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Policy Studies

Created by Congress in 1991

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# World in Motion

Winter 2007

## Alexander Kummant



President and CEO  
Amtrak and  
MTI Board of Trustees

**A**mtrak President and CEO Alex Kummant was chosen to lead Amtrak by the railroad's board of directors in September 2006. The veteran railroad and industrial executive is responsible for a business with nearly \$2 billion in annual revenues, more than \$9 billion in assets and 19,000 employees.

Mr. Kummant's first railroad job came at age 18 for the Lake Terminal Railroad at the U.S. Steel Lorain Works in Lorain, Ohio, working on a track crew. He began his professional career as an engineer for Standard Oil Company.

From 1999 to 2003, Mr. Kummant held several executive positions with the Union Pacific Railroad, the nation's largest freight railroad, and drove improved customer service, on-time delivery of client products, and significant gains in performance of individual business and operating units. As a regional vice president in 2002-2003, he led 6,000 transportation, engineering, construction, mechanical, and other employees supporting an 8,000-mile rail network. Mr. Kummant was vice president of Premium Operations in 2001-2002, overseeing the intermodal and automotive distribution network. His first post at Union Pacific was vice president and general manager responsible for the carrier's Industrial Products business.

Immediately prior to joining Amtrak, Mr. Kummant was vice president and general manager of the Controls Americas division of Invensys Controls, a manufacturer of components, systems, and services used for temperature management, safety, water heating, food equipment, and other appliances.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Kummant holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Case Western Reserve University, a master's degree in manufacturing engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and an MBA from Stanford University. He is married to Kathleen Regan Kummant, a former senior executive with the Santa Fe and BNSF railways.

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## Inside

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# Research

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director

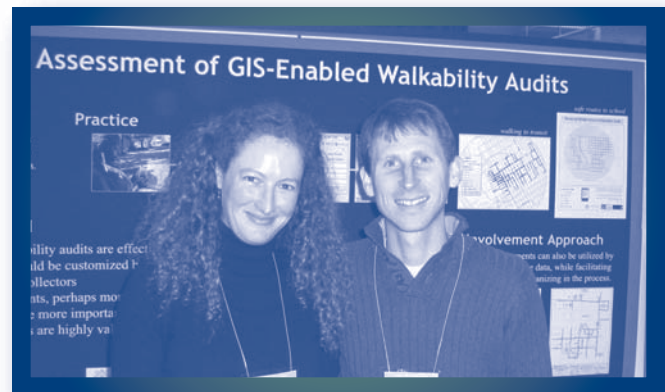
## MTI Research Featured at Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in January attracted nearly 11,000 researchers, practitioners and students for five days of intensive workshops, lectures, exhibits, and networking. Many MTI Research Associates were on the program, and I especially want to highlight those who presented MTI-sponsored research – a record number.

MTI Education Director and Research Associate Dr. Peter Haas presented the results of his work for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP, a joint program of TRB and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) to identify security research gaps. Designed to review progress made under research grants to state DOTs following 9/11 and to identify areas of needed research, this special study was part of the material covered in a workshop entitled *Integrating Incident and Emergency Management into Traffic Management Centers and Defining the Homeland Security Research Priorities of State DOTs*.

The session titled *Increasing Demand for Walking and Bicycling* began with Asha Weinstein (SJSU) and Jennifer Dill (Portland State University) presenting the survey portion of the MTI study, “How Far, by Which Route, and Why? Spatial Analysis of Pedestrian Preference.” The research team also included Principal Investigator Marc Schlossberg of the University of Oregon and two graduate students: Katja Irvin of SJSU and Vanessa Louise Bekkouche of the University of Oregon. The paper was selected by the TRB Pedestrian Committee as one of two recognized as the most outstanding papers submitted this year. Congratulations to this outstanding research team!

“High-Speed Rail in the United States: Can the Dream Be Realized?” started the session



Asha Weinstein and Marc Schlossberg with Poster

on *Passenger Rail Restructuring Options*. Drs. Allison de Cerreño (Rudin Center, NYU) and Shishir Mathur (SJSU) discussed the conclusions of their report. The full report addresses the Northeast, Pennsylvania, and Chicago Hub corridors; it is available in hardcopy and on the website. Congratulations also to Dr. De Cerreño for her recent appointment as the director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management at New York University.

MTI Research Associates Drs. Caroline Rodier and Susan Shaheen presented “Video Transit Training for Older Travelers: Case Study of Rossmoor Senior Adult Community, California” at the workshop, *Understanding the Public Transportation Market Through Market Research, Planning, and Marketing*. The study will be available shortly, and yes, it does include the video!

The versatile team of Drs. Jennifer Dill and Asha Weinstein completely changed subjects to present some of the findings from the major survey work done for their study of transportation financing options for California. The other member of the team was Dr. Todd Goldman, the associate director for New Initiatives Region II University Transportation Research Center at City College of New York. The paper, “How to Pay for Transportation? A Survey of Public Preferences,” was part of a Spotlight Session, *Exploring Transportation Funding Options: Issues and Decision Factors*.

# Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director

## Christina Watson honored as U.S. DOT Student of the Year

MSTM student Christina Watson, a Senior Transportation Planner at the Transportation Administration for Monterey County (TAMC) was honored as MTI's U.S. Department of Transportation Student of the Year for 2007 in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on January 20. Aside from outstanding academic achievements in the MSTM program (including a 3.95 GPA out of a possible 4.0), Christina has distinguished herself as a transportation professional both in and out of the workplace. Currently, her responsibilities at TAMC include managing the Caltrain Extension to Monterey County project, administering the Transportation for Livable Communities Transit-Oriented Development incentive grant program, and acting as the staff legislative liaison for the Agency's state and federal legislative advisors. She also serves as a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and is the president of the Monterey Bay Area Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals. Christina received a check for \$1,000 and was acknowledged by several transportation luminaries at the Washington ceremonies, not the least of which was former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Former MTI Students of the Year have frequently gone on to bigger and better things, and we are confident that Christina will follow in their footsteps. **Congratulations, Christina!**



MTI Student of the Year Christina Watson with Norman Mineta, Rod Diridon, and Dr. Peter Haas

## MSTM Students on the move



Wesley Zinke

Wesley Zinke is now a Local Assistance Project Manager who will coordinate a SAFETEA-LU program for Caltrans in Stockton.



Chris Morfas

Chris Morfas was named a co-winner of the Pedestrian Safety Advocate of the Year award from America Walks. He is a legislative liaison for the Sacramento Air Quality Management District.



Scott McCay

Scott McCay, who recently joined the CTM program, has earned an entry level job with the City of Palo Alto's Department of Planning, Transportation, and the Environment.



George Yurek

George Yurek was promoted to Senior Planner at Samtrans in San Carlos.

## Recent MSTM alumni achievements

- MSTM alumna Kathleen Zahniser McClaffin is the Native American liaison for Caltrans District 10 (Stockton) and received the department's Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award.
- MSTM alumni Leanne Provost and Joanne McDermott have been promoted to positions in the Aeronautics Division at Caltrans headquarters in Sacramento.

# Information Transfer

by Jim Swofford, Project Manager

## Norman Y. Mineta National Transportation Policy Series 4th National Transportation Security Summit

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary **Michael Chertoff** will keynote MTI's Fourth National Transportation Security Summit on March 14 at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of Transportation **Norman Mineta (Ret.)** will preside over the luncheon keynote session with Secretary Chertoff, which will be followed by Q&A and an open roundtable discussion with Secretary Mineta, an expert panel, and the audience.

NTSC Director **Brian Michael Jenkins** will introduce *Selective Screening of Rail Passengers*, the latest MTI/NTSC report, co-authored by **Bruce Butterworth**, former FAA director of security operations.

A panel of leading national experts at the forefront of the technical, legal, financial, and other related issues of passenger screening will make up the morning panel.

Panelists include: MTI's **Brian Jenkins**; **Colonel Douglas DeLeaver**, chief of police, Maryland Transit Administration; **Ernest R. Frazier, Esq.**, former chief of police, Amtrak; **Polly Hanson**, chief of police, WMATA; and **Robert D. Jamison**, deputy administrator, Transportation Security Administration, DHS.

Space is limited to select public and private transportation executives, public safety and first-responder managers, and policy makers charged with providing for the security and operational continuity of our nation's transportation systems.

The **NO FEE** event is being held in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Administration (APTA) legislative conference and is co-sponsored by MTI, APTA, and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

For more information, contact MTI at 408-924-7560 or register online at: <http://transweb.sjsu.edu/>.

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## 2007 Garrett Morgan Symposium Building Momentum

Seven schools nationwide are deep into their studies of sustainable transportation as they prepare for the 2007 Garrett Morgan Symposium in late March. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters will present the welcoming remarks to the national video conference event on March 28, 2007.

This largest number of participants to date is due to MTI Trustee and Caltrans Director Will Kempton's challenge to his fellow trustees at last year's MTI Awards Banquet that this year it was

going to be "California taking on the world." Four Caltrans Districts around the state have sponsored schools in the 2007 competition.

Taking up the challenge with strong entries, including some past winners, are East Coast schools sponsored by MTI Trustees John Horsley, AASHTO executive director; William Millar, APTA president; and Michael Townes, Hampton Roads Transit chief executive.

The Garrett A. Morgan Symposium is named for the acclaimed African-American inventor and entrepreneur who made significant contributions

to transportation and worker safety. The program's goal is to guide young people into the academic pursuits needed to achieve successful careers in transportation. Each year, teachers present a curriculum developed by MTI and SJSU that introduces middle school students to the concepts of sustainable transportation through such means as alternative fuels, mass transit, and technological innovation.

More information about the Garrett Morgan program is available on the MTI website at: <http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/education/>.



# Information Transfer

by Sonya Carter, Research and Publications Assistant

## MTI Report 06-01

**Transportation Financing Opportunities for the State of California** by Asha Weinstein, Ph.D.; Jennifer Dill, Ph.D.; Todd Goldman, Ph.D.



Asha Weinstein

This report analyzes a range of alternative sources of revenue, as well as different finance options. The research is based upon reviews of existing literature, interviews with key stakeholders, and two statewide telephone surveys. The revenue options evaluated in more depth include facility-based sources, where tolls and other revenue generated from the use of the facility pay for its construction and maintenance, as well as the more traditional government

taxes and fees. The four facility-based sources considered were toll roads and lanes, truck-only toll lanes, privatized rest areas, and public-private partnerships (PPPs). The taxes and fees evaluated were increasing fuel taxes by a fixed amount, indexing fuel taxes to inflation, mileage-based fees, vehicle registration fees, vehicle license fees, weight-mile taxes for trucks, a statewide sales tax, and state general-fund revenues allocated either for current expenditures or to pay off bonds that raised money for transportation expenditures.

As Dr. Weinstein notes and the data confirms, “New taxes and fees are generally not popular politically. The following measures received the highest support: truck-only toll lanes (64% favor), converting underused carpool lanes to high-occupancy toll lanes (56% favor), increasing registration fees varied by fuel economy or emissions (45% yes, 51% no), and increasing the fuel tax by 10¢ in one cent per year increments over ten years (43% favor).” Interestingly, Californians may be open to variable fees tied to fuel efficiency and pollution.

The Survey and Policy Research Institute at SJSU conducted the two public opinion polls of California residents. The first, a survey of over 2,700 residents, focused on people’s views about the need to raise transportation revenues and their preferences for different options to raise transportation revenues through new or augmented statewide taxes and fees. The second poll asked over 800 residents their views on raising revenues by charging user fees on specific facilities such as tolled highways, and on incorporating public-private partnerships into these plans.

## MTI Report 06-03

**High-Speed Rail Projects in the United States: Identifying the Elements of Success, Part 2** by Allison L. C. de Cerreño, Ph.D., and Shishir Mathur, Ph.D.



Allison De Cerreño

Using a comparative case study approach, this effort adds to the earlier work with three additional cases—the Chicago Hub, the Keystone Corridor, and the Northeast Corridor (NEC). As with the earlier report, the goal

of this study is to identify lessons learned for successfully implementing high-speed rail (HSR) in the United States.

Dr. de Cerreño concludes, “Perhaps the most resounding theme for consideration is that in the United States, incremental HSR may have the best chance for success, given the costs of new HSR, current political apathy (and in some cases outright antipathy) surrounding rail more broadly and new HSR more specifically, the perceived risks associated with “unproven” HSR technologies in the United States, and the fact that the few places where success has occurred (even if modest in many respects) have implemented incremental HSR. While incremental rail may be viewed by some as ‘settling’ for the second-best choice, without stronger and consistent financial and political commitment on both the part of the federal government and the states, it may be the only means for having any HSR in the United States for some time.”

# Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

## Norman Y. Mineta National Policy Summit on Transportation Security on March 14 in Washington,

**D.C.:** This fourth national transportation security summit by MTI (the first was in 1996) will be keynoted by U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Secretary **Michael Chertoff**, who will be introduced by Secretary Mineta. MTI's National Transportation Security Center (NTSC) Director **Brian Michael Jenkins** will lead off with a summary of his latest research and will be followed by a panel of top experts from both the modal administrations and the practitioners in the field of surface transportation security screening systems and procedures. Contact Jim Swofford (408-924-7569). Space is limited.

**Winter MTI Board Meeting:** The board welcomed our founder, Secretary **Norman Mineta**, to the first meeting that he could legally attend in almost 6 years. He hosted the meeting and stressed his intentions to be fully engaged again with the Board of Trustees. Reports followed from Trustee and Caltrans Director **Will Kempton**, new SJSU College of Business Dean and MTI Trustee **Bruce Magid**, and **Chris Strobel** of CJ Strategies, SJSU's Washington advocate. Upon adjournment, many of the trustees reconvened for the national Council of University Transportation Centers Awards Banquet at which Secretary Mineta received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and MTI MSTM student **Christina Watson** received the U.S. DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration's Student of the Year Award! What a wonderful day of challenge and celebration!

**Competition and Progress:** During 2006 while MTI was completing the SAFETEA-LU Tier 1 UTC competition, some of the MTI core programs were reduced to accumulate the funds for a nimble response to any eventuality. With another four years of program guaranteed, MTI has refocused the core program to meet even more ambitious goals. Research Director **Trixie Johnson** is rebooting our research program with almost two years of funding...the "pig in the python" as she says. Education Director Dr. **Peter Haas** is focused on record levels of students in MTI's San José State University Master of Science in Transportation Management and certificate programs. We look forward to another challenging year!

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