



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Center for Transportation Studies
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CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION STUDIES NOVEMBER REPORT

A monthly report on transportation research, education and technology transfer activities at the University of Minnesota

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY BOARD INVITATIONS

The Center is receiving an excellent response to its invitation to Minnesota leaders to serve on its Advisory Board. Members so far include: Roger Appledorn, Fred Beier, Morris Benson, John Brandl, Gerry Brown, Carol Bufton, Doris Caranicas, Doug Carlson, Gary DeCramer, Jim Denn, Ed Egan, Pete Fausch, Chuck Foslien, Dan Frentress, Judith Healey, Davis Helberg, Terry Hoffman, Dave Holt, Peter Hutchinson, Jim Infante, Curt Johnson, Steve Keefe, Elaine Kienitz, Jean King, Ted Kolderie, Keith Langseth, Ray Lappegaard, Len Levine, Steve Loeding, Wilbur Maki, Larry McCabe, Gene Merriam, Ken Murphy, Steve Novak, Chuck Nyberg, Elliot Perovich, Clarence Purfeerst, David Roe, Gary Sauer, Sharon Sayles-Belton, Ed Schuh, Tom Scott, Bill Smith, Bob Stassen, Russ Thompson, Gordy Voss, Dick Wolsfeld, and Carl Wyczawski. Ten of the Board members will be on an Executive Committee that will guide the direction of the full board. The Center's next steps will be to select a Chair for the Advisory Board, who will work with the Center to form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will meet this fall to plan the first full Board meeting. A full list of Board members and their backgrounds will be published in the future.

CONSORTIUM TO RECEIVE FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that a western consortium of universities--consisting of the U of M, Colorado State, North Dakota State (the lead institution), the University of Colorado at Denver, Utah State, and the University of Wyoming--will be one of ten university groups to receive funding for the four-year University Transportation Centers Program (UTCP). The consortium's research agenda will deal with the unique transportation problems of this region, caused by large geographic areas, low-income rural populations, extreme climatic conditions, and economies dependent on agriculture and natural resources. The Center will administer a \$180,000 UTCP research program at the U of M this year (\$90,000 federal funds and \$90,000 matching funds), which will fund multi-disciplinary research by U of M faculty.

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY

Center Director **Dick Braun** has been selected to be a member of the Mobility 2000 Group. This is a 19-member national committee that is reviewing international developments in advanced highway technology and exploring possible institutional and funding arrangements for a coordinated U.S. effort that can compete with the PROMETHEUS program in Europe and a similar effort in Japan. All of these programs involve a collaboration of public and private interests that explore vehicle/highway system applications of emerging navigation, communication, identification and control technologies. Mobility 2000 estimates that U.S. efforts currently lag both the European and Japanese programs by at least five years. The University of Michigan Transportation Institute hosted the October meeting of this group in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The meeting included a demonstration of experimental technologies by a number of private automotive companies and research institutes and an evaluation of the potential for advanced highway technology in the future.

COLLABORATION AMONG ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS, & ENGINEERS

The Center is participating in the planning for a major conference next spring called "Art, Architecture & Engineering: A Blueprint for Change," which will address how the collaborative process among disciplines can be improved. **Nick Shank** of Studio Arts, **Leslie Denny** of Continuing Education, and **Moe Dorton** of the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment are leading this effort, supported by a planning committee that includes the Center, several faculty members, local artists, and a number of transportation professionals, including **Pete Fausch**, **Jim Reiersen**, **Perry Smith**, **Scott Wendy**, and **Dick Wolsfeld**.

PROPOSAL ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ECONOMY

Professors **Eric Sheppard** of Geography and **Yorgos Stephanedes** of Civil and Mineral Engineering have submitted a proposal to the Northwest Area Foundation titled, "The Dynamic Interrelation of Highway Investment and Local Economic Growth." The project would be an empirical study at the county level for the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Washington, and possibly others. Stephanedes previously conducted a study for the Minnesota Department of Transportation which found statistical evidence that economic growth often followed infrastructure investment. The related paper, "Influence of Transportation on Economic Development," is available upon request.

PLANS FOR TRANSPORTATION LIBRARY SERVICES

The Center staff, transportation engineering faculty members, and several librarians from the University and MnDOT have reviewed and distributed materials from the Urban Transportation Library. This library, which was located in the Civil and Mineral Engineering Building, had not been in service since 1983 due to funding cuts.

The MnDOT library and the Walter library took several of the volumes, and others were placed in graduate student areas. The Center will offer library services in the future, but does not plan to develop another large collection of materials. Instead, it will offer a small collection of current periodicals and will work to build extensive computer access to the collections at the University, MnDOT, and national institutions such as TRB. Sophisticated computer networks and delivery and copying services are now in place that reduce the need for duplicative collections.

CENTER MEETS WITH STUDENTS

The student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers invited **Bob Johns** and **Amy Vennewitz** to regularly attend its monthly meeting. At the initial meeting, the members discussed several roles they would like to see the Center play, especially in helping students secure internships and summer employment. They would also like the Center to help bring in outside speakers at their meetings. As the Center develops its student programs, it will get input from other student groups, including planning, management, geography and other disciplines.

THREE MAJOR CONFERENCES

The Center recently participated in three major conferences. **Amy Vennewitz** helped plan the national High-Occupancy Vehicle Facilities conference, while **Bob Johns** moderated one of the workshops and **Dick Braun** moderated the closing session. Proceedings from this conference, which gave an excellent update of HOV facilities throughout the country and provided some future outlooks for HOV applications, will be available from **Katie Turnbull** of the Regional transit Board at 292-8789. Vennewitz also represented the Center at the Seaway Conference in Thunder Bay, which discussed the problems of the Great Lakes/Seaway System and called for more public and private coordination. Proceedings are available from **Dale Baker** of UMD at 218-726-8106. Braun also moderated a general session panel at the Weighing-In-Motion conference, which attracted over 300 people from many states to discuss planning, engineering, and enforcement applications of WIM technology. **Dick Stehr** of MnDOT can be contacted at 296-7968 for the results of this conference.

UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION EVENTS

If you have a transportation-related event you would like publicized, please call the Center at 626-1077.

November 9 Civil and Mineral Engineering Department Open House, Dinner, and Speaker, **Eugene Figg**, "Functional and Aesthetically Pleasing Bridges." Contact: **Arlene Bennett** 625-1880 or **Carol Anderson** 625-5522 at CME.

- November 17 Seminar on Fleet Management by the Carlson School of Management, "Cost Control and Energy in Motor Trucking Management." Minneapolis Hilton Inn. Contact: Professor Donald Harper 624-5833.
- November 21-22 35th Annual Bituminous Conference, Sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists. Sheraton Inn Northwest, Brooklyn Center. Contact: Mn/AAPT 642-1350.
- December 7 Regional Transit Board Annual Transit conference. Radisson University Hotel, Minneapolis. Contact: Janice Hennings of RTB 292-8789.
- January 22-26 68th Annual Meeting, Transportation Research Board. Sheraton Washington Hotel and Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: TRB (202) 334-3218.