



Norman Y. Mineta  
International Institute for  
Surface Transportation  
Policy Studies

Created by Congress in 1991

College of Business  
San José State University  
San José, CA 95192-0219  
Tel 408/924-7560  
Fax 408/924-7565  
e-mail: mti@mti.sjsu.edu  
http://transweb.sjsu.edu

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# World in Motion

Winter 2006

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**T**he Mineta Transportation Institute's newest board member was named Acting President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation last November. David Hughes directs Amtrak's intercity passenger rail system, which carries approximately 65,000 passengers each day aboard 265 trains on a system covering more than 22,000-miles and serving 500 stations in 46 states.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Hughes served as chief engineer of Amtrak. He has over 30 years of experience in the Class I railroad, regional railroad, and the railway supply industries. Mr. Hughes has held numerous industry posts, including serving as a director of the Association of American Railroads. He was



Profile of  
**David Hughes**  
MTI Trustee and  
Acting President/  
CEO  
Amtrak

a founder and first chairman of Regional Railroads of America, a group representing the regional railroad industry in Washington and served as the chairman of the Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In the decade prior to joining Amtrak, he provided consulting services in railroad operations and maintenance in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, Mexico, and South America.

Mr. Hughes graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in civil engineering and holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

## Save The Date

June 24th, 2006

## Fifteenth Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet and Graduation



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# Research Update

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director

Research results should be shared widely with those who can and will use the information, and to that end the Mineta Transportation Institute provides travel grants to fund presentation of our research work at conferences like the recent Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board. Upwards of 9,000 researchers from academia and the private sector, along with officials from transportation departments at all levels of government, business people who use research in their projects, students just entering the field, and just about anybody who cares about, does, or uses research all gathered in Washington, D.C. in January for this year's meeting.



Dr. Allison de Cerreño,  
MTI Research Associate

This year we funded Dr. Allison de Cerreño, Dr. Marc Schlossberg, and Dr. Asha Weinstein, each for very different roles. Dr. de Cerreño was invited to address

the TRB Committee on Inter-city Rail where she presented the Florida case study from the first phase of her high-speed rail project. The more intimate environment of this setting allowed for a longer presentation and a real exchange of comments afterwards. Dr. Schlossberg was part of a panel dealing with the “Pedestrian Level of Service (LOS) and Walkability.” He is continuing work on walkability and what it means for transit-oriented development in a second MTI study. Dr. Weinstein organized a workshop entitled “Congestion Pricing and Equity: What Are the Concerns and How Can Project Sponsors Address Them?” -- a topic very much related to her current work on financing alternatives for transportation in California. The chair of the Subcommittee on Pricing Outreach requested that Dr. Weinstein organize the workshop. She chose the format, selected the topics and the speakers, and coordinated with other committees for co-sponsorship of the session.

Other MTI research associates were active in TRB presentations, though not with direct funding from the Institute. Dr. Geoffrey Gosling presented preliminary work from his upcoming report on smart growth around airports, one of three sessions in which

“... But MTI researchers do more than share what they have learned. They also promote our program and serve as ambassadors for the Institute.”

he was a presenter or moderator. Dr. Caroline Rodier had two workshop sessions and a poster session for various projects not funded by MTI. Dr. Susan Shaheen headed a poster session on car-sharing. And those are just the ones I remember or saw in action. Many other MTI research associates attended, and there were opportunities for conversations that could lead to future projects and collaboration.

The investment in travel is sometime easy to mock as “junketing.” But MTI researchers do more than share what they have learned. They also promote our program and serve as ambassadors for the Institute. Their activities at TRB and other professional meetings help us meet our goals for information transfer and complete the research cycle in the best possible way – by sharing what they have learned.

# Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director



Student of the Year  
Wajahat Nyaz

## Student of the Year Honored in Washington

MSTM program student of the year Wajahat Nyaz was honored as the U.S. Department of Transportation "Student of the Year" in Washington, DC. The ceremony occurred during the annual Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) banquet on January 21, 2006 that was attended by transportation professionals, U.S. Department of Transportation officials, and other awardees from across the nation. Wajahat's award also included a check for \$1,000 that I presented during the ceremony. Congratulations to Wajahat for his outstanding academic achievement in the MSTM program!

## Transportation Security Program planned for '05-06 Launch

MTI is planning a new four-course Certificate in Transportation Security beginning with the Fall 2006 semester. Students earning the certificate will take the "Emergency Management for Transportation Professionals" course, which focuses on the foundations of emergency management as they relate to the challenges faced by transportation and transit providers. The course also offers the opportunity for a certificate in the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) of the State of California. Students select a disaster that impacted transportation to study in-depth, and the papers are presented by the students in a seminar format during the course.

Additionally, students will complete a newly developed "Security Issues for Transportation Professionals" course, which will examine contemporary challenges to transportation security. Topics to be covered include management of infrastructure challenges, such as tunnels, bridges, road and rail vulnerabilities; prevention and response to theft, work place violence, disruptive terrorism, suicide and placement bombing attacks, and their related protection strategies. Information will be provided on obtaining



Secretary of  
Transportation  
Norman Mineta  
meeting with  
MTI student  
Kristine Murray in  
Washington, D.C.

MTI CTM student and Orange County Transit Authority Federal Relations Manager Kristine L. Murray had a reunion with U.S. DOT Secretary Norman Mineta while attending a reception. Ms. Murray worked on transportation issues during the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress when Sec. Mineta was chair of the House Transportation Committee.

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Department of Homeland Regional Security Transit grants, and regional transportation planning for disaster response and recovery.

Coupled with two courses from the transportation management curriculum, these courses will provide students with the knowledge necessary to manage security-related situations and issues in a transportation agency setting.

# Information Transfer

## Mineta Transportation Institute's latest publication:

“Designing and Operating Secure Transit Systems: Assessing Current Practices in the U.S. and Abroad” by Principal Investigator Brian Taylor, Ph.D.

- Surveyed the 113 largest transit operators in the U.S.
- Interviewed nearly 40 transportation officials in the U.S. and abroad
- Reviewed terrorist attacks on transit systems in London, Madrid, New York, Paris, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C.

## Findings: Ten Lessons Learned

1. Public transit systems are open, dynamic, and inherently vulnerable to terrorist attacks; they simply cannot be closed and secured like other parts of the transportation system.
2. The threat of transit terrorism is probably not universal; most attacks in the developed world have been on the largest systems in the largest cities.
3. Transit managers are struggling to balance the costs and (uncertain) benefits of increased security against the costs and (certain) benefits of attracting passengers.
4. Given the varying roles and mandates of agencies of the central government (ministries, federal agencies, etc.), intelligence services, police agencies, and transit operators on matters of security, close coordination and cooperation are critical to effective transit security planning.
5. An important benefit of improved coordination is standardization of emergency training, security audits, and disaster preparedness procedures, and the issuance of common guidelines about security.
6. Despite significant progress in increasing coordination between transit and police/intelligence agencies, much work remains.
7. Passenger education and outreach is a challenge; informed passengers can increase surveillance and safety; fearful passengers may stop using public transit.
8. The role of crime prevention through environmental design in security planning is waxing.
9. Since 9/11, transit agencies are more likely to adopt comprehensive, multi-pronged approaches to security planning than in years past.
10. Given the uncertain effectiveness of anti-transit terrorism efforts, the most tangible benefits of increased attention to and spending on transit security may be a reduction in transit-related person and property crimes.

This report is available online at <http://transweb.sjsu.edu>

# Information Transfer

## Statewide Video Conference Planned

California Department of Transportation Director Will Kempton will participate in a statewide videoconference for Caltrans employees that will help to publicize the Master of Science in Transportation Management and graduate certificate programs available via MTI and San José State University. The videoconference will occur on May 10 at 9:30 a.m., and will be open to all Caltrans employees with access to one of the 24 videoconference facilities across the state. MTI Executive Director Rod Diridon and Education Director Dr. Peter Haas will also be on hand to help inform Caltrans employees about the opportunities for professional development and advancement.

## Garrett Morgan National Sustainable Transportation Symposium

Each year members of the MTI Board of Trustees sponsor middle school classes for a sustainable transportation study unit. The sponsoring agency contacts the school or teacher, arranges delivery of the student and teacher workbooks, and provides the videoconference facility.

The supplied curriculum, developed with help from the faculty at San José State University's College of Education, includes a class/team project and culminates in a national videoconference featuring a welcome from the U.S. Transportation Secretary and presentations by each of the classes. The course work is designed to complement the U.S. Department of Transportation's Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program by increasing students' awareness of transportation issues, interesting them in careers in transportation, and motivating them to take the math and science classes in high school needed to prepare for management and engineering majors in college.

One presentation is chosen as the winner, and a student, parent, and teacher from that class receive an expense-paid trip to San Jose for MTI's annual scholarship awards banquet plus a check for \$500. The teachers of all participating classes receive a \$50 gift certificate for office supplies upon submitting the post-conference evaluation form to MTI.

On March 28, seven classes gathered via videoconference to compete in MTI's 6th Annual Sustainable Transportation Symposium. The schools, hosted by MTI Trustees John Horsley (AASHTO), Will Kempton (Caltrans), Bill Millar (APTA), and Michael Townes (Hampton Roads Transit), were greeted by Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and presented sustainable transportation projects to the panel of judges. The following schools participated: Leonardtown High 9th grade from Leonardtown, MD; Francis L. Cardozo High 10th grade from Washington, D.C.; Wells Middle School 8th Grade from Dublin, CA; Big Pine School 6th and 8th grades from Big Pine, CA; Kemps Landing Magnet School 8th grade from Virginia Beach, VA; and Churchland Middle School 8th grade from Portsmouth, VA.

The winning class will be announced in the next newsletter. For more information on the program, please visit [http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mti\\_gm.htm](http://transweb.sjsu.edu/mti_gm.htm)

# Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

**Annual Winter Trustees' Meeting:** U.S. DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administrator **Dr. Ashok Kaveeshwar**, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chief Minority Consultant **Ken House**, and California Department of Transportation Director **Will Kempton** addressed the MTI Trustees at their 15th annual winter meeting the Saturday before TRB week in Washington, D.C. The thorough federal administrative and legislative briefing and the detailed presentation of the changing nature of Caltrans were discussed by the MTI Trustees during an extended Q-and-A period. That session was followed by activity reports from MTI Education Director **Dr. Peter Haas** and Research Director **Trixie Johnson**. The MTI Master of Science in Transportation Management U.S. DOT Outstanding Student Scholarship winner **Wajahat Nyaz**, a senior traffic engineer with Caltrans, was also introduced. Special appreciation was expressed to **Brian Macleod** of the Gillig Corporation for hosting the meeting at the APTA headquarters.

**15th Annual MTI Scholarship Banquet and Graduation:** On June 24, MTI will celebrate 15 years of excellence with a banquet to benefit the scholarship fund, during which the annual hooding of the graduating Master of Science in Transportation Management students will occur. Attendance can be arranged via MTI Administrator **Brendan McCarthy** at [mccarthy@mti.sjsu.edu](mailto:mccarthy@mti.sjsu.edu).

Mineta Transportation Institute  
College of Business  
San José State University  
San Jose, CA 95192-0219



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## *The World in Motion*

For more information about the  
Mineta Transportation Institute,  
call (408) 924-7560 or e-mail us at  
[mti@mti.sjsu.edu](mailto:mti@mti.sjsu.edu)