

Spring 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPTC!

The Southern Plains Transportation Center has been selected by the US Department of Transportation as the regional University Transportation Center for USDOT Region 6. SPTC is one of 34 centers nationwide selected by the USDOT in the 2022 UTC competition. Located on the OU Norman campus, the SPTC consortium will receive \$3 million per year for five years. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation also provides significant support for SPTC.

Climate change presents a significant and growing risk to the safety, effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of the transportation infrastructure and the communities it serves. This is especially applicable to Region 6 states where a rapid upsurge in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events coupled with an accelerated pace of climate change are impacting the durability and service life of the aging transportation infrastructure at an unprecedented rate, with disproportionate effects in tribal, rural, low-income, and underserved communities. SPTC will “enhance economic prosperity and safety through durable and climate resilient transportation and freight infrastructure.

Click [here](#) to learn about the consortium.

Follow [our website](#) to for the latest news and updates.

Upcoming Peer Exchange

In partnership with SPTC, the Oklahoma DOT Office of Research and Implementation will be hosting a Research Peer Exchange, which will take place May 23-25, 2023. Each day will feature a two-and-a-half-hour session in both the morning and afternoon, for a total of five hours per day. Attendees to this peer exchange will come from state transportation agency research programs, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, and the University Transportation Centers. During the three-day online peer exchange, participants will share challenges, insights, and examples of successful strategies in the following areas, including key questions and subtopics still in development.

- Engagement and participation in research by stakeholders across the agency
- Impacts and effect of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) on State Planning and Research (SPR) program

Save the date!



Oklahoma Transportation Research Day 2023 is coming! This is an annual workforce development and technology transfer event co-organized by SPTC and Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 17, 2023. More details will be released soon. We hope to see you there!

2023 TRIP Summer Interns

Applications are now being accepted for 2023 TRIP program Interns. Details and the application packet can be found [here](#).

The program is focused on summer internships for students seeking to gain valuable professional experience through working for a transportation company or a government organization/agency over a period of ten to twelve weeks. Projects are selected based on the student's interest, company/agency needs, and SPTC goals.

Students from all SPTC institutions are eligible to apply. Students from other institutions may be considered. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or otherwise legally qualified to participate in an internship program in the United States.

SPTC Faculty Member Completes Major Project



Dr. Royce Floyd, along with Master's student Omar Yadak, completed a major project to replace the Eufala Dam Spillway Bridge with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 31. Also involved in the project were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District, the Federal Highway Administration, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and contractor Mobley Construction.

Dr. Floyd provided advice to the Corps of Engineer's personnel and the contractor on materials and methods during planning and preconstruction

meetings and during placement of the UHPC connections and overlay on the Eufaula Overflow bridge. He and Yadak also provided testing in the form of compressive strength, cores taken from the bridge mockup, and bond testing for the UHPC overlay since no other lab in Oklahoma had experience testing UHPC.

A full article about the ribbon cutting ceremony can be found [here](#).



Asphalt Road-eo 2023

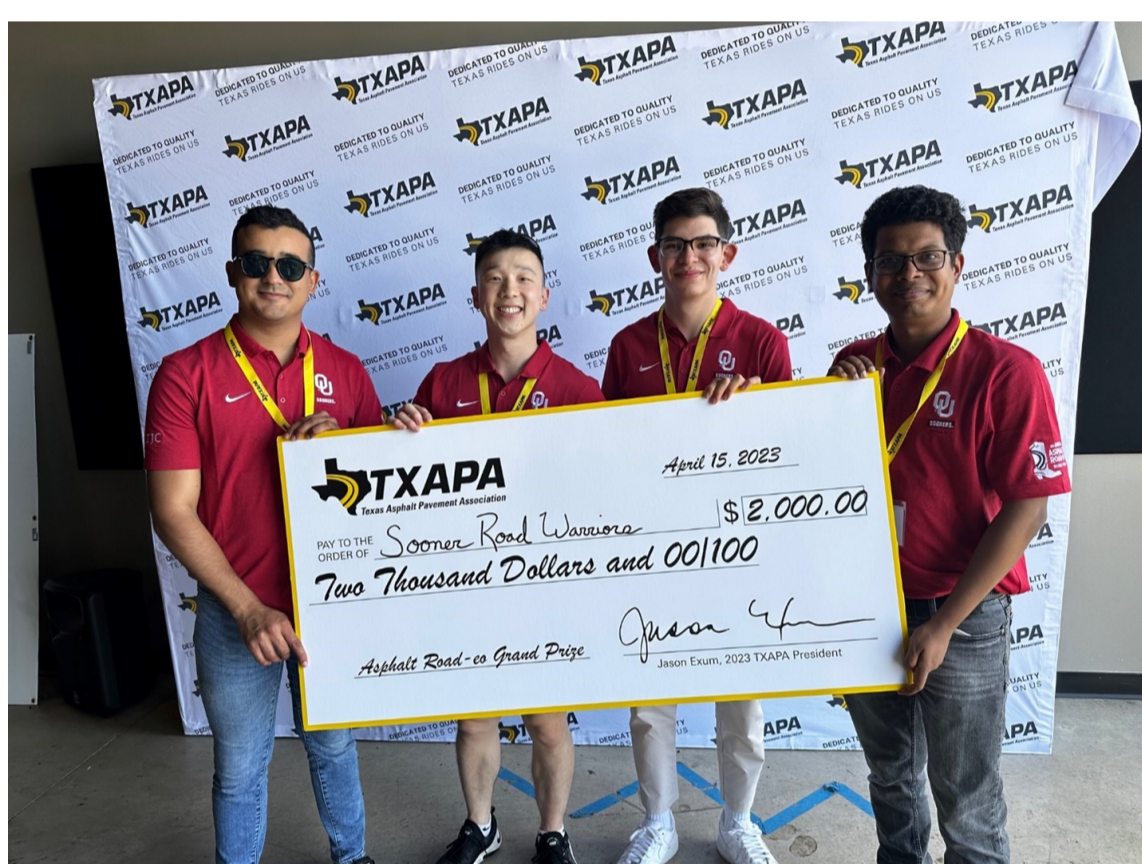
Teams from both the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas at El Paso competed at this year's Asphalt Road-eo competition on April 15 in Buda, Texas. Asphalt Road-eo is a team-based competition for undergraduate students, organized to gain design experience in asphalt materials in the form of an open-ended design problem. This annual competition is organized by the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association (TXAPA), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the University of Texas at Austin.

The "Sooner Road Warriors" team was comprised of Joshua K. Cunningham (team captain), Luis G. Urbina Barrios and Ricardo D. Pena Ontiveros, and mentored by Dr. Syed Ashik Ali, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science. The team experimented with the use of Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) plastic in their asphalt mixture design to promote sustainability and environment-friendly construction. The designed asphalt slab with recycled plastic exhibited outstanding performance in the rutting and cracking categories.

The Sooner Road Warriors impressed the judges with their knowledge of asphalt mix design. The team won first place, with each member receiving a \$2,000 scholarship.

The team from UTEP place second at this year's Asphalt Road-eo.

Congratulations to the teams!



Upcoming Events

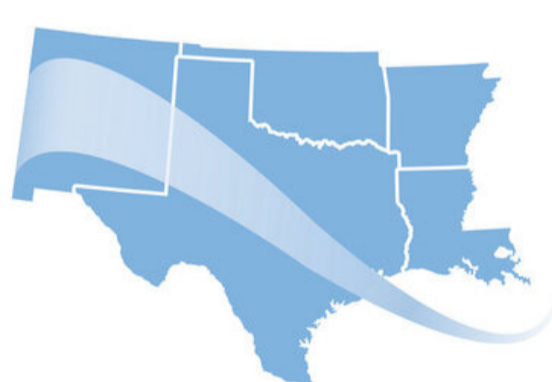
Aggregate Sustainability - Production: Webinar - May 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM EST. Register [here](#).

Equity in Artificial Intelligence Applications: Webinar - May 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM EST. Register [here](#).

TRB's National Conference on Transportation Asset Management: July 8-11, 2023. Register [here](#).

TRB Workshop on Transportation Law: July 23-26, 2023. Register [here](#).

Click [here](#) for more events.



SOUTHERN PLAINS TRANSPORTATION CENTER

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