



Pictured left to right: IRWA International President Elect Wayne F. Kennedy, SR/WA, past International President Stephanie Rankin SR/WA, FHWA Director of the Office of Real Estate Services Susan Lauffer and IRWA International Professional Development Committee Chair W. Howard Armstrong.

# Partnering with FHWA Good News for IRWA

By W. Howard Armstrong, Chair,  
International Professional Development Committee


IRWA's Annual Education Seminar in Albuquerque this past June was the occasion of an important announcement between the Association and the Federal Highway Administration. FHWA's Director of the Office of Real Estate Services, Susan Lauffer, presented the "Partnering Agreement" to IRWA President Stephanie Rankin, SR/WA during the opening ceremonies of the seminar. In her remarks, Ms. Lauffer said that the executed Partnering Agreement was a further strengthening of the long-standing relationship between the two organizations and will serve

to "address critical training needs that will better serve our mutual "customers" as we begin the 21st century."

A task force to begin the process of implementing the Partnering Agreement met in Washington, D.C., on July 22. The task force is made up of representatives from FHWA, IRWA, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the National Highway Institute (NHI). Several important issues regarding training opportunities with the state highway departments (DOTs) were discussed as well as the opportunity to provide a training/ certification program for consultants doing work for state DOTs.

An aggressive schedule for implementing many of these efforts is being developed and will be announced soon.

For IRWA, the Partnering Agreement provides an excellent opportunity to extend its educational opportunities to many nonmembers and thereby lead to increased awareness of the Association, its programs and professional designations. This is another key phase in the ongoing effort to make the IRWA the recognized mainspring of the right-of-way profession. ■



**International Right of Way Association**

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**PARTNERING AGREEMENT**  
between  
**THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
and  
**INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) hereby establish this Partnering Agreement to promote greater coordination of efforts to improve the Nation's public infrastructure by providing a quality training system for our customers. Joint partnership activities will be centered on educational and training needs, training outreach, and proactive training activities. The FHWA and IRWA will work together to identify, develop, and provide quality training that will support the Department of Transportation's vision to create the best transportation system in the world, and strategic goals of Mobility, Safety, Productivity, Human and Natural Environment and National Security.


By this agreement, the FHWA and IRWA commit themselves to creating a training system to address FHWA's Strategic Plan that will provide a framework for ROW training necessary to assure that FHWA, State/Local and other Federal Agency personnel will have access to the best training system possible. We will embrace new and emerging technologies and capitalize on opportunities to improve training services today and in the future. The FHWA and IRWA, through joint activities, will assist our customers by providing quality training in ROW disciplines, delivered in a cost-effective manner that support ROW acquisition activities conducted under the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (the Uniform Act) as amended by the Uniform Relocation Act Amendments of 1987.

To meet these goals and objectives, the FHWA and IRWA will:

- \* Cooperate in efforts to understand the training needs of FHWA, State/Local Public Agency and other Federal Agency personnel and how to best prepare them for the next century,
- \* Cooperate to educate our customers and the traveling public in the significance of infrastructure investment, the need to maintain this important national resource and its role in sustaining our quality of life, while assuring that all rights and benefits provided for by the Uniform Act are extended to those affected by the federal and federal-aid programs,
- \* Provide mutual assistance in areas of education and training to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the technologies available to meet present and future transportation needs,
- \* Serve the needs of our mutual customers by providing the best possible training and trained employees, in a cost-effective manner, and,
- \* Build on our years of cooperative efforts that have included extensive FHWA participation in IRWA committees, meetings, and conferences. These efforts and activities have included FHWA participation in many IRWA Education Seminars and meetings at the National and local Chapter level; active participation at annual meetings as speakers; vital presence and interaction with IRWA members through exhibits at annual meetings and specialty conferences; and the utilization of LTAP technology transfer centers to promote training activities.

Joint activities will be determined on a calendar year basis. Annually, the Executive Director from the Federal Highway Administration and a representative of the International Right of Way Association will meet to evaluate training accomplishments of the previous year and to establish priorities for joint training activities in the upcoming year.


Signed by,



Anthony R. Kane  
Executive Director  
Federal Highway Administration

Date: 6/14/99

Signed by,



Stephanie Rankin  
President  
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Date: 6/18/99

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