company driver for Convoy since 1987, driving over 3 million miles. Stephanie is a Captain on the 2013-2014 America’s Road Team. Professional driver Monica Abdel-Radid of Schneider National was the second driver in the trip. She was responsible for taking Brezover from Nashville to the final destination in Louisville, KY. She joined Schneider in June 2012 as a long-haul driver, has served as a training engineer, and currently works on a dedicated account.

“The reality of the commercial driver’s working environment was evident throughout the trip as we dealt with traffic congestion and unsafe driving manners by car drivers who assumed ignorance of our presence and the presence of large vehicles nearby. Both Stephanie and Monica were diligent in their situational awareness and provided constant and enjoyable ride-along experiences for me, in spite of the challenges along the road and Brezover.”

Travel Centers of America in Nashville was the halfway point and meeting spot for the drivers. Kathy Perry, TA Petro Regional Sales Representative, provided a tour of their newly remodeled facility as well as hosting lunch for the drivers.

Looking for Individuals to Serve on RAC

Every two years the ATRI Board of Directors appoints a new slate of members to its Research Advisory Committee. ATRI is now looking for individuals interested in serving on the 2015-2016 Research Advisory Committee, with terms beginning January 1, 2015. The RAC is composed of motor carriers, industry suppliers, academia, government, law enforcement, commercial drivers and state trucking associations. RAC members meet once a year in Atlanta for a two-day event to identify the industry’s research priorities. RAC members also participate in several webinars and teleconferences throughout the year. If you are interested in being considered for a position on the RAC, please submit your letter of interest to ATRI@atri.org.

ATRI Vice President Celebrates Anniversary

At the ATRI Research Advisory Committee Annual Meeting held March 3-5 in Atlanta, ATRI Vice President Dan Muray was recognized for 20 years of service to the organization. Muray first started with the organization in April 1993 and was named Vice President in 2004. In recognizing Dan for his service, ATRI President Rebecca Brezover commented, “Dan’s commitment to this organization and his expertise and talent are core to ATRI’s success.”

A TR I N S I D E R

Tracking Industry Sees $9.2 Billion in Congestion Costs in 2013

Congestion on the nation’s interstate highways added over $9.2 billion in operational costs to the trucking industry in 2013, according to the latest ATRI research. The ATRI study, Cost of Congestion to the Trucking Industry, utilized motor carrier financial data along with billions of GPS data points to calculate congestion delays and costs on each mile of interstate roadway. Delay totaled over 141 million hours of lost productivity, which equated to over 30,000 truck drivers sitting idle for a working year.

ATRI’s analysis also established the states, metropolitan areas, and counties with the highest congestion costs. California led the nation with over $1.5 billion in costs, followed by Texas with over $1.0 billion. The Los Angeles metropolitan area saw the highest cost at nearly $1.2 billion and New York City was close behind at $874 million. Congestion tended to be most severe in urban areas, with 89 percent of the congestion costs concentrated on only 12 percent of the interstate mileage. This concentration of congestion has been well-documented in previous work performed by ATRI which identified the worst truck bottlenecks in the U.S. Of the 100 worst bottlenecks in truck throughput analysis, all were identified as having “severe” congestion. In addition, this cost of congestion analysis demonstrated that the average impact of congestion costs on a truck-at-mile basis. For example, a truck driven for 12,000 miles in 2013 saw an average congestion cost of $406, while a truck driven for 10,000 miles had an average congestion cost of $394.

“Congestion is an unfortunate byproduct of our just-in-time economy, and it’s a significant roadblock to our country’s productivity as well as its global economy.”
The FMCSA stated that prior to joining EPA, the study confirms that drivers in the “two or more nighttime” group are more likely to drive during the nighttime periods (1 a.m. to 5 a.m.) but instead measured differences in restarts that range from 34 minutes to an unknown/non-measurable number of minutes. The study that should compel a comprehensive review of the entire rule. A copy of ATRI's Technical Memorandum is available at www.atrionline.org.

ATRI RAC members Cheryl L. Bynum directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay Transportation Partnership. SmartWay brings together thousands of companies, government agencies and universities that use tools, methods and incentives to accelerate the use of cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles that improve the economic, energy and environmental sustainability of global supply chains. Bynum led SmartWay’s technology efforts, conducting test programs, developing test methods and developing requirements for SmartWay®-verified vehicles. Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Bynum held a number of positions in the transportation and supply chain industry, including serving as equipment control manager for large maritime shipping lines, and as a shipping agent at a port. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

ATRI President Participates in Ride-Along At a meeting held in April 2014 in Washington D.C., the ATRI Board of Directors approved the list of research priorities recommended by ATRI’s Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The list of priority research areas was identified by the RAC at its two-day annual meeting held March 4-5 in Atlanta. Among the top priority topics for 2015 are real-world data for future infrastructure improvement analyses and an updated data analysis of impacts from the new hours-of-service rules. ATRI staff will be initiating work on the top priority studies in the near future.

ATRI Board Approves Research Priorities for 2015 At a meeting held in April 2014 in Washington D.C., the ATRI Board of Directors approved the list of research priorities recommended by ATRI’s Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The list of priority research areas was identified by the RAC at its two-day annual meeting held March 4-5 in Atlanta. Among the top priority topics for 2015 are real-world data for future infrastructure improvement analyses and an updated data analysis of impacts from the new hours-of-service rules. ATRI staff will be initiating work on the top priority studies in the near future.

ATRI has developed a one-page infographic on this study which is available for download from the ATRI website at www.atrionline.org. A copy of the study can be ordered through the ATRI bookstore.

The use of the 34-minute restart provisions which went into effect July 1, 2013 has been identified as a variety of technical issues related to research design flaws, with the efficacy of the restart being tied to one week. The study report purports to have measured differences between restarts with one and two duty cycles that included two restart breaks. FMCSA’s report: The results of this data collection, combined with the previous Operational Costs of Trucking reports, will yield six full years (2008 – 2013) of trucking cost information derived directly from fleet operations. This information provides carriers with an important high-level benchmarking tool and government agencies with real data for future infrastructure improvement analyses.

For hire motor carriers are encouraged to provide confidential operational cost data through ATRI’s survey, available online at www.atrionline.org. The results of this study will be available later this year.

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ATRI Board approves research priorities for 2015. The RAC identified four areas for 2015. The list of research priorities was identified by the RAC at its two-day annual meeting held March 4-5 in Atlanta. Among the top priority topics for 2015 are real-world data for future infrastructure improvement analyses and an updated data analysis of impacts from the new hours-of-service rules. ATRI staff will be initiating work on the top priority studies in the near future.

The ATRI RAC recently released a Technical Memorandum documenting the findings of its independent evaluation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) field study report on the new Hours-of-Service (HOS) rules. FMCSA was directed by Congress as part of MAP-21 to conduct the evaluation of the new rules which went into effect July 1, 2013. The study report was identified as a variety of technical issues related to research design flaws, with the efficacy of the restart being tied to one week. The study report purports to have measured differences between restarts with one and two duty cycles that included two restart breaks. FMCSA stated that their field study results supported the efficacy of the new restart provisions which went into effect July 1, 2013.

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The study of interest to the trucking industry is the issue of competitiveness, said Jack Holmes, President of UPS Freight, the heavy haul division of UPS. "The trucking industry spends a lot of time talking about congestion and the effect of fuel costs on their bottom line. Our research shows there are other important factors at play that contribute to competitiveness," said Holmes. "Some of the other factors include driver compensation, fuel costs, and the regulatory environment. These factors can have a significant impact on the bottom line of trucking companies and the competitiveness of the industry as a whole. Our research findings suggest that addressing these factors is critical to improving competitiveness." ATRI's study on competitiveness confirms that drivers in the "two or more nighttime" group are more likely to drive during the nighttime periods (1 a.m. to 5 a.m.) but instead measured differences in restarts that range from 34 minutes to an unknown/non-measurable number of minutes. The study that should compel a comprehensive review of the entire rule. A copy of ATRI's Technical Memorandum is available at www.atrionline.org.

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