



# Kansas LTAP Newsletter

## Three Helpful Guides Are Heading Your Way

By Lisa Harris-Frydman, Kansas LTAP

**N**orm Bowers may be retired from the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), but is still helping local agencies as an author. This article will describe three guides written or updated by Norm -- under development by Kansas LTAP in partnership with the Kansas Association of Counties. These will be helpful resources for rural local agencies.

### Three guides and their target audiences

**Field Guide for Rural Roads.** This glovebox guide update helps agencies reduce run-off-the-road crashes and other types of crashes in rural areas. The existing guide, written for public works field staff, is out-of-date with the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The revision will update the guide to current standards and to complement the Kansas Handbook of Traffic Control Guidance for Low-Volume Rural Roads (aka the LVR Handbook). The update of this field guide was requested by members of the Kansas County Highway Association. It is a key safety resource for the Kansas LTAP Local Field Liaisons to share with rural agencies as they meet with them.

**Field Guide for Guardrail Maintenance.** The second guide is targeted at individuals who make decisions about installation, repair, or removal of guardrails, such as county engineers, consulting engineers, and road supervisors. It is intended as a reference guide for office use. Advisors for this publication were Tod Salfrank and Mike Perkins. Salfrank, Assistant Bureau Chief of KDOT's Bureau of Local Projects, has conducted research on guardrails. Perkins, a Kansas LTAP Local Field Liaison, teaches LTAP's Guardrail Maintenance course.

About the guardrail guide, Bowers said "This guide is about one of the most difficult issues we have on rural roads – whether to remove, replace in kind, or upgrade existing guardrails – and whether to install new crashworthy bridge rail and approach guardrail on new bridges."

### Field Guide for Motorgrader Operators.

This new guide is aimed at a different audience than FHWA's popular "Gravel Road Maintenance and Design Manual." The FHWA manual covers the entire United States and is a reference book for managers. It is more technical than what will be covered in the new field guide, which is intended to be used in the field and carried in a motor grader. The new guide will be tailored to the conditions and laws of Kansas and is written for grader operators and their supervisors.

Ryan Durst and Dale Dorsch were the official reviewers for content for the motor grader guide. Durst is Assistant Road Supervisor for Coffey County and Dorsch is Kansas LTAP's Gravel Roads Maintenance Instructor.

### Where to obtain the guides

The guides will be available on the Kansas LTAP website and in print. LTAP will distribute a hard copy to each county, and extra hard copies will be available upon request. Look for a notice in an upcoming biweekly Kansas LTAP Update about the release of these guides. They should be ready to distribute a few months from now.

Questions? Reach out to Lisa Harris-Frydman at [lharris@ku.edu](mailto:lharris@ku.edu).