



TRANSPORTING INNOVATIONS

Second Edition

June, 2011

Continuous Process Improvement “OVERHAUL”

“CPI Rework”

By Margaret Anderson

On May 4, 2011, representatives from all fourteen of the Transportation Divisions, as well as from Pre-construction, Transit, Technical Services, Fiscal, IT, HR, Administration, Mobility and Safety, and DMV attended a one-day workshop in Raleigh to “rework” the CPI program. This workshop was hosted and facilitated by the Continuous Improvement Team from the Quality Enhancement Unit,

The general consensus among the workshop attendees is that the CPI Conference should continue for the following reasons:

1. It supports healthy competition, which is motivating.
2. It provides a venue for idea-sharing and collaboration.

3. It encourages Department-wide implementation of innovative opportunities for improvement.

Several CPI teams are working on implementation planning for other CPI topics as follows:

1. Organizing regional “mini-conferences”.
2. Simplifying the application process.
3. Enhancing the CPI recognition and award program.
4. Highlighting project exhibits and presentations.
5. Replication of innovative ideas Department-wide.

There will not be a CPI Conference in Raleigh this year. However, work is underway to develop the new and exciting CPI Conference design for next year.

“Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works.” (Steve Jobs)

This newsletter will highlight current and past innovative ideas and techniques NCDOT employees have suggested and/or implemented.

Organization

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NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO
INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS
IMPROVEMENT

Transporting Innovations
Margaret Anderson, Editor

Wealth of information on CPI website!

The revised CPI website provides links to the following:

- A new user-friendly CPI project application form. (Your application can now be submitted at any time throughout the year!).
- The new CPI database

is sorted by categories, such as dollar savings, safety improvement, customer service, communication, energy and environment, etc.

- You can also view the database by location (e.g., Divisions 1-14, Business Units).

- Reference tools, such as “Teams Getting Started” and “CPI Guide” are available to help you get started in developing your innovative ideas.

Website login:
www.ncdot.org/programs/cpi

Use an old car jack — Create a safer POST PULLER!

Post Puller— Safety Improvement (Division 2)

Removing 4 x 4 sign posts from the ground using a shovel or post hole digger is a physically demanding task that puts strain on the back and shoulder muscles. Some of the issues that a sign department faces that add to the physical demand are location of the sign post, moisture in the ground causing suction, and broken posts.

The project team members in Division 2, Jim Evans, Wesley Brazelton, C.D. Whitlow, developed a post puller that could be used in lieu of shovels and post hole-diggers, to reduce the physical demand on back and shoulders. The idea of the post puller came from the use of an old car jack. By hooking a chain to the post and the other end to

the car jack, the post can be easily pulled out of the ground. For deeper buried and larger posts, an extension can be added to the lever. This post puller can remove wooden, steel, and broken post types.

Fewer back and shoulder injuries are the safety results from the use of this post puller. This improvement also resulted in labor savings for post removal.

Be on the look out for a Post Puller demonstration in your area. The CI Group, Division 2's Project Team and State Road Maintenance are collaborating to find the most efficient way to market this idea throughout NC.



Wesley Brazelton demonstrates the Post Puller.

"The ability to convert ideas into things is the secret of outward success."

Henry Ward Beecher

Easy Reach Strap— Securing tarp on loads.



Easy Reach Strap (Matthew Oliverson, Division 11)

Division 11 project team members, Matthew Oliverson, Ronnie Minton, Keith Haynes and Brenda Love, developed a simple way to improve a rubber tie-down strap to secure a tarp on loads that are within 6-inches of the

top rail of dump trucks. Safety modifications consist of enclosing the rubber strap with a 1-inch PVC plastic pipe. The PVC extends the life of the rubber strap and protects it from harmful UV rays. This simple modification eliminates the need for a worker to climb the side of a truck to hook a strap in a tarp ring since the modified strap can be hooked from the ground. Using the Easy Reach Strap reduces falling hazards, personal injuries and structural failures.

The team recently made 400 Easy Straps to distribute during the State-Wide Tarp Day Celebrations which is in conjunction with the "Keep N.C. Beautiful" campaign. This mag-

nificent CPI idea was shared at 40 different locations state-wide.

Information about this project is located at the "Keep NC Beautiful" website: <http://keepncbeautiful.org/events/%e2%80%9ctarp-it%e2%80%9d/>

"The basis of a successful CPI Program is when an employee on the front line sees a way to make their job better and comes up with a solution that works. The Easy Reach Strap has become my latest "poster board" item when I talk to folks about how great the CPI Program can be.. Our greatest resource is our employees and this is a prime example of how that works." (Jon Nance, Chief Engineer—Operations)

Pilot Kiosk Installation in Division 5!

Bridging the Communication Gap by Cynthia Squires

Who was the brilliant person that quipped, "necessity is the mother of invention"? At NCDOT, that's a no-brainer! The people who deal with the problems everyday are the ones with the ideas to make it easier, safer, and cheaper. The Kiosk project was implemented largely because very few of those great ideas were documented and shared with the rest of the Department. Discussions with Transportation Workers revealed many ideas to improve their work and DOT as a whole. With the installation of a computer workstation

and an electronic continuous improvement form, these workers will be encouraged to submit ideas.

In addition providing access to information about CPI, affording the ability to view other projects that may spark an idea, and enabling electronic submission of an idea, the Kiosk workstation will also provide access to the NCDOT Home Page, NCDOT Career Link, ORBIT (NCDOT Retirement Information system), BEACON, and much more.

Has a Kiosk been installed in your County Maintenance yard yet? If not, it's coming soon. Tell CPI what you think by sending a message through ContactUs. We look forward to hearing from you.

