



[INGLÉS] Appreciation note from Dr. Benjamín Colucci, former director of the center – Vol. 38-1

Greetings to all transportation officials and readers of El Puente magazine. On September 30, 2023, I close a chapter in my professional life in this volume, finalizing my role as the director of the PR-LTAP Center and the editor of this extraordinary bilingual magazine. To my judgement, this Center and its newsletter have served well for the needs of local transportation agencies, including state, federal agencies, and municipalities for 37 years.

I remember the first edition of El Puente that I published in 1986 with Dr. Felipe Luyanda as if it were today. In that first edition we highlighted the strategic mission and vision of the Center in this hemisphere, as a bridge of the transfer and technology in the Americas, the organizational structure of the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTOP, for its acronym in Spanish) and the history of our beloved University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (RUM, for its acronym in Spanish) and our alma mater, the “*Antes, Ahora y Siempre, ... ¡COLEGIO!*” In the first edition of El Puente, we highlighted three technical articles of relevancy at the time and that, according to our knowledge of the field as a profession, are still topics of priority up to this day: “Guide for Repairing Potholes”, “Guide for Installing Fences” and “*Carros Públicos*”.

I hope the articles presented in El Puente throughout all these 37 years were of benefit to our readers and local collaborators involved in the transportation of Puerto Rico. Our intent was to share and continually update innovative initiatives of researches associated to transportation, especially Every Day Counts (EDC), as part of our mission to promote roadway safety, workforce development and the management of transportation infrastructure. Share it with your friends and family, and help us save lives on our roads!

I am eternally grateful of this main trail of life and for the administrative support from the PR-LTAP Center, professors, sub-graduate and graduate students. I would like to thank also all related authors of different disciplines that have collaborated in the writing of approximately 400 technical articles and news of interest for our readers in the area of transportation. I hope to see you all in the future to personally thank every single one of you for your contribution to El Puente newsletter.

With my major appreciation and admiration,

*Benjamín Colucci Ríos*

