



State, U of M experts testify at national field hearing on surface transportation policy

As the nation's surface transportation system faces new challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, informed public policy will be more important than ever for maximizing the benefits of this national resource. That was the message that emerged from testimony by a wide variety of expert witnesses at a field hearing convened by the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission April 17 and 18 on the University of Minnesota campus.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and CTS hosted the event. Lt. Gov. **Carol Molnau** and CTS director **Robert Johns** offered their perspectives in formal testimony to the commission, joining witnesses from across the Midwest and intermountain western states.

The commission was created by Congress in 2005 under the national transportation fund-



Mary Peters

ing act known as SAFETEA-LU and charged with the mission of gathering information on issues that will affect the surface transportation system in coming years. Chaired by Secretary of Transportation **Mary Peters**, the commission is conducting a series of field hearings around the country to receive testimony from transportation experts and members of the public.

On the first day, the field hearing featured testimony on a number of interrelated topics, including traffic safety, visions for a new national transportation policy, the role of rural areas and local governments, multimodal measures to combat congestion, and issues facing the freight transportation industry.

In her remarks, Molnau, who also serves as Mn/DOT commissioner, said the nation's resources should be directed at preserving the

Field hearing continued on page 4

Leaders honored at CTS annual awards luncheon

CTS presented the following awards at its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on March 27 in Minneapolis.

Richard P. Braun Distinguished Service Award: Former CTS director **Richard Braun** presented the award to **Max Donath**, director of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute since 1997 and professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Donath has created one of the most successful ITS research programs in the world, leveraging ITS Institute funds to attract major projects on navigation and intersection control technologies. "It has been an exciting time," Donath said of his 29 years at the University.

Ray L. Lappegaard Distinguished Service Award: **Donna Allan** is a "wonderful mentor" to many women in transportation and to transit professionals, said **Charles Zelle**, CTS Executive Committee member. Allan, director of Mn/DOT's Office of Transit, has served in



Robert Johns, Max Donath, Richard Braun



Johns, Donna Allan, Charles Zelle

Awards continued on page 2

Inside

- 'Access' report..... 2
- Distinguished lecture..... 3
- Eno award 4

MnPASS project wins award

Once in place, most residents support value pricing. This is one of the findings from the "Minnesota I-394 MnPASS Project," winner of this year's CTS Research Partnership Award. **Lee Munnich** of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs reviewed the team's work at the CTS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon held March 27.

Introduced by CTS associate director **Laurie McGinnis**, Munnich said he was pleased to represent the team but faced a problem: the long list of project participants. "[The list] doesn't include the 10,000 satisfied customers who proved that pricing can work," he said.

The MnPASS express lane on I-394 west of Minneapolis opened in May 2005 as the first test-bed for value pricing in Minnesota. The team's project involved education, outreach, and evaluation efforts, including surveys of area residents. The work has led to an increased awareness among transportation, political, business, environmental, and other community leaders that value pricing may be an important long-term tool for managing congestion in the Twin Cities.

Munnich said the project would not have been possible without the contributions of many, including the Federal Highway Administration, state leaders, local elected officials,

MnPASS continued on page 3

First 'Access to Destinations' research summary released

"What if solid research showed that even as congestion is getting worse, most people in the Twin Cities are finding it easier to get where they need to go?" That provocative question is among the issues explored in *Asking the Right Questions About Transportation and Land Use*, a new research summary from the Access to Destinations Study.

The research summary serves as both an introduction to the Access to Destinations Study and a summary of the study's initial findings. It is the first in a planned series of research summaries that will present findings and policy implications to a broad audience of transportation stakeholders, policymakers, and others interested in the future of the transportation system.

At the heart of the summary are the findings of the first Access to Destinations research report, published in November 2006. Report authors **David Levinson** and **Ahmed El-Geneidy** explored techniques for measuring accessibility—particu-

larly the access of workers to jobs and of employers to labor—using automobiles as the primary mode of transportation.

In addition to employment access, the researchers also looked at how accessibility can affect home prices and patterns of land use. Linking transportation to land use is one of the main goals of the Access to Destinations Study.

Although Levinson and El-Geneidy note that there is no single "right" way to measure accessibility, the question of what type of measurement yields the most useful picture of accessibility across a diverse metropolitan region is important. After considering methods used in previous studies, the Minnesota researchers chose to develop their own novel approach to measuring accessibility, dubbed "Place Rank."

Traffic congestion, the summary notes, is one of the most talked-about issues in many cities today and is often linked to economic development as commuters jam the freeways to reach their jobs. The find-

ings of the first Access to Destinations research report paint a complex picture of congestion—one in which people's choices about where to live are influenced not only by proximity to employment but by access to retail areas, public amenities, and special destinations.

One of the key research products described in the summary and currently under development is an "accessibility matrix" covering the entire Twin Cities region. For each of many origin areas, the matrix will measure accessibility to important destination activities—such as employment, shopping, and entertainment—using a variety of transportation modes.

The research summary is available online at www.cts.umn.edu/access-study, or in printed form from CTS. **CTS**

Awards from page 1

a number of leadership positions for the WTS Minnesota Chapter and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Interagency Committee on Transit Coordination. Every day, Allan said, she works with great people and partners. "I know I have the best job in the world," she said.

William K. Smith Distinguished Service Award: Last year's recipient, **Richard Murphy Jr.**, chair of the CTS Executive Committee, presented the award to **John Hausladen**, president of the Minnesota Trucking Association (MTA). Hausladen took an organization that had been fairly inward looking, Murphy said, and turned it into "a 21st century organization" whose vision now encompasses other modes. Hausladen said he is "blessed" to be part of MTA and credited his staff and others for the organization's accomplishments.

Distinguished Public Leadership Award: CTS director **Robert Johns** presented the award to **Curt Johnson**, a long-time public and civic leader and advisor who has served as executive director of the Citizen's League, chief of staff to former Gov. **Arne Carlson**, and chair of the Metropolitan Council. Now president of the Citistates Group, a communications company, Johnson said he "has fun making a living writing about what other people do."

Matthew J. Huber Award for Excellence in Transportation Research and Education: **Cheri Marti**, CTS associate director, presented the award to two students. First was **Michael "Mick" Rakauskas**,



Johns, Curt Johnson

Rakauskas, a research fellow with the HumanFIRST Program and a Ph.D. candidate in the psychology department. He was nominated by **Nic Ward**, director of HumanFIRST, who said Rakauskas "balanced lots of responsibility with grace

and humor."

Second was **Xiaozheng "Sean" He**, a second-year graduate student pursuing both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Civil Engineering advised by assistant professor **Henry Liu**. Liu said He's unique background in mathematics helped in tackling transportation network modeling.

Awards continued on page3



Johns, John Hausladen, Richard T. Murphy



Nic Ward, Michael Rakauskas, Cheri Marti



Marti, Xiaozheng He, Henry Liu

CTS Faculty Scholar gives distinguished women scholars lecture

Professor **Catherine French** of the Department of Civil Engineering presented the spring 2007 Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture on March 22 in Minneapolis.



Catherine French

The annual lectures, one in fall and one in spring, honor the exceptional research, scholarship, and leadership contributions of University of Minnesota women faculty who have received prestigious national, international, and University awards.

French, a CTS Faculty Scholar, investigates the effects of earthquakes and other

extreme natural and human-made events on structures such as skyscrapers and bridges. An award-winning researcher, French was one of the primary collaborators on the development of the University of Minnesota Multi-Axial Subassemblage Testing (MAST) Laboratory, which is one of six large-scale structural testing facilities in the United States that form part of the National Science Foundation's Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) Collaboratory.

In her presentation—titled “Shake, Rattle, and Roll: Testing Structures to Their Limits”—French discussed the process and potential promise of her research on the effects of earthquakes on structural

systems, various means to mitigate these effects, and how her work has led to significant improvements in building codes and structural design.

The lecture series is presented by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Graduate School, the Office for University Women, and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Ada Louise Comstock, the University's first Dean of Women, went on to serve as Dean of the College at Smith College before becoming a president of Radcliffe.

CTS

MnPASS from page 1

MnPASS Task Force members, and the implementation team.

“It's not done yet,” Munnich added. The MnPASS partnership continues to explore ways of improving access and throughput on I-394 as well as improving transit advantages in the corridor, and it will soon be exploring the potential for MnPASS lanes on I-35W. (To learn more about MnPASS, see www.mnpass.org.)

Project partners included:

- **Advisory Task Force Chairs:**
 - **Carol Flynn**, Chair, Value Pricing Task Force (2001–03)
 - **Linda Koblick**, Hennepin County Commissioner, Chair, I-394 MnPASS Phase 2 Advisory Task Force (2006–)
 - **Henry Van Dellen**, Chair, I-394 MnPASS Community Advisory Task Force (2003–04)

- **Jim Hovland**, Mayor, City of Edina; Chair, MnPASS System Study (2004–05)

- **Minnesota Department of Transportation:** **Ken Buckeye, Ginny Crowson, Paul Czech, Doug Differt** (formerly), **Kevin Gutknecht, Randy Halvorson** (formerly), **James Klessig, Susan Sheehan, Mike Sobolewski, Nick Thompson, Darryl Taavola** (formerly)
- **State and Local Policy Program, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota:** **Lee Munnich, Gary Barnes, Frank Douma, Adeel Lari, Barbara Rohde**, graduate students
- **Federal Highway Administration:** **Susan Moe, Jim McCarthy**
- **Metropolitan Council:** **Carl Ohrn**
- **Hennepin County:** **Marthand Nookala**



The MnPASS lane on I-394

- **Wilbur Smith and Associates:** **Ed Regan, Tim Phillips**
- **SRF Consulting Group:** **Ferrol Robinson, Brian Scott, John Doan**
- **Cofiroute USA:** **Jon Ramirez, David Zinser**
- **Frank Wilson and Associates:** **Frank Wilson**
- **Tanaka Advertising:** **Jodie Tanaka**
- **Raytheon:** **Paul Moosie**
- **Loveland Communications:** **Joseph Loveland**
- **Cambridge Systematics:** **Jeff Buxbaum, Doug Sallman**
- **Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH):** **Tom Sohrweide**
- **NuStats:** **Johanna Zmud, Chris Simek, Mark Bradley**
- **Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota:** **Mary Vogel, James Pettinari, Roger Martin, Carlos Fernandez, Nichole Schepp, Laura Reuter** **CTS**

Awards from page 2

ITS Institute Student of the Year Award: **Adam Kokotovich** received the ITS Institute's 2006 Outstanding Student of the Year Award at the annual TRB meeting in Washington, D.C., in January and was also recognized at the April ceremony. Kokotovich is currently working to obtain his master's in science, technology, and environmental policy. His current research focuses on emerging technologies and their social and ethical implications, including privacy concerns related to some ITS technologies. His advisor, **Lee Munnich** of the Humphrey Institute, said Kokotovich

did “more than an outstanding job” on the privacy-related research. Kokotovich said he was pleased to be involved so that “the full potential of ITS technology can be realized.” **CTS**



Marti, Adam Kokotovich, Lee Munnich

Student named Eno Fellow

The Eno Transportation Foundation has named **Tyler Patterson** a 2007 Eno Fellow. Patterson is a dual-degree student working toward a master's degree in urban and regional planning and a master's of science in civil engineering, with a focus on transportation. He is one of only 20 students selected nationally.



Tyler Patterson

Patterson was nominated by his advisor, **David Levinson**, associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and the holder of the Braun/CTS Chair in Transportation Engineering.

Patterson is the president of the Interdisciplinary Transportation Student Organization at the University and is enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Transportation Studies program. He is currently a supported research assistant in the Humphrey Institute working on the MnPASS (high-occupancy toll lane) project and transit-oriented development, "both pertinent issues with a high degree of policy salience," says Levinson.

Eno Fellows participate in the Foundation's Leadership Development Conference (LDC), an intensive week-long professional development program held each spring in Washington, D.C. At the conference, Eno Fellows meet with

top executive branch and congressional officials, industry executives, and nonprofit leaders to gain a real-world perspective about how transportation policies are drafted, debated, shaped, and ultimately determined. In addition to receiving an introduction to how Washington works, Eno Fellows forge professional relationships with their colleagues and are welcomed into the network of alumni from past LDCs and other Eno Foundation professional development programs.

The Eno Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to improving all modes of transportation. It was founded in 1921 by **William Phelps Eno**, a pioneer in the transportation field. **CTS**

Field hearing from page 1

interstate and National Highway System infrastructure and improving state and local connections to them; improving highway safety and reducing fatalities; reducing urban congestion; and removing freight bottlenecks and improving freight mobility. She also called for a federal mileage-based user fee system to replace the existing gas tax.

In his testimony, Johns stressed the need for increased federal investment in transportation research as a critical factor in fostering innovation in transportation. Three CTS Executive Committee members also provided testimony: **Colleen Landkamer**, commissioner, Blue Earth County; **Larry Lair**, general manager, 3M Traffic Safety Systems Division; and **Charles Zelle**, CEO/president, Jefferson Lines.

Max Donath, director of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute at CTS, testified that technology has an important role to play in reducing fatalities and serious injuries on our roads, but it must be combined with a strong policy emphasis on improving safety.

The following morning, the commissioners learned about cutting-edge research in driver performance and behavior at the laboratory of the University of Minnesota's HumanFIRST (Human Factors Interdisciplinary Research in Simulation and Transportation) Program. HumanFIRST director **Nic Ward** put commission members behind the wheel of the program's advanced immersive driving simulator, VESTR, and showed how the system is being used to develop crash-reduction strategies tailored to specific

problems and needs of high-risk groups, including teen drivers and the elderly.

Members of the commission also toured the I-394 MnPASS system and visited Mn/DOT's Regional Traffic Management Center, a state-of-the-art facility that integrates traffic operations control, State Patrol dispatch, and maintenance dispatch.

The Minnesota hearing was the last national hearing scheduled by the commission. The commission will now begin preparing recommendations for a new national transportation policy. The recommendations will be presented to Congress in December 2007.

Testimony will be available online on the commission's Web site. For more information, visit www.transportationfortomorrow.org. **CTS**

Upcoming events

To publicize your event, call CTS at 612-626-1077, fax 612-625-6381, or e-mail snopl001@cts.umn.edu. Visit the CTS Web site—www.cts.umn.edu—for more comprehensive event information.

Sept. 17–18 Toward Zero Deaths Conference, Duluth. Contact **Shirley Mueffelman**, 612-624-4754, conferences2@cce.umn.edu.

Oct. 3–4 Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo, St. Cloud. Contact **Kathy Warren**, 651-351-7432, kwarren@usinternet.com.

Oct. 16–17 AirTAP Fall Forum, Breezy Point. Contact **Mindy Carlson** at 612-625-1813, carlson@cts.umn.edu. **CTS**