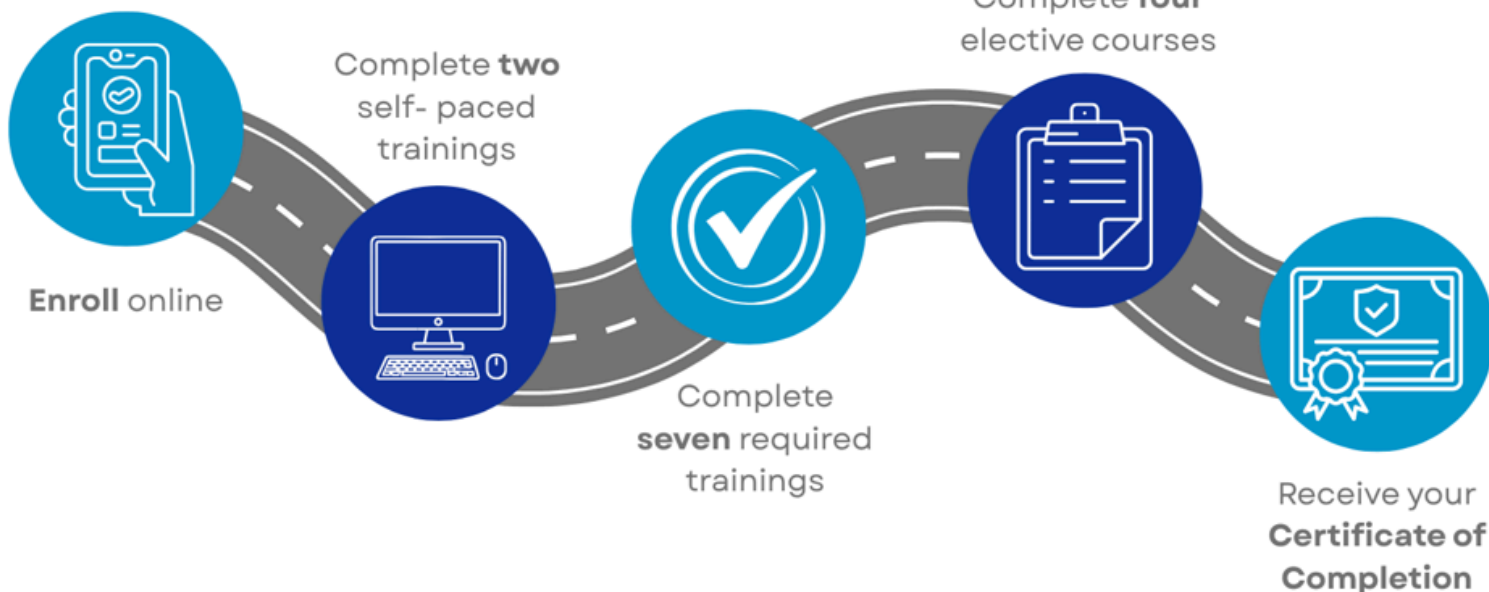
GRAND PRIZE

The grand prize winner will have their image featured on the cover of the 2027 Nevada LTAP calendar! They will also receive a Nevada LTAP hat, along with registration and travel fees covered for attendance at the [2027 Nevada Spring APWA Conference](#).

Submit/Order by December 11

ROAD SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Nevada LTAP Road Scholar Program is an opportunity for transportation and public works professionals to expand their technical skills and advance their careers. Once enrolled, participants have a span of 5 years to complete 13 courses, some of their own choosing. Nevada LTAP is proud to recognize graduates with a Road Scholar Program certificate. Completion of this robust program showcases your dedication to learning and expanding your skill set.



Funding Opportunities



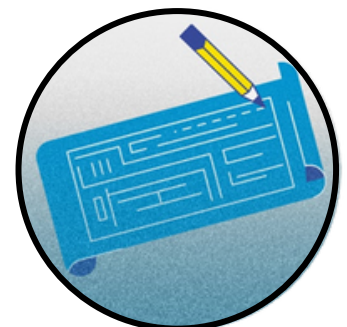
Grant Title	Closing Date
National Center for Construction Safety and Health Research and Translation	December 1, 2026
FAA Aviation Research Grants Program	September 7, 2027
Innovative Traffic Safety Enforcement (ITSE) Grant Program	September 7, 2027
Occupational Safety and Health Training Project Grants (T03)	October 26, 2028
State Electronic Crash Data Collection	TBD
FY26 US DOT Drone Infrastructure Inspection Grants (DIIG) Program	TBD
Core State Injury Prevention Program (Core SIPP)	TBD

Technical Assistance

If you have any technical assistance questions on pavements, program development, asset management, plans, asphalt, grant writing, safety, and more, reach out to us.

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Training Season



Course Title	Date	Location
ATSSA Flagger Training	October 20, 2026	Reno
ATSSA Flagger Training	October 21, 2026	Reno
Road Safety 365	November 3-4, 2026	Virtual
Basic Work Zone Traffic Control	November 10, 2026	Las Vegas
NHI: 420018 Instructor Development Course	November 17-19, 2026	Reno
Pesticide Applicator Training	November 17-18, 2026	Elko
Selecting the Right Pavement Preservation Treatments	November 24, 2026	Virtual
Pavement Marking Installation and Maintenance	December 1-2, 2026	Virtual
Pesticide Applicator Training	December 1-2, 2026	Reno
Barrier Basics	December 8, 2026	Virtual
Keeping Your Agency (and You!) Out of Court	December 16-17, 2026	Virtual

Seeking additional training opportunities? Visit the NVLTAP training event [calendar](#) and [course catalog](#).