



# MTI

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International Institute for  
Surface Transportation  
Policy Studies**

Created by Congress in 1991

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# *The World In Motion*

Volume 7, No. 4

Winter 2001

*Profile of  
Celia G. Kupersmith  
Mineta Transportation Institute  
Board of Trustees Member  
and  
General Manager  
Golden Gate Bridge,  
Highway and Transportation District*



In April 1999, Celia G. Kupersmith became the ninth General Manager and CEO in the history of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District. She brings to her position more than 20 years of transportation experience that includes street and highway construction, public transportation planning and operations, general aviation airport planning, and rail right-of-way management.

As General Manager, she oversees a complex organization of buses, ferries, rail right-of-way, and the world's most beautiful bridge. The Golden Gate District is forging new ground with innovative bridge seismic retrofit techniques, electronic toll collection implementation, extensive fast ferryboat operations, and enhanced commuter bus operations.

Prior to joining the Golden Gate District, Ms. Kupersmith served as Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) in Reno, Nevada.

A native Texan, she previously served as Assistant General Manager for the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority in Austin and as a transportation planner in Houston.

Ms. Kupersmith earned her BA from Southwest Texas State University and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. Active within the transportation profession, she has served on the American Public Transportation Association's Executive Committee and is now on the Transportation Cooperative Research Program's Oversight and Project Selection Committee and the National Transit Institute's Advisory Board.

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# Research Update

By **Trixie Johnson, Research Director**

As the last of the research projects from previous years go to print, MTI has eight new projects already in progress, as detailed in earlier editions of “The World in Motion.” With two additional projects nearing submission and two seed grant projects also in process, the research program dance card is full. The same is true for the information transfer side of the department, where we have completed three events (APTA Tax Measures Conference last July, Transit Oriented Development Conference, and the National Transportation Security Summit, both in October). Still to come are the next “Hot Spots/Gridlock” Forum focusing on the Highway 101 corridor through Marin and Sonoma Counties, this year’s Garrett Morgan National Youth Videoconference on Sustainable Transportation, and, in late March, a pair of California Transportation Security Summits, one in the north and one in the south.

Research in a vacuum has no value, so MTI places equal emphasis on communicating the results of research to the practitioners whose work should benefit from it. We are very proud that so many Research Associates have been asked to present their work at prestigious meetings during the year. Drs. Aseem Inam and Jonathan Levine returned to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) to present their Developer-Planner study, which was also featured in a poster session at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in January. Dr. Tom Horan’s GIS project showing how the tool can be used to create livable communities by using citizen input was also a topic at the ACSP annual meeting.

Dr. Earl Bossard was invited to present his envisioning work to the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) annual meeting and also gave lectures at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, UCLA and USC. Following his two publications with MTI, Dr. Bossard will be working on a book to further develop his rich method of displaying multiple data for planning and development decision makers.

Drs. Herb Oestreich and George Whaley are using material from their recent Transit Labor study in training sessions through the National Transportation Institute. The safety study by Dr. Tom Ferrara, which looked at bicycles and pedestrians on limited access facilities, led to meetings with the California Department of Transportation staff, who suggested that the study be done, and with bicycle groups interested in pursuing access to freeways and bridges.

Five MTI researchers presented at TRB workshops in January. For the second year in a row, Robert Johnston and Dr. Caroline Rodier participated in two different workshops. Their MTI work is developing an urban model for transportation planning that accounts for more sophisticated factors than the computer models used by most regional agencies. The report on serving seniors better with existing transit services, presented by RA David Koffman, drew a lively discussion at his session. Dr. Peter Haas returned for a second year to present the findings from MTI’s second tax measures study, and counter-terrorism expert Brian Jenkins participated in a session dealing with passenger security through design.

As Research Director, the TRB meeting provides me an opportunity to meet the Research Associates and student assistants from other universities and states, who would otherwise be long distance acquaintances, and to scout sessions for suggestions of research needs. The overwhelming number of workshops, the conversations, and the invaluable networking all help keep the MTI research program moving ahead.



MTI "Student of the Year" James Chai shares the stage with (L-R) Mary Peters (Administrator, Federal Highway Administration), Jenna Dorn (Administrator, Federal Transit Administration), and Ellen Engleman (Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration) of the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

## **JAMES CHAI HONORED IN WASHINGTON**

James Chai, MTI Master of Science in Transportation Management Student of the Year for 2001, was honored in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on January 14, 2002. Officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation were on hand to present the awards, which are given to outstanding students from University Transportation Centers (UTCs) across the nation. James was selected by the MSTM faculty on the basis on his strength in academic work, leadership, research, and contribution to the Mineta Transportation Institute. James received a \$1,000 scholarship check at the awards ceremony. James has been selected for the California Department of Transportation Executive Leadership Program and has been paired with a District Director, a high honor.

## **CAREER ADVANCEMENT BY MSTM STUDENTS**

We would like to recognize and congratulate the following students on their accomplishments: Mark McCumsey of Caltrans, who was promoted to Associate Transportation Planner in October and is relocating to San Luis Obispo from Stockton, and Tim Pokrywka of Caltrans was promoted to Sacramento Office Chief, also in October.

## **NEW FACULTY MEMBER TO TEACH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CLASS**

Terry Trumball, an attorney and expert in the field of environmental policy, will teach a seminar concerning the environmental issues surrounding transportation management. Trumball, a past chair of the California Waste Management Board, has a distinguished record in his field. His law firm, The Trumball Law Firm, specializes in issues related to the environment, energy, and land use, including issues of direct relevance to the field of transportation. He is currently serving on the Advisory Committee to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as well as the Santa Clara County Planning Commission. Graduate students in the MTI education program will benefit from his experience in this increasingly important aspect of transportation management. The class will be taught during the Spring "B" session (April – June) 2002.

***"Save The Date"***

**June 29, 2002**

MTI's 11th Annual Board of Trustees Scholarship Awards  
Banquet at San Jose State University's Barrett Ballroom.



Activity at Mineta Transportation Institute continues at a furious pace. At the request of Caltrans Director Jeff Morales, MTI will be presenting two California transportation security summits in late March. Caltrans leadership, public works directors, the heads of transit agencies and their top security personnel will be invited to participate in a program very similar to the MTI National Transportation Security Summit conducted for AASHTO and APTA and sponsored by US DOT last October in Washington, D. C.

The Hwy. 101 corridor through Marin and Sonoma Counties will be the subject of an April 11<sup>th</sup> Regional Transportation Hot Spot Forum. MTI will be collaborating with the Commonwealth Club of California, California State Automobile Association, Caltrans, and the regional Metropolitan Transportation Commission to identify solutions to this regional transportation bottleneck.

MTI will also host the national Council of University Transportation Centers meeting June 30 – July 2 at the San Jose State University.

Mark your calendar for the MTI Board of Trustees meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Banquet on June 29<sup>th</sup> in San Jose. Invitations will be sent in early May. Organizations desiring to offer a \$2,000 individual or the \$10,000 “Benefactors” level scholarship support should do so now. The early donors will be credited in a listing on the invitation.

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**The World in Motion**

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