InfoQueue

SIGNAL*2000* is Now Available!

As the Transportation Research Board (TRB) rolled out the long awaited 2000 *Highway Capacity Manual* (HCM) this month, Strong Concepts began shipping its SIGNAL2000 program which automates the Signalized Intersection methods of the 2000 HCM. Further, SIGNAL2000 can optimize signal timings and phasings in order to produce the best possible capacity analysis according to the HCM methods, a unique and powerful feature derived from its popular predecessors: SIGNAL97, SIGNAL94, SIGNAL85 and SIGNAL. Written by Dennis W. Strong, P.E., PTOE, President of Strong Concepts and Chairman of the Signals Subcommittee of the TRB Capacity Committee, SIGNAL2000 is backed by the expertise that over 25 years of professional traffic practice and software development experience brings to the table, as well as Strong Concepts' industry-leading reputation for technical support.

One of the exciting developments in SIGNAL2000 is the unparalleled QUEUECALCS and QUEUEMODELS functions which compute queues using 10 different methods, including the new 2000 HCM queue model and user-controls like percentiles and vehicle lengths. Data files are upwards and downwards compatible with SIGNAL97, as well as all the other TEAPAC programs. Upgrade pricing is available for holders of SIGNAL97 licenses, and SIGNAL2000 will now be featured in all Strong Concepts courses.

Check out a free demo at our web site, or visit and read about this and all the new features which have been added since the last release of SIGNAL97. You can also read a paper written by Dennis Strong about all the changes made to the 2000 HCM at our Publications page. Don't delay, order your copy TODAY!

Courses Feature SIGNAL*2000,* TEAPAC*2000*

Our highly acclaimed course "Timing Traffic Signals Using TEAPAC, PASSER, TRANSYT and CORSIM" is a popular course which has a focus on specific solutions to signal timing and simulation problems from isolated intersections and arterials to diamond interchanges and grid systems. Hands-on work problems using the software mentioned provide the user with real experience applying these solutions with the only software system that integrates all of these programs into a single system of software. The TEAPAC programs used include the latest versions of SIGNAL2000, NOSTOP, PREPASSR, PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM, in addition to PASSER-II, TRANSYT-7F and TRAF-NETSIM/CORSIM.

The next offerings of this very popular course will be at the following locations:

Brooklyn, New York	January 9-11
University of Wisconsin	(800) 462-0876
Bloomington, Minnesota	January 29-31
University of Wisconsin	(800) 462-0876
Orlando, Florida	March 12-14
Orlando, Florida (Advanced)	March 15-16
University of Central Florida	(407) 207-4920
Evanston, Illinois	May 7-10
Northwestern Traffic Institute	(800) 323-4011

Did you receive your own copy of Strong Concepts InfoQueue? If your name is not on the mailing panel, drop us an email, note or phone call and you'll be added to the list for future mailings for free! Also let us know if your address has changed, you've moved on to a new position, or you'd like your name dropped from the list.

The three-day course in Orlando will be followed March 15-16 by the Power User two-day course "Advanced TEAPAC Application Techniques" which provides hands-on exercises for the unique and unparalleled multi-file, multi-scenario analyses, batch analyses and comprehensive multi-program integration using TEAPAC and the above programs. Special courses are also being arranged directly with Oklahoma DOT and Louisiana State University.

Call Strong Concepts at (847) 564-0386 for more course information, or check our web page for course outlines and on-line registration, as well as future offerings. These classes tend to fill up quickly, so call now to reserve your space. Dennis Strong, author of TEAPAC, is the primary instructor for all of these courses. Learn how to use the latest TEAPAC programs effectively and efficiently, and keep up on your continuing education requirements at the same time.

Windows Versions Exist for All of TEAPAC

All TEAPAC programs are now available as true Windows programs. SITE and TUTOR were the last TEAPAC programs to make this transition, implementing the unique TEAPAC2000 Visual Mode found in all WinTEAPAC programs. As with the other TEAPAC programs, these Windows versions are available for the 32-bit Windows platforms (Windows 2000/Me/NT/98/95) as well as the 16-bit Windows platform (Windows 3.x) and DOS. Licensees of earlier versions of SITE, which performs site traffic generation, distribution and assignment for projects such as traffic impact studies, can upgrade to the Windows version for a significantly reduced fee. Licensees of Ver 3

Electronic Notification Service

People who have enrolled in our Electronic Notification Service may have received much of the information contained in this newsletter via email at an earlier date. If you wish to get timely notice of developments at Strong Concepts via email as they happen, go to the Join Our Mailing List section of our web page at www.StrongConcepts.com and provide the necessary information.

of TUTOR can upgrade to the Windows version for no charge via download. Visit the Demo Software link at www.StrongConcepts.com to download free demonstrations of these and all TEAPAC programs, or visit the Free Updates link to download whatever free updates you are entitled to. You can also read about all of the changes which have been made to each TEAPAC program at the Free Updates page.

Demonstrations of New Product Developments at ITE Annual Meeting

Strong Concepts demonstrated its latest TEAPAC developments at the 70th Annual ITE Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee this past August. The meeting was held at the famous Opryland Hotel, including the Transportation Products and Services Exhibit. At Strong Concepts exhibit booth visitors were able to see all of the new developments mentioned in this newsletter and discuss the many advantages of using our TEAPAC software. As an added benefit, winners of free TEAPAC licenses were selected at four separate times during the Exhibit. Dennis Strong also taught in an ITE professional development seminar focusing on the HCM 2000.

Free SIGNAL97 Update Available

SIGNAL97 has been updated recently (Build 16) with some minor changes to help users who feel compelled to duplicate the SIGNAL97 analysis with HCS-3. The automatic export to HCS-3 which was released earlier this year has been enhanced in a number of areas to accommodate various types of HCS-3 installations. Also, a change has been made to the Export to take advantage of the new way of identifying actuated movements in HCS-3. Additional changes include an improved procedure for identifying lost time for shared lanes on the stem of a "T"-intersection, and the selection process has been improved for the Lead-Lag phasing (Sequence 8) which was added with the first release of SIGNAL97. This update is free to licensees of all versions of SIGNAL97 and can be downloaded at www.StrongConcepts.com. If you are having difficulty matching HCS-3 results with those from SIGNAL97, check our 3rd Party Software Watch pages at our web site where all known bugs and issues identified by Strong Concepts are posted for various traffic

engineering programs and procedures. If you don't already have the most powerful, integrated Optimizing HCM Capacity Analysis program, download a free demo today and see what you're missing!

Help File for TED Now Contains Complete Documentation

A new Help file for TED has been produced which contains the entire TED documentation, as is the case with all other TEAPAC programs. This help file is included in the latest Build 14 which is available at the Free Update site of www.StrongConcepts.com for licensees of Windows versions of TED.

New Print Modules Available for 32-bit Windows Versions of TEAPAC

A new TEAPAC print module (TEAPACPR.exe) has been created for 32-bit Windows platforms (2000, Me, NT, 98 and 95) which has greater compatibility with some 32-bit printer drivers which have been distributed by printer vendors recently. This module also has continued compatibility with older printer drivers. The new module is now distributed as the standard print module in Build 14 for all Win32 versions of TEAPAC programs. The original print module is still distributed as the standard print module for all Win16 versions, and is also distributed as an alternate print module for the Win32 versions. If you want to utilize all the features of your newest 32-bit printer drivers, download the latest Win32 TEAPAC programs at the Free Updates link of www.StrongConcepts.com.

TEAPAC2000 Interface Update

Earlier this year the TEAPAC2000 interface was updated to Ver 4.01 with a myriad of new features implemented in all TEAPAC programs. These versions are available as updates via free downloads for licenses of versions with release dates of 27AUG98 or later (small update fees apply to earlier releases). Free demos are also available if you do not already have a license. A link at the Updates page explains all of the new features which have been included. Concurrently, an update to PRETRANSYT provided direct export to the Windows version of TRANSYT-7F (Release 8.2).

New Features at Our Web Page

We continue to add features at our Internet web site (www.StrongConcepts.com) in order to serve our users. We've added an on-line order form which can be used to prepare an order for TEAPAC software and upgrades. We've also added a flowchart depicting the complete integration of all the TEAPAC programs, illustrating how data and results are easily shared among all the TEAPAC programs and certain other proven tools like HCS, PASSER, TRANSYT, CORSIM and VISSIM. Another WWW addition is copies of letters we've received from satisfied clients, as well as a 3rd party software watch page (see below). Visit anytime to see the latest.

Third Party Software Watch

A new feature at our web site is the new 3rd Party Software Watch page which contains important information about third party software which is related to TEAPAC -- like HCS, PASSER, TRANSYT-7F, CORSIM, PETRA and even the *Highway Capacity Manual*. TEAPAC users are appropriately interested in certain aspects of this other 3rd party software which are related to their use of TEAPAC. In response to this interest and the nature of the ever-changing landscape of software development, this page has been added to the Strong Concepts web page to identify specific issues we are aware of regarding these programs. Check it out and make sure you're up-to-speed on these programs, as well as TEAPAC.

Please note our new mailing address at our recently renovated offices in the historic district of Northbrook:

1249 Shermer Road, Suite 100
Northbrook, IL 60062-4540

Strong Concepts can also be reached in a number of other convenient ways:

Phone: (847) 564-0386
Fax: (847) 564-0394
E-mail: info@StrongConcepts.com
WWW: http://www.StrongConcepts.com

Call us today, Optimize tomorrow!

Strong Concepts
1249 Shermer Road, Suite 100
Northbrook, Illinois U.S.A. 60062-4540

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Visit New Online Survey and
Win Free TEAPAC Software**

Strong Concepts is initiating a new online survey questionnaire designed to gain information about various traffic and computer issues. Results of the surveys will be emailed to survey participants who will also be entered in a drawing for free TEAPAC licenses.

The subjects of the survey will change every month or so, and will cover a wide range of topics relevant to traffic engineers who use computer software. On the traffic agenda, anticipated topics include: What signalized intersection method is being used; What analysis period is being used; What queue model is being used; What measurement units are used; etc. On the computer agenda, anticipated topics include: What operating system platform is being used; What display size is being used; etc.

Our hope is that we can get a large response on each survey, and that these responses will help shape the ongoing development of traffic and transportation software at Strong Concepts. If you want your voice to be heard, visit using the Online Survey link at www.StrongConcepts.com.

Questions will change every month or so, and respondents to each different survey will be re-entered into a new drawing for free TEAPAC software, so visit frequently and learn more about the state of the industry. We promise that every vote will count.

**First Online Survey: Do You Still Use
Windows 3.x or DOS?**

All TEAPAC programs fully support the most modern Windows operating systems, e.g. 2000, Me, NT, 98 and 95. However, Strong Concepts has maintained continued support for DOS and Win 3.x through the years in deference to our long-time users who may still use these environments. Their reasoning may relate to their level of comfort, a feeling of greater efficiency, or simply a limitation imposed by hardware or procurement issues.

Whatever the case, continued support for DOS and Win 3.x becomes more difficult for us as time goes on, so we are considering eliminating this support pending reactions from our users. As a case in point, it appears that Microsoft has intentionally limited the ability to run many DOS programs under Windows Me, including TEAPAC.

In any event, if you still use either of these platforms, and/or not having future TEAPAC updates for DOS or Win 3.x would be a problem for you, call or email us to let us know your situation. One of our plans to address this situation is to provide a Tabular Mode in our Windows products that duplicates the inherent data entry efficiency offered by DOS.

Better yet, go to our Online Survey mentioned above to give us your opinion, and get enrolled to win your next TEAPAC program free!