



*V.P. Rich Brown receives "gift" from Sr. VP Joan Cornell*

## **Joan Cornell Retires After 35 Years**

Arthur Dinitz, Chairman and CEO of Transpo Industries, recognized Senior Vice President Joan Cornell's thirty-six years of service with a cake-cutting ceremony at New Rochelle headquarters on Thursday June 30, 2005.

Carl Brown, Construction Manager of the Distributor Division, spoke about Joan's dedication to "dotting all of the I's and crossing all of the T's". Carl talked about a lack of equipment and personnel in the early years, which did not deter Joan from delivering needed highway safety equipment.

Ms. Cornell having been appointed VP in 1982, has served in the highway safety field since 1969. She has also been on the Board of Directors for the Institute of Transportation Engineers, member of the Steering Committee for the International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Assoc., as well as a member of the Transportation Research Board. A recognized authority in impact attenuation technology, Ms. Cornell has given presentations to DOTs, consulting firms and engineering groups. She will continue to work with Transpo, as a consultant over the next several years.

As Joan handed over the responsibilities of the Distributor Group Division to Richard Brown, she gifted him an avocado-colored office stapler from 1969. Joan wanted Rich to know that the stapler stood for "frugality and durability"... traits that carried her far on many occasions at Transpo!

## ***A Mighty Wind Versus Break-Safe®***



Strong winds can cause havoc with steel sign supports that use traditional slip base connections. Slip base designs require scheduled maintenance to keep the necessary torque values designed for wind and road vibration. Even under tightened connections, posts can "walk-off" their bases. Sign panels can fail, if hinge plate connections loosen up. If connections are tightened beyond their designed torque values, a slip base "breakaway" sign support can become a hazard, as it will not slip on impact.

The photograph above shows a downed sign at the Hatch, New Mexico Gore exit, southbound on I-25. The New Mexico Department of Transportation reused the W8 x 21 steel sign supports and poured new concrete footings. Transpo's Break-Safe® omni-directional sign support system replaced the old slip base connections.

The Break-Safe® system does not rely on specific torque to install and does not loosen up over time. The hardware just needs to be tightened using "turn-of-the-nut method" and then the crew is free to walk away. It is a maintenance-free system until impacted by an errant vehicle.

The photograph below shows a happy NMDOT crew. They have replaced a sign installation that failed in wind several times a year, with a Break-Safe® system from Transpo.



### *Break-Safe® Story from Connecticut*

On the last Friday of April 2005, a patrol officer's cruiser, responding to an emergency medical call, was struck by another vehicle on North Benson Road in Fairfield, CT.

An interstate 95 sign, supported by Transpo's Break-Safe® system, was knocked flat to the ground in the accident. Although the patrol car was totaled, the officer and the other driver suffered only minor injuries.

Accident research and field experience have demonstrated that vehicles often leave the roadway and impact structures at high angles of incident. The Break-Safe® symmetrical coupling design allows the system to breakaway with consistent, predictable behavior, regardless of the vehicle's angle of impact. This unique omni-directional capability exceeds FHWA and AASHTO requirements for impact performance. All Break-Safe® models are FHWA-approved for use on the National Highway System.



*Photo by Tracey Deer of the Connecticut Post*

### *Announcements*



Rich Brown, former sales VP of the Safety Division will assume the management and sales responsibility for the Distributor Division as Sr. VP of Sales. With over 25 years in the industry, Rich has been with Transpo for over 8 years. With a BS from Boston University, he is a member of AREMA, APTA and NCUTCD.

Team Transpo welcomes Kelli Brooks onboard as the Central Regional Manager based out of Columbus Ohio. Kelli has extensive sales and marketing experience in highway safety products and will be responsible for sales of safety products throughout the central United States.

Transpo also welcomes Steven Orman as the Northeast Regional Sales Manager based in New Rochelle NY. Steve has a mechanical engineering degree from Hofstra University. He will be responsible for marketing select Transpo products throughout the Northeast.

In addition to Kelli and Steve, there's Charles 'Chip' Neill, Southeast Regional Manager and Kathleen Johnson, Sales Manager for the Northwest region. All four regional sales managers assist Transpo customers and distributors.

### *Conventions/Conferences*

- **SASHTO 2005**, Fajardo, Puerto Rico August 19-24 Booth #31
- **EASTERN REGION HWY/RR**, Cape May, NJ Sept. 12-14
- **AASHTO Annual**, Nashville, TN Sept. 15-19 Booth #401
- **AREMA 2005**, Chicago, IL Sept. 25-28
- **Intertraffic NA**, Baltimore, MD Sept. 27-30 Booth #607

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