The World In Motion
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Profile of
Hon. Don Young
Mineta Transportation Institute
Board of Trustees Member
and Chair, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, House of Representatives

Congressmember Don Young’s tenure in office has left an enduring and historic presence on Alaska and the United States. His deep love of Alaska, his sense of duty, common sense, and vision of giving all citizens a better life guided his original decision to run and hold office for the past 29 years.

He spent three years in the Army and then attended college, earning a degree in education. Teaching is a passion of his, and in 1959, lured by visions of his youth when he read “Call of the Wild,” Congressmember Young headed to the wilderness frontier of Alaska and settled in Fort Yukon, a remote village seven miles north of the Arctic Circle.

This is where he answered his call as teacher and mentor to a fifth grade elementary class in an old Bureau of Indian Affairs school. The school was a log room, with a wood stove and 25 Alaskan Native students. He had found a life that embodied his strong values and his sense of adventure.

In 1964, driven by his love for Alaska and its people, Congressmember Young entered public service. He was elected Mayor of Fort Yukon, Alaska. Shortly thereafter, the voters elected him to the state legislature in Juneau, where he first served his rural constituents in the House and a few years later, the Senate.

In 1973, against overwhelming odds, Congressmember Young was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a special election. Just hours after being sworn in, he found himself leading the battle in the House of Representatives for the approval of the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

Being the lone Alaskan member of the House of Representatives means a great deal to Congressmember Young. He alone has to fight for Alaska and for the people of Alaska before the entire Congress. In the past, this meant fighting for the Greens Creek and Red Dog Mines. He took on the difficult issue of Americanizing the Greens Creek and Red Dog Mines.

In 1994, Congressmember Young was elected Chair of the powerful Resources Committee. As Chair, he continued his battle against over-reaching federal bureaucracies. He has successfully reversed a host of anti-Alaskan regulations, lifted a 22-year-old ban on exporting North Slope oil, strengthened personal property rights, re-wrote the Magnuson Act, and for the first time ever helped pass the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Act out of the United States Congress.

In 2000, Congressmember Young became Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest House Committee and certainly one of his most sought after. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Resources Committee. Sputting important national legislation has shared center stage with Congressmember Young’s commitment to helping his constituents and the thousands of individual Alaskans in need.
MTI called it the “pig in the python” — referring to the large number of research projects undertaken when three years of federal funding arrived in less than two years. A visit to our website, if you haven’t been lately, demonstrates dramatically just how much work has been done. The list of reports available, both research and information transfer events, requires a lengthy scroll. The staff is now working to bring the next group of reports, the studies begun in 2001, to a close.

Perhaps the most current example of the maturity of the research program is the new MTI Needs Assessment study. When the Institute began, the first study was a needs assessment for the masters degree and certificate programs, Report 94-1, An Assessment of Needs for Management Training and Education in Surface Transportation in the United States and Canada, by SJSU College of Business professors Joe Giglierano and Rob Vitale. Now, eight years later, MTI is beginning the first update study, to be led by SJSU Political Science professor Linda Valenty, and appropriately it is an update of that very first research project.

The timing of the research cycle has been affected by the recent competition and other events; the 2002-2003 research projects will be selected this fall rather than last spring. MTI will work with the newly reorganized Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation to streamline the project selection process while providing more opportunity for the divisions that need research to review and comment on our proposals. It is always our aim to do research that end users such as Caltrans say they need.

Combined with the planning for new events such as a forum for BART’s 30th birthday and a statewide symposium on high-speed rail, 2002-2003 promises to be a busy year.

Hot off the presses...

The California General Plan Process and Sustainable Transportation Planning, by Dr. Richard W. Lee, AICP, an Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly).

This research project assesses California’s General Plan process as a tool for implementing sustainable development, with particular emphasis on transportation systems at the local level, including the relationship of local transportation systems to regional and statewide systems. The emphasis on local transportation follows from the fact that California law requires General Plans, master plans of anticipated future physical development, only for local governments, i.e. California’s 58 counties and nearly 500 cities.

The Travel Behavior and Needs of the Poor: A Study of Welfare Recipients in Fresno County, California by Evelyn Blumenberg, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles.

This study confirms that the transportation barriers facing welfare recipients are not experienced exclusively by welfare recipients living in large metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. Many of the barriers are widespread. Similar to welfare recipients in large urban areas, welfare recipients in Fresno County who report the greatest travel difficulties are those who are transit dependent and those who are traveling to many unfamiliar destinations while searching for employment. Most welfare recipients find that their travel to childcare is relatively easy. However, welfare recipients who use childcare centers and homes report greater travel difficulties compared to those who rely for care on relatives, friends, or neighbors.

Increasing Transit Ridership: Lessons from the Most Successful Transit Systems in the 1990s. Brian D. Taylor is an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of Urban Planning and Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UCLA. This study systematically examines recent trends in public transit ridership in the U.S. during the 1990s. Specifically, this analysis focuses on agencies that increased ridership during the latter half of the decade. While transit ridership increased steadily by 13 percent nationwide between 1995 and 1999, not all systems experienced ridership growth equally. While some agencies increased ridership dramatically, some did so only minimally, and still others lost riders. What sets these agencies apart from each other? What explains the uneven growth in ridership?

These reports and others are available online at http://transweb.sjsu.edu/pubs.htm. Printed copies of these and other publications can be obtained for $15 from Mineta Transportation Institute. Call (408) 924-7560 or send a written request to the address below:

Attn: Publications Order
Mineta Transportation Institute
College of Business BT 550
San José State University
San Jose, CA 95192-0219
Over 400 people attended the 11th Annual Mineta Transportation Institute Board of Trustees Awards Banquet on June 29th to celebrate MTI’s latest graduating class. Five Masters degree students were hooded in the graduation ceremony, and a record 16 students received their Certificate in Transportation Management.

The graduates and guests heard the latest in state and federal transportation news in speeches by Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet of California’s Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; Administrator Ellen G. Engleman, representing U.S. DOT RSPA; and Hon. James Oberstar, Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives.

Sec. Maria Contreras-Sweet with Mark Saade and Roy Nordman of STV Inc.

Congressmember Zoe Lofgren with members of the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

MTI Trustee Paul Toliver, Sec. Maria Contreras-Sweet, FTA Regional Administrator Leslie Rogers, and MTI Chair Michael Townes.

Mineta Transportation Institute’s 11th Annual Board of Trustees Awards Banquet

Benefactor: $10,000
Compton Foundation
HNTB Engineering Corporation
Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas

Patron: $5,000
AAA-California State Automobile Association
Chevron Texaco Corporation

Sponsor: $2,000
AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department
ARUP
BART/MUNI
Bechtel Corporation
Bombardier Transportation
Carter Burgess
CH2M HILL
City of Oakland, Public Works Agency
City of San José
DeMaris & Maletic/Patri. Merker/Mendelsohn
DMJM+HARRIS
Gillig Corporation
Grande Construction
Granite Rock
Greater Bay Bancorp
Hatch Mott MacDonald
Hewlett Packard
LTK Engineering
Parsons Corporation
The Pasha Group
Port of Oakland
San Francisco Bay Area Transportation Authority
San Joaquin Regional Transit
San Mateo County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Shea Homes
Southwest Airlines
STV Incorporated
Transport Workers Union of America
United Parcel Service
URS Corporation

Mineta Transportation Institute’s 11th Annual Board of Trustees Awards Banquet
The first "Summer Transportation Institute," which originated as a pilot program on the South Carolina State University in 1992, is a national effort to provide career orientation and educational experiences to motivate secondary school students toward professions in the field of transportation. The summer program aims to encourage these students to seek professional careers in transportation through obtaining a college education. A total of 2,230 secondary school students have completed the national program hosted by thirty-four colleges and universities in twenty-three states across the nation. STI participants have been exposed to a variety of transportation modes and issues; activities included field trips to Caltrain, Valley Transportation Authority, and NASA facilities.

**MSTM Student Wins Krambles Award**

James Helmer was recently selected as a winner of the George Krambles Transit Foundation National Scholarship Award. These awards are given for the purpose of encouraging students to develop professional capability for future careers in the transit industry. A prestigious, nationally-recognized award whose aim is to assure that aid will go to students with a genuine interest in careers in transit or closely related areas, it includes a cash prize of $2,500. Congratulations to James, who is continuing in the MSTM program, having recently completed his Certificate in Transportation Management.

**MSTM and CTM Graduates Honored at Annual Scholarship Banquet Graduates**

The faculty and staff of MTI and the College of Business at SJSU were proud to present the MSTM graduating class of 2002 at the 11th Annual MTI Board of Trustees Awards Banquet. The dedication of these students, each of whom completed 30 hours of coursework while meeting the duties of full-time professional employment, is to be admired and we look forward to hearing of their future accomplishments. MSTM candidates for graduation were:

- James Chai (Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Jeremy Ketchum (Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Meshack Okpala (Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Sarah Picker (Caltrans District 4, Oakland)
- Carole Sanders (Caltrans District 8, San Bernardino)

The twelve-unit CTM program requires completion of four MSTM program core courses. Many students earn the CTM as a meaningful step towards achieving their MSTM degree. The following 16 students received the graduate Certificate in Transportation Management:

- Rajpal Brar-(Caltrans District 6, Fresno/Bakersfield)
- John Burke-(Caltrans District 5, San Luis Obispo)
- Alva Carrasco-(Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus)
- Gerard Chaderjian-(Caltrans District 11, San Diego)
- Nell Hill-(Caltrans District 6, Fresno)
- Larry Holser-(President, APTS-Drive USA Network)
- James Helmer-(Acting Deputy Director, City of San Jose)
- Helen Jones-(Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Robin Owen-(Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Jack Naylor-(Caltrans District 1, Eureka)
- Tim Pokrywka-(Caltrans District 4, Oakland)
- Leanne Provost-(Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Amos Rendler-(City of San Jose)
- Juannette Reese-(Caltrans District 4, Oakland)
- Jeffrey Spencer-(Caltrans Sacramento HQ)
- Satnam Singh-(Valley Transportation Authority, San Jose)

MTI would also like to thank the following schools whose students participated in the STI program:

- Academia Calmecac High School - San Jose, Downtown College Prep - San Jose, El Portal Leadership Academy - Gilroy, Ganderson High School - San Jose, Independence High School - San Jose, Leland High School - San Jose, Overfelt High School - San Jose, Palo Alto High School - Palo Alto.

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- Among the dignitaries on hand to offer congratulations to MSTM graduates at the 11th annual MTI Scholarship Banquet were (left to right): James Oberstar (Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, United States House of Representatives), Ellen Engleman (Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation), Maria Contreras-Sweet (Secretary of the California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency) and Jeffrey Morales (Director of the California Department of Transportation).