



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Center for Transportation Studies
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CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION STUDIES OCTOBER REPORT

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

INVITATIONS FOR ADVISORY BOARD

Letters from Dick Braun, Center director, are being sent to approximately fifty Minnesota leaders inviting them to serve on the Center's Advisory Board. The group of names includes a balance of business, education, political and interest group leaders. Ten of the Advisory Board members will serve on the Board's Executive Committee. One of the first efforts of the Board will be to help develop a process and criteria for soliciting transportation research proposals from University faculty. Other committees and task forces that involve faculty members and transportation professionals will also be formed.

FALL SPEAKER ON AIRPORTS SCHEDULED

Each quarter the Center selects a current Minnesota transportation issue and invites a luncheon speaker to talk about how other states and regions are dealing with similar issues. The fall speaker, scheduled for November 1, is David Lewis, an economic consultant, who will talk about public policy issues regarding metropolitan airport facilities. Mr. Lewis has worked on many airport studies, including a recent project for the Metropolitan Council. Reservations can be made by returning the enclosed form.

SEARCH BEGINS FOR TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING PROFESSOR

Matt Huber, a long-time contributor to transportation research and education, is retiring from the transportation engineering faculty at the end of this school year. The Civil and Mineral Engineering Department has established a search committee to recommend a candidate to fill this position. The committee is chaired by Panos Michalopoulos and includes Dick Braun, Matt Huber, Yorgos Stephanedes, and Vaughn Voller from the University and Peter Fausch and Dave Koski from the transportation community. The committee is looking for a candidate with expertise in transportation systems analysis and a strong background in computer applications. If you would like a copy of the posting, call Cindy Holton at 626-1077.

CENTER HELPS COORDINATE MN/DOT'S RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Minnesota Department of Transportation established the Cooperative Transportation Research, Studies and Program Development (COPTRS) agreement with the University in 1983. This program funds research projects for University faculty on issues important to Mn/DOT. The research office of Mn/DOT, with Gabe Bodocsy as liaison, has asked the Center to help administer this program, including helping solicit proposals, monitor projects, publish results and sponsor seminars. Bob Johns and Amy Vennewitz of the Center are working with Mn/DOT this fall to define the Center's role and establish communication mechanisms with faculty. Current COPTRS research projects are listed below.

Project

Controlling Canada Thistle
and Leafy Spurge
Prestressed Bridge Girders
Reusability
Development of a Visible
Vehicle Detection System
Traffic Management Strategies
for Freeway Corridors
Benefit Cost Procedures for
Ranking Bridge Projects
Monitoring Soil Water Condi-
tions Beneath Highways
Transit Need and Service
Design

Principal Investigators

Willard Koukkari & David
Biesboer, Botany
Catherine French & Roberto
Leon, Civil Eng.
Panos Michalopoulos, Civil Eng.
Panos Michalopoulos, Civil Eng.
Theodore Krauthammer, Civil Eng.
John Nieber & Ian Moore, Agri-
cultural Engineering
Yorgos Stephanedes, Civil Eng.

REPORT ON SEATTLE TRANSIT EXPERIENCE

A report documenting transit system development in Seattle has been prepared by the Center. Seattle, a metropolitan area with many similarities to the Twin Cities, is currently constructing a downtown tunnel system that will use dual-powered buses. The report documents the region's transportation characteristics, the evaluation of alternatives, and the cost and funding of the project. It has been mailed to Minnesota transportation agencies as information that could be useful in planning for LRT and other transit systems in the Twin Cities. If you would like a copy, please call the Center at 626-1077.

OPEN HOUSE AND DINNER BY CIVIL AND MINERAL ENGINEERING

The Civil and Mineral Engineering Department will hold an Open House on November 9 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tours of the building will be conducted and laboratory exhibits will be on display. Evening activities include a dinner co-sponsored by the Minnesota Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a speech by Eugene C. Figg on "Functional and Aesthetically Pleasing Bridges." For more information, contact Arlene Bennett at 625-1880 or Carol Anderson at 625-5522.

BRIDGE RESEARCH PROJECT AWARDED

Professors Ted Galambos, Cathy French, and Roberto Leon of the Civil and Mineral Engineering Department have been awarded a \$200,000 contract with the National Cooperative Highway Research Program to conduct research on bridges. The project is titled "Inelastic Rating Procedures for Steel Beam and Girder Bridges." They recently submitted the interim report for this project.

GRAIN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PRESENTED

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Department has recently published the results of its latest research on grain transportation. Professor Jerry Fruin joined David Buschera and Dan Halbach in authoring Minnesota Grain Movements 1985. He also joined Buschera and Perry Plank from MnDOT in authoring a chapter in the 1989 Economic Report to the Governor, titled "Grain Transportation: Adaptation to Changing Export Markets." Fruin also presented a paper titled "Corn Shipments and Receipts by Mode, 1985" at a conference sponsored by the Southern Regional Grain Marketing Committee.

MINNESOTA EXTENSION CONDUCTS TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has awarded a \$189,400 grant to 4-H Youth Development of the University Extension Service. These funds will be used by Sharon K.B. Wright and her staff to conduct the Minnesota Community Traffic Safety Project, which includes grants for 11 Minnesota counties conducting comprehensive traffic safety programs. 4-H Youth Development has been active in bicycle and other community transportation issues.

SEMINAR ON FLEET MANAGEMENT

Don Harper of the School of Management is conducting research on energy usage in motor trucking. He has arranged for a seminar to be held in Minneapolis on November 17, titled "Cost Control and Energy in Motor Trucking Management." The seminar will address the future of diesel oil supplies in Minnesota, technological advances in diesel fuel usage, and effective fleet management. The luncheon speaker will be James C. Harkins, who will speak on "The Status of the United States Trucking Industry in the Late 1980's." For more information, contact Don Harper at 624-5833.

FACULTY INVOLVED IN LRT STUDIES

Several faculty members have been involved in the various committees established by Hennepin County to study light-rail transit options. John Carmody of the Underground Space Center and Will Craig of CURA were active this summer in corridor committees. Russ Adams from the Geography Department recently made a presentation to a citizen group on the merits and demerits of LRT in the Twin City area, addressing concerns of elderly and minority community members near the Hiawatha corridor.

UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION EVENTS

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

- October 12-14 Annual Minnesota Public Transit Association Fall Conference, "Building Alliances." Hilton Inn, Minneapolis. Contact: Dale Maul at MPTA 349-7685.
- October 17-19 Third National Conference by the Transportation Research Board Task Force on High-Occupancy Vehicles, "1988 National HOV Facilities Conference." Marriot City Center, Minneapolis. Contact: Katie Turnbull at RTB 292-8789.
- October 17-21 Third National Conference on Weigh-In-Motion, sponsored by FHWA, MnDOT, Iowa DOT, and Wisconsin DOT, "Applications and Future Directions." St. Paul. Contact: Dick Stehr at MnDOT 296-7968 or Gary Graves at MnDOT 296-1671.
- October 20 Annual Meeting for Minnesota Good Roads Incorporated, Luncheon Speech by Minnesota Congressman James Oberstar. Sheraton Midway, St. Paul. Contact Jerry Anderson at MGRI 379-7227.
- November 1 Center for Transportation Studies Luncheon and Speaker, David Lewis, "Metropolitan Airports: Current and Future Public Policy Issues." University Radisson, Minneapolis. Contact: Jennifer Klaus at CTS 626-1077.
- November 9 Civil and Mineral Engineering Department Open House and Dinner. Speaker is 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: Donald Harper 624-5833.