

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

OVER 300 ATTEND CENTER'S SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Center's Second Annual Transportation Research Conference on May 7-8 attracted over 300 people from an array of organizations. The conference is the annual highlight of the Center's efforts to create a participatory environment for transportation researchers and practitioners. This year's conference featured concurrent sessions with over 60 speakers from the University and public and private sectors. Many sessions attracted sizable audiences, and the special highlighted sessions--Minnesota and the Global Economy; IVHS and the *GuideStar* Program; Mn/ROAD; and Urban Congestion Solutions--were especially well attended. The conference also included luncheon presentations by **Anthony Kane** and **John Riley** (described below); an opening address by **Charles Wootan** (also below); and, in the IVHS session, a discussion of national IVHS efforts by **Carlton Robinson**, executive vice president of the Highway Users Federation. To obtain a copy of the final conference program or the collection of presentation abstracts, please call the Center at (612) 626-1077.

CHARLES WOOTAN ADDRESSES OPENING SESSION

The conference opened with a general session featuring **Charles Wootan**, director of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University, who described "University Transportation Centers: Their Role and Contributions." Wootan believes that research in this country, and transportation research in particular, is "grossly underfunded," with only two-tenths of one percent of highway budgets used for research. The Texas DOT funds TTI on a continuing, long-term basis, which benefits both organizations. However, the citizens of Texas receive the greatest gain from this relationship, he asserted, as the Institute's research helps Texas build its highways at the lowest cost per mile in the nation. TTI also stimulates the Texas economy by attracting federal research money, and assists the private sector by increasing productivity. He closed by emphasizing the importance of research in enhancing the nation's prosperity and quality of life. The opening session concluded with **Judy Hollander**, chair of the conference planning committee, outlining the conference structure.

SPRING LUNCHEON WITH ANTHONY KANE HELD AT CONFERENCE

Another highlight of the conference was the spring luncheon presentation on May 7 by **Anthony Kane**, associate administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Kane spoke on the "Role of Research and Education Initiatives in the Federal Transportation Policy Plan." He began by outlining the recruitment problems facing the transportation industry, and noted that 42 state DOTs expect shortages of transportation engineers over the next five years. To address these concerns, the USDOT'S 1992 budget calls for significant funding increases for education and research initiatives. The plan proposes a 36 percent increase in pre-college education programs and significant increases for undergraduate and postdoctoral programs. The DOT plan also calls for research funding increases of 110 percent for highways and 30 percent for mass transit, as well as an expansion of the University Transportation Centers Program. He reported that the climate in Congress is right for an "intense" commitment to transportation research and development, and expects growing interest in new technologies such as maglev trains, and "aggressive" increases in IVHS funding in the coming decade.

CLOSING SESSION FEATURES JOHN RILEY

The conference closed with a luncheon presentation on May 8 by **John Riley**, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, who addressed the question: "How Can Minnesota Meet Its Transportation Needs in an Era of Declining Resources?" Riley said the answer lies in promoting research that will lead to new techniques for preserving our existing infrastructure and reducing construction and maintenance costs. Rising costs--such as the \$1.3 billion needed to replace and repair 39 miles of urban interstate in the Twin Cities--demonstrate why research programs like Mn/ROAD and *GuideStar* are so important, he said. Even if Mn/ROAD helps reduce highway costs by only one percent over the next 20 years, the state will save \$160 million. And through *GuideStar*, the capacity of Minnesota urban highways is expected to increase at least five percent. He stressed the need to focus research efforts and to import techniques from outside Minnesota; for this, he declared there is "no better funnel than CTS, and no better hearing than this conference." The conference ended with closing remarks by CTS Director **Dick Braun** and **Ray Lappegaard**, chair of the Center's Executive Committee.

ANNUAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Center's annual Advisory Board meeting, led by Executive Committee Chair **Ray Lappegaard**, was held on May 6, the evening before the Center's conference, to review directions for the upcoming year. Chair Lappegaard and Director **Dick Braun** thanked Board members for their help in supporting legislation for Center base funding, which, as part of the Transportation Study Board bill, has now passed both houses and is awaiting Governor **Arne Carlson's** signature. The Advisory Board also heard reports from the six CTS Council chairs, who outlined five-year goals and initiatives for the upcoming year in their research, education, and outreach subject areas. Included in the research council reports were the research projects that have been funded for next year, which are enclosed for your information. The Center's strategic directions are documented in the updated report *Center Directions*, which the Executive Committee will formally approve this summer for the next academic year.

CTS COUNCILS MEET TO SET FUTURE PLANS

The six CTS Councils held concurrent meetings on May 6 before the Advisory Board meeting to review the draft recommendations in *Center Directions* that had been prepared by the chairs and subcommittees. The chairs for the four research councils--**Dennis Cavanaugh** for Transportation and the Economy; **Mike Robinson** for Transportation Safety and Traffic Flow; **Doug Weiszhaar** for the Transportation Infrastructure; and **Judy Hollander** for Transportation and the Environment--put plans in place for periodic meetings on research projects in progress. The Education Council, chaired by **Jim Newland**, heard reports from three subcommittees and made plans for several efforts to improve transportation education. **Carol Bufton's** Information and Outreach Council set priorities for reviewing the Center's publication program and developing information services functions. The full Councils will meet again in the fall.

FACULTY POSITION IN TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IS FILLED

Barbara J. Kanninen of the University of California, Berkeley, has accepted the new position of assistant professor of transportation and environmental policy with the Humphrey Institute. Kanninen received her doctorate at Berkeley in agricultural and resource economics and has a master's degree in economics from Texas A&M. The new position will deal broadly with transportation policy and the relationship of transportation systems with urban and rural environments. The position, jointly funded by the Minnesota Sea Grant Program and CTS, will include both research and extension responsibilities.

1991 HUBER AWARD PRESENTED AT CTS CONFERENCE

The recipient of the 1991 Matthew J. Huber Award for excellence in transportation research and education is **Ping Yi**, a graduate student in transportation engineering. Ping has worked for Mn/DOT's Traffic Management Center as an intern, and will join Mn/DOT full time this summer. **Dick Braun** presented the \$500 award to Ping at the closing session of the Center's conference. The Center initiated the award in 1987 to promote excellence in transportation research and education, in honor of retired Professor **Matthew J. Huber**.

MINNESOTA WELL REPRESENTED AT LOW VOLUME ROAD CONFERENCE

The Transportation Research Board holds an international conference on low volume roads every four years. This conference always has received strong interest from the Minnesota Local Road Research Board, consisting of county and city engineers. Board members and Mn/DOT representatives recently attended the 1991 conference in North Carolina to hear several presentations on engineering developments, economic impacts, and financing of low volume roads throughout the world. The Minnesota contingent was particularly interested in observing conference operations, since the Center, with the support of Mn/DOT and the Local Road Research Board, plans to bid on hosting the 1995 conference. A group of the Minnesota planning committee, chaired by **Bob Johns** of CTS and including **Mike Wagner**, **Dennis Carlson**, **Bob Benke**, and **Mike Marti**, met with members of the 1995 site selection committee. In addition, **Bob Benke** and **Dave Johnson** of Mn/DOT presented a status report to the TRB Low Volume Road Committee on the Mn/ROAD pavement research project, whose low volume road test facility would be a main feature of a 1995 conference in Minnesota. The Center and the planning committee will be preparing a proposal due in September of 1991.

MINNESOTA REPRESENTATIVES VIEW SEATTLE HOV AND BUS FACILITIES

A number of Minnesotans recently attended two conferences in Seattle--the 5th Annual High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) conference in April and the Women's Transportation Seminar National Conference in May. Conference participants toured Seattle's 50-mile system of HOV lanes and the recently opened two-mile, five-station dual mode downtown bus tunnel. When it reaches full service, the bus tunnel is expected to be utilized by 130 to 140 buses carrying 9,400 passengers during the peak hour. Both systems demonstrate the variety of innovative solutions needed to solve urban congestion problems. At the HOV conference, Center Director **Dick Braun** presented a paper on the potential use of HOV lanes in implementing IVHS technologies, and **Charleen Zimmer** of Strgar-Roscoe-Fausch Inc., made three presentations on the Twin Cities I-394 HOV facility.

CTS SECOND ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The Center's annual report for the 1989-90 calendar year is available to those interested. The 43-page publication describes Center programs as well as the many research projects under way at the University that involve transportation. Call the Center at (612) 626-1077 to obtain copies.

CTS SEMINARS

The Center's spring quarter seminars ended last month with several presentations. The Faculty Seminars Series featured Professor **Iwao Iwasaki** of Civil and Mineral Engineering, who spoke on "Corrosion Investigation of Reinforcing Bars in Pavements and Bridge Decks"; and Professor **Thomas Anding** of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, who discussed "Assessing the Transportation Needs of Native Americans on Reservations." The Careers Series featured **Richard Wolsfeld**, principal with BRW Inc.

UPCOMING TRANSPORTATION EVENTS

If you have an event you would like publicized, please call **Pam Snoop** of the Center at (612) 624-0841. For other Center information, please call (612) 626-1077.

- June 6 **Women's Transportation Seminar Workshop: "Creative Leadership Thinking and Action Plans for Transportation Professionals,"** University Club, St. Paul. Featuring **Holly Kurtz**, Norwest Corp. Contact **Biz Colburn** at (612) 370-0700.
- June 18-20 **Minnesota Transportation Alliance 20th Washington Fly-in,** Channel Inn, Washington, D.C. Contact **Jerry Anderson** at (612) 379-7227.
- July 14-16 **Highway Users Federation 1991 Highway Transportation Congress,** Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Featuring a presentation by USDOT Secretary **Samuel Skinner**. Contact **Carol Lovro** at (612) 290-0025.
- August 18-21 **Second International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technologies in Transportation Engineering,** Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis. Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Contact **Lori Graven** at (612) 625-9023 (phone) or (612) 626-1632 (fax).