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## Office of Traffic Safety Backs UC Berkeley Statewide Work-Zone Training

The Technology Transfer Program at the University of California, Berkeley has received continued funding for its popular and successful work-zone traffic-safety workshops through fall 2009.

Work-crew training is recognized by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) and other public agencies as one of the most effective ways to improve work-zone safety. In fact, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) attributes the drop in work-zone crashes over the past few years—down 35 percent from 1999 to 2004, according to the California Highway Patrol—to their support for locally based safety training.

The \$386,979 OTS grant supports a project that delivers the two-day training class, “Safety and Traffic Control Plans for Work Zones” to any California transportation agency on request, up to 52 times during the project period. The course covers methods for minimizing the potential for vehicle conflicts, guarding against pedestrian hazards and optimizing worker and public protections. It has been offered by Tech Transfer for more than 30 years.

The project also includes support to recruit and train an instructor team, evaluate the effectiveness of the class and market the training through print, website and e-mail communications. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“This project fits right into our mission,” said Tech Transfer Director Laura Melendy. “It helps reduce the number and severity of crashes at or near roadway work zones by training construction and maintenance crews how to safely plan, install, remove and operate effective work zone traffic controls – protecting themselves and the public.”

“Highway workers’ jobs include making the roads safer for everybody,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “This training helps make doing their jobs safer for themselves and everyone else.”

The Technology Transfer Program, a division of the Institute of Transportation Studies (ITS) at the University of California, Berkeley, bridges transportation research and professional practice to facilitate and support efficient and effective state-of-the-art transportation systems. They provide training, workshops, conferences, technical assistance and information resources in the transportation-related areas of planning and policy, traffic engineering, project development, infrastructure design and maintenance, safety, environmental issues, railroads and aviation.

ITS Berkeley is an internationally recognized center for research, education and scholarship in the field of transportation. The institute was created at UC Berkeley in 1948 by the California state legislature to support the design and construction of California’s transportation system following World War II, with a mission to conduct research and provide instruction to a new generation of transportation professionals, and it still serves that mission today.