

## H. Gene Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. H. Gene Hawkins is a Professor in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University. He is the former Division Head of the Transportation and Materials Division within the department. He also holds a joint appointment as a Research Engineer with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). At Texas A&M, he teaches transportation engineering courses to undergraduate and graduate civil engineering students, conducts research in the transportation operations area, and participates in numerous professional organizations. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in May 1993. He also holds Master of Engineering and Bachelor of Science (Cum Laude) degrees in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. Dr. Hawkins is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas. Before joining the TAMU faculty in 2004, Dr. Hawkins worked at TTI for 18 years. Prior to that, he worked in the private sector for consulting firms in Bryan and Houston. He currently also provides consulting and expert witness services outside through his own consulting firm.

Dr. Hawkins' primary fields of interest are traffic control systems, traffic control standards, human factors, retroreflectivity, and visibility. Dr. Hawkins has been a principal investigator or co-principal investigator for numerous research studies, most evaluating signs, markings, and other traffic control devices. His research products include many project reports, manuals, published papers, and presentations on a variety of transportation engineering subjects. Much of his early research addressed driver understanding of traffic control devices and traffic control device retroreflectivity. Dr. Hawkins is a nationally recognized expert in the area of traffic control devices and the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. Some of his most well-known work includes articles and presentations on the history of the MUTCD and usage guidelines for traffic control devices such as the *TxDOT Sign Crew Field Book*, *Freeway Signing Handbook*, and *Pavement Marking Handbook*. Dr. Hawkins has also developed an extensive personal library of traffic engineering publications, which include a large collection of MUTCDs from other states and countries.

Dr. Hawkins is a member of numerous professional and technical organizations. Within the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, he is the Vice-Chair of Programs, a member of the Executive Committee, a member of the Council, chair of the Edit Committee, and chair of the MUTCD Strategic Planning Task Force. He is heavily involved in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Within TRB, he is a former chair of the Traffic Control Devices Committee and a member of the Tort Liability and Risk Management Committee and Roundabout Committee.

Dr. Hawkins has served as the Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator for over 30 projects, with a total value of over \$6 million, focusing primarily on signing, pavement markings, and other types of traffic control devices. Dr. Hawkins has authored or co-authored over 30 peer-reviewed journal papers and has many papers appearing in compendiums and other journals. In addition, he has authored or co-authored over 70 research reports for the Texas Transportation Institute.

Dr. Hawkins has received several awards in his professional and academic career. In 2012, he received the ITE Wilbur S. Smith Distinguished Transportation Educator Award, which is the highest academic award within ITE. He has also received at least five department and college-level teaching awards at Texas A&M. He was the 2010 Texas ITE Transportation Engineer of the Year. As the principal investigator of the Texas DOT project that developed the *Sign Crew Field Book*, his efforts were recognized by TxDOT with a Top Innovation Award in 2001. He received similar recognition in 1999 for his efforts as co-principal investigator for the effort that developed the document *Guidelines for Performing Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis*. He was awarded the TTI/Trinity Outstanding Researcher Award at the Texas Transportation Institute in December 1998. His students have also won numerous recognitions including best paper awards, outstanding student awards, and fellowships.

### Contact Information:

H. Gene Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.  
Professor, Zachry Department of Civil Engineering  
301C CE/TTI Building  
3136 TAMU  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TX 77843-3136

direct phone: 979-845-9946  
email: Gene.Hawkins@tamu.edu  
<https://ceprofs.civil.tamu.edu/ghawkins>