

# REPORT

CTS

A monthly report on transportation research, education, and information/outreach activities at the University of Minnesota

May 2002

## Sabo reflects on public service

On April 15, more than 200 family members, friends, and colleagues listened to Congressman **Martin Olav Sabo** reflect on public service as he inaugurated the Martin Olav Sabo Lecture Series, a new forum for distinguished individuals to address the challenges of public service for our states and nation.

During his introduction, former governor, U.S. senator, and regent **Wendell Anderson** recalled that he first met Sabo in 1960 when the 21-year-old Augsburg student first ran for public office. Sabo has held elective office continuously since then, serving 18 years as

state legislator, six of those as Speaker of the House, and 24 as representative from the Fifth Congressional District.

During his hour-long reflection, Sabo recounted the joys and challenges of life in the public sector. He emphasized that "the core of our system of government is based on elected representation." Starting with the basic assumption that public servants are in office to serve the citizens who elect them, Sabo noted that government is about "we," not "I."

Sabo identified listening as the primary skill and activity of a successful public servant. "To really hear what people are saying requires concentration and asking questions. Often what people are trying to tell you is not directly what they are saying," he said.

This listening includes hearing from citizen groups. "I can't think of anybody who's not organized today," he said. Rather than a negative, Sabo considers this a plus, adding to political debate and decision making. He noted that lobbyists play an important role in the political system because "the core of our system of government is the right of people to petition their government and to do it collectively."

He noted that he wished the word "reform" would be banned from political rhetoric:

"My definition of 'reform' is what you label a proposal for change that you can't sell on its merits," he joked. He discounted the idea that the only individuals who have influence on the political system are those who make significant campaign contributions, remarking on the openness of the political process.



U.S. Rep. Martin Olav Sabo

Sabo believes the ultimate role of a public servant is to solve problems, to "bring your judgment and values together to find a pragmatic solution to a problem." To reach those

solutions means "struggling through our divisions," exercising discipline, and making choices, not between good and bad but among "varieties of good," he said.

Sabo views the local level as the toughest and most important political arena. The disconnect between where revenue is raised and where it is spent is worrisome, he said, noting that the federal and state governments can raise funds more efficiently than can local government but that we look to local units to serve local residents. Determining accountability when one arm of government raises money but another delivers services is a challenge.

Despite these challenges, Sabo finds many rewards in public service, both large and small: "Most won't be noted in history books a hundred years from now" but they are important all the same.

The Martin Olav Sabo Lecture Series will be held annually as a forum for distinguished individuals to address the challenges of public service for our states and nation. The Humphrey Institute's State and Local Policy Program administers the series. ☐

## Forum airs area transportation woes

Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) broadcast two hours of live discussion from "Getting There," a day-long transportation forum held April 11 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. CTS cosponsored the event in conjunction with MPR, the Minnesota History Center, and the Humphrey Institute's State and Local Policy Program.

The goal of the summit was to build ideas for a better, smarter transportation system in Minnesota. CTS director **Robert Johns** joined MPR's **Leonard Witt** and Minnesota Historical Society curator **Brian Horrigan** in welcoming a broad range of invited guests, including transportation policymakers and professionals, academics, concerned citizens, and a handful of high school students.

Witt and Minneapolis business consultant **Ken Darling**, serving as host for the event, facilitated instant polling of the audience to gauge opinions and develop a profile of those gathered. For example, 38 percent considered themselves in government service and 5 percent labeled themselves as industry professionals. Regardless of profession, however, 69 percent indicated they drive alone to work or school. What's more, at the outset, 81 percent of the audience felt either very pessimistic or somewhat pessimistic in their outlook for our transportation system.

But if the success of the transportation summit is evaluated by audience reaction alone, a drop in audience pessimism to about 50 percent at the day's end may indicate that a thorough airing of the issues can cultivate a sizable portion of hope for improving the way we get around.

**Gary Eichten**, host of MPR's *Midmorning* show, kicked off the on-air portion of the event moderating a panel consid-

Forum continued on next page

**Forum from front**

ering the question, "How did we get here and where are we headed?" University geography professor **John Adams** led the discussion with a history of road congestion in Minnesota.

"We failed to plan for the future," Adams surmised, "and now the chickens have come home to roost. Congestion is the price we're paying."

Joining Adams were former Metropolitan Council chair **Curt Johnson**, state **Sen. Dean Johnson**, who brought the latest news from the Capitol about a hotly debated transportation funding package, and Eagan mayor **Pat Awada**, who stumped for further road and highway investment to solve congestion.

Following breakout sessions debating major transportation issues, which included congestion, safety, environmental impact, accessibility, and efficient spending, Eichten led another live, hour-long discussion about what can be done about area transportation problems. State transportation commissioner **Elwyn Tinklenberg**, Federal Highway Administration program manager **Cynthia Burbank**, and Metropolitan Council chair **Ted Mondale** served as panelists.

Tinklenberg weighed in on the unsettled issue of state transportation funding. Planning to

ensure protection and preservation of our transportation investments and providing choices were chief among five considerations he mentioned. "It's not about the freedom to drive," he said, responding to a concern about forcing lifestyle changes, particularly upon drivers. "It's about the freedom to choose."

Next, Mondale dove into the middle of the political fray, pointing to a small minority he said has been blocking the multimodal "Moving Minnesota" plan. "The time for decision is now," he declared. "We're looking at an issue of whether we're going to grow our community."

Following the panel, participants joined peers in forming breakout groups of stakeholders. They identified the most workable ideas from the morning's issue groups and developed action plans to make them a reality. Government, business and industry, academia, special interests, citizens, and youth/student groups each presented detailed suggestions to the entire forum.

Finally, Humphrey Institute senior fellow **Lee Munnich** wrapped up the day with a ten-point list summarizing the day's key transportation issues. Topping the list was leadership.

For more detailed coverage of the event please visit [www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org). (T)

**Prospective students learn about CTS Graduate Certificate Program**

Current and prospective University graduate students joined faculty and CTS staff March 25 to learn more about the Center's Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation Studies. CTS launched the certificate program last year together with the University of Minnesota Graduate School to help transportation professionals expand skills and prepare for leadership opportunities, as well as to provide an additional credential for graduate students.

CTS director **Robert Johns** explained that the fledgling program brings together faculty from diverse transportation-related disciplines to help address today's increasingly complex transportation challenges. The program, he added, further strengthens the education component of CTS, aimed at bringing the latest transportation research to planners and practitioners for application in the field.

The 16-credit certificate program is built around an interdisciplinary set of four core courses, two of which are required; a transportation technology seminar; and a growing smorgasbord of electives from more than 25

different disciplines. The key, Johns said, is that students are given the freedom to pursue their interests.

After outlining the requirements for admission, CTS assistant director **Cheri Marti** described the details of the customizable program, which she said offers students an opportunity to deepen their studies in one area or broaden their program beyond a particular field of study.

For instance, **Praveena Pidaparathi**, a first-year master's student in urban and regional planning, says she transferred from Kansas State University specifically for the chance to specialize in transportation issues. To develop valuable transportation planning skills, Pidaparathi began the CTS certificate program this semester and is working as a research assistant with the Humphrey Institute. She's currently involved in a Mn/DOT project studying the effects of telecommuting on travel behavior.

Geography professor **John Adams** and civil engineering assistant professor **David Levinson** each teach two of the program's



four core courses. Adams is a leading researcher in the CTS-sponsored Transportation and Regional Growth Study. Levinson, who also has a background in economics, recently focused his research on the analysis and planning of complex transportation systems.

Adams pointed out that the program's core courses provide a context for specialized pursuits. He also emphasized the need for such study, especially in the Twin Cities, where the population is expected to grow by a million people in the next few decades. "I try to

develop courses that connect the parts of a city," Adams said. "People like me are responsible for helping [others] to learn how things work."

Levinson's students spend a significant amount of time dealing with real-world planning issues, in part by scrutinizing recent transportation decisions and developing alternative plans based on the application of principles learned in class.

Whether pursuing transportation studies as part of a master's program, for the certificate alone, or just for certain courses of interest, most will find the application process can be accomplished in three easy steps. Applying online speeds up the process even more.

Associate professor of applied economics **Gerard McCullough** serves as the program's Director of Graduate Studies. For more information about the Graduate Certificate Program in Transportation Studies, contact **Rozanne Severance** at CTS (612-626-1023, [rseverance@cts.umn.edu](mailto:rseverance@cts.umn.edu)), or visit the CTS web site at [www.cts.umn.edu/certificate](http://www.cts.umn.edu/certificate). (T)

**CTS honors transportation leaders at annual meeting**

CTS presented the following awards at its annual meeting April 16.

• **William K. Smith Distinguished Service Award:** New this year, the award is presented to a professional in the freight transportation and logistics field for leadership and contributions to the education of future leaders in private sector freight transportation. The award is named in honor of **William K. Smith**, who served on the initial committee to establish CTS and on many CTS research and education councils until his death in 2001.

Smith's widow, **Jean**, prefaced the award presentation with a few words of remembrance. "I always suspected Bill was a closet academic," she said. She also thanked CTS for the honor, adding that the Smith family "will treasure it."

**Richard "Pinky" McNamara**, a University of Minnesota regent, then presented the inaugural award to **Gary Eikaas**, vice president of



*Inset: Jean Smith. Left to right: Richard McNamara, Robert Johns, Gary Eikaas*

Dedicated Logistics Inc. Like Smith, Eikaas served on the initial committee to establish CTS. "Bill Smith was a giant in the industry," Eikaas said. "This award is really special to me."

• **Distinguished Public Leadership Award:** CTS Executive Committee member **Doug Weiszhaar**, deputy commissioner of Mn/DOT, presented the award to **Mary Hill Smith**, member of the Metropolitan Council since 1993.



*Robert Johns, Mary Hill Smith, Doug Weiszhaar*

"I'm very pleased to receive the award," Smith said. "As a public servant, you never expect awards. You do it as a privilege."

• **Richard P. Braun Distinguished Service Award:** **Richard P. Braun**, founding director of CTS, presented the award named in his honor to Professor **Panos G. Michalopoulos** of the Department of Civil Engineering. Michalopoulos is the inventor of Autoscope™—a traffic detection technology sponsored by

CTS and Mn/DOT and patented by the University. Autoscope royalties have generated over \$2 million to date for the University. Michalopoulos, one of the authors of a 1984 report that recommended creation of a transportation center at the University, said "we've come a long way since then, thanks to CTS."

• **Ray L. Lappegaard Distinguished Service Award:** CTS Executive Committee member **Fred Corrigan**, executive vice president of the Transportation Alliance, presented the award to **Dick Hansen**, public works director/highway engineer with St. Louis



*Dick Hansen, Fred Corrigan*

County's Public Works Department. Hansen thanked his board of commissioners and his staff for making it possible for him to participate in the "extracurricular activities" for which he was being recognized. "This is truly



*Dick Braun, Panos Michalopoulos*



*Johns, Praveena Pidaparathi, Frank Douma (representing Krizek)*



*Johns, Mazen Hasna, Mohamed-Slim Alouini*

something I'll never forget."

• **Matthew J. Huber Award for Excellence in Transportation Research and Education:** **Robert Johns**, CTS director, presented the awards to two students: **Mazen O. Hasna**, a doctoral student in the Department of Electrical Engineering advised by Assistant Professor **Mohamed-Slim Alouini**, and **Praveena Pidaparathi**, a graduate student in urban and regional planning at the Humphrey Institute advised by Assistant Professor **Kevin Krizek**. Hasna said he has always believed in peaceful applications of technology, of which ITS is an example. Pidaparathi noted she valued her experience working at CTS and the Humphrey Institute.

• **CTS Research Partnership Award:** This year's project recipient is "Influence of Roofing Shingles on Asphalt Concrete Mixture Properties." The project began when University researchers conducted a laboratory study to establish the feasibility of using shingles in pavements. Mn/DOT constructed

test sections and later incorporated the use of scrap shingles into its specifications. The early work was funded by Mn/DOT and a grant from the Office of Waste Management. Following this work an implementation and outreach effort was initiated involving Mn/DOT, the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA), and consultants. Also, OEA gave a grant to Bituminous Roadways Inc., an asphalt manufacturer, to develop a refined processing system to increase production and efficiency.

In accepting the award, Mn/DOT's **Roger Olson** noted that shingle material is now being used on state and county road projects such as a shoulder on TH 169. "We're pretty much at the point where we can use all the product that is available," he said. **John Gulliver**, professor and head of the Department of Civil Engineering, representing former CE professor **Dave Newcomb**, added that this project is "the type of thing possible when you bring research and implementation together." Project partners included:

- Roger Olson, Mn/DOT Office of Materials and Road Research
- Micky Ruiz, Jim Klessig, and

**Karen Billiar**, Mn/DOT Office of Research Services

- David Newcomb, National Asphalt Pavement Association (formerly of the University of Minnesota Department of Civil Engineering)
- Dan Krivit, Dan Krivit and Associates
- Don Kyser and Wayne Gjerde, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance
- Kent Peterson and Mike Jorgenson, Bituminous Roadways Inc.
- Darlene Gorrill, communications and publications consultant (T)



*Front row: John Gulliver, Johns, Wayne Gjerde, Darlene Gorrill, Karen Billiar. Middle row: Roger Olson, Micky Ruiz. Back row: Kent Peterson, Dan Krivit, Mike Jorgenson*

## Students get answers, advice at CTS Career Expo

How do you find out about jobs? Are jobs in the paper for real? Is it true that you need to know someone in order to get a job? These were just some of the questions posed at the CTS Seventh Annual Transportation Career Expo, held March 5 in Minneapolis.

The 75 student attendees represented not just the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Duluth campuses but also Metropolitan State, North Dakota State, St. Cloud State, St. Paul Technical College, the Technical University of Holland, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The expo was "simply the best networking forum I have ever attended," said **John Luis**, a visiting student from MIT.

The event began with a general session on career preparation moderated by **Cheri Marti** of CTS and featuring panelists **Howard Preston** of Howard R. Green, **Don Theisen** of Washington County, and **Theresa Johnson** of Mn/DOT. Four concurrent sessions followed on specific areas of transportation:

- Engineering/Technical Careers. Moderator: **Jim Grothaus**, CTS. Panelists: **Maria Hagen**, City of St. Louis Park; **Mark Dierling**, Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc; **Jim Rosenow**, Mn/DOT; Dennis Luebbe, Rice County
- Transportation Planning and Policy Careers. Moderator: **Robin Dolbow**, CTS. Panelists: **Jodi Ruehle**, Mn/DOT; **Mark Filipi**, Metropolitan Council; **Biz Colburn**, Howard R. Green Associates
- Intelligent Transportation Systems. Moderator: **Dawn Spanhake**, CTS. Panelists: **Janelle Monette**, ADDCO, Inc.; **Farideh Amiri**, Mn/DOT; **Daryl Taavola**, URS
- Transportation Logistics Careers. Moderator: **Cheri Marti**, CTS. Panelists: **Amy Lofdahl**, Cargill; **Kevin McCarthy**, CH Robinson International; **Craig**



**Sanderson**, Silk Inc.

Twenty exhibitors involved in transportation were also on hand to answer questions. The CTS Education / Outreach Council offered the event in cooperation with the Women's Transportation Seminar, the Minnesota Local Road Research Board, Minnesota T<sup>2</sup>, and the ITS Institute. (TS)

## SLPP to hold conference on urban corridor development

The Humphrey Institute's State and Local Public Policy Program (SLPP) will be hosting "A Case Study Conference on Urban Transportation Corridors" June 7, 2002, in Cowles Auditorium. This conference will convene leaders and staff from local transportation corridor development projects to identify key lessons that can be learned from other urban areas that have developed transportation corridors, such as the TREX project in Denver, I-15 managed lanes in San Diego, and the busways in Ottawa, Ont. Lessons learned from these projects will be used to inform corridor projects in the Twin Cities.

The discussions will be centered on the role of governance, citizen participation, financing, economic impacts, and design of case study areas. The overall objective is to develop a greater understanding of the potential for transportation in corridor redevelopment projects, which will inform a pro-

posal for strategic financing, implementation, and management planning for Hennepin County.

This event is part of an 18-month study led by the State and Local Policy Program, which is hosting the event with additional support from CTS and the Minnesota Transportation Alliance. The research project itself is a collaborative effort by the SLPP, the Design Center for the American Urban Landscape at the University's Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and the Claremont Graduate University, and is funded by Hennepin County with support from the Federal Transit Administration. The research will culminate in a proposed strategy for implementing the lessons learned.

Anyone interested in attending should call **Wenling Chen** at 612-625-2934 or e-mail [wchen@hhh.umn.edu](mailto:wchen@hhh.umn.edu). (TS)

## Librarian joins CTS

**Arlene Mathison** joined CTS in April to manage library and information services. Her experience includes information specialist positions with Goldman Sachs and Dayton Hudson and knowledge management at Arthur Anderson. (TS)



Arlene Mathison

## Upcoming events

To publicize your event, call CTS at 612-626-1077; fax 612-625-6381; or e-mail [snopl001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:snopl001@tc.umn.edu). Visit the CTS web site—[www.cts.umn.edu](http://www.cts.umn.edu)—for more comprehensive event information.

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| July 14-16  | 2002 Midwest Regional & Shortline Railroad Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, New Ulm, Minn. Call <b>Angela</b> , 651-228-9757, or e-mail <a href="mailto:AAAnderson@MandKLaw.com">AAAnderson@MandKLaw.com</a> .  |
| Sept. 3-6   | International Probike, Prowalk Conference, St. Paul. Call 651-297-1568, or visit <a href="http://www.bikewalk.org">www.bikewalk.org</a> .  |
| Sept. 18-20 | "Tools of the Trade," 8th TRB National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact <b>Kathy Briscoe</b> at 652-296-1614 or <a href="mailto:kathy.briscoe@dot.state.mn.us">kathy.briscoe@dot.state.mn.us</a> . (TS) |