December 5, 2005

Dear Workshop participants,

Welcome to Portland. Oregon DOT is pleased to host this pilot workshop and appreciate Portland State University for helping with the arrangements.

The workshop on Seismic Retrofitting of Highway Bridges is sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and MCEER, the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research. It is based largely on the new Federal Highway Manual which will supersede the 1995 version you may be familiar with. Each of you will receive a copy of the new revised manual when it is published in final form.

We encourage your active participation. Please take advantage of the prominent speakers we have lined up for you by asking questions. A primary purpose of this pilot workshop is to critique the course content and presentation. So, at the end, we need every attendee to fill out an evaluation so that the course can be improved and possibly developed into a national Highway Institute (NHI) Course.

I hope you enjoy the course, and that you will assist in providing feedback to MCEER and FHWA.

Bruce Johnson, P.E.
State Bridge Engineer
Oregon DOT

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