

Mineta Transportation Institute

Created by Congress in 1991

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**Trustee
Spotlight:**
William Millar
President of APTA

MTI trustee William Millar is the president of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Since he arrived in 1996, Bill has expanded APTA's reach and effectiveness, guiding it to legislative victories and dramatically increasing federal investment in public transportation.

Previously, Bill served 19 years at the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the principal transit operator serving Pittsburgh, PA. As its executive director from 1983-1996, he oversaw the development and operation of bus, busway, light rail, paratransit, and inclined plane service. He also founded the city's award-winning ACCESS paratransit service.

From 1973-77, Bill worked for the Pennsylvania DOT, where he developed and managed the state's Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens and led the Penn DOT's rural public and community transit efforts. He began his career as the county transportation planner in Lancaster, PA.

Mr. Millar is a strong supporter of transportation research and received the Founding Father Award for his leadership establishing the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). He has served on the Transportation Research Board

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executive committee for many years and served as its chair in 1992. He also serves on advisory committees of several university transportation research institutes.

A well-known expert in the field of public transportation and transportation policy, Mr. Millar has published numerous articles and has often testified before the U.S. Congress. He is a frequent speaker and lecturer at conferences and seminars and is an adjunct professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University.

Mr. Millar is the recipient of many awards, including APTA's Jesse Haugh Award for Transit Manager of the Year (1987), the Transportation Research Board's W. N. Carey, Jr. Distinguished Service Award (1999); Pattison Partnership Award from the Intermodal Passenger Institute (2001); and Railway Age's Graham Claytor Award (2006).

Mr. Millar has a BA from Northwestern University and an MA from the University of Iowa majoring in urban transportation planning and policy analysis. He lives in Falls Church, VA with his wife and two children, and he commutes to work on Washington's Metrorail.



**Eno Transportation
Leadership
Conference**
by Ernesto Chaves

From May 11-14, I was privileged to represent MTI at the 17th Annual Eno Transportation Foundation Leadership Development Conference in Washington DC. This conference brings graduate students in transportation to the nation's capital to gain a better understanding of how U.S. transportation policy is made and implemented. A series of speakers, including prominent individuals from across the transportation sector, provided an "inside the beltway" look at the policy development process.

Speakers included current and past administration officials, lobbyists, and transportation experts. The conference covered a wide range of topics, but the predominant discussion centered on how to deal with the unprecedented challenges the transportation sector is facing, especially with funding. Congress is due to reauthorize the surface transportation bill this year, and most people expect it to reflect major policy changes. The speakers discussed factors that make this a critical time for the transportation sector, some of which include: 1) the Highway Trust Fund that pays for most surface transportation projects is insolvent; 2) we are in the middle of a recession, and transportation is competing against many other administration priorities; and 3) transit ridership is rising while operating budgets decline. The way we finance our transportation infrastructure must change dramatically if we are to keep up with the nation's needs.

How do we change the current system? Two congressional commissions have recommended, among other things, moving to a VMT-based user fee system. The Obama administration, however, does not presently support this. Most speakers said it would take at least 12 years to implement. Increasing the gas tax during a recession is not a sensible solution, and President Obama has indicated he will not support it. The biggest challenge is to develop and implement short-term solutions to our transportation funding problems. The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will unveil a draft bill soon, but it is unclear how it will address the short-term and long-term funding shortfalls.

Participating in the conference allowed me not only to better understand the challenges facing the transportation sector today, but also to think differently about career planning. Each conference speaker told their personal career stories. One common thread was that they did not consciously plan their careers. For that reason, they recommended doing the best job one can do at each step and always to prepare for opportunities.



Research Update
by Dr. Karen Philbrick
Research Director

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new Director of Research for MTI! I have been fortunate to work with the US DOT University Transportation Center program for many years as a researcher and as the Assistant Director for a Title III Center.

Prior to joining the MTI team in May, I had been extensively involved in studies investigating Fatigue Management Planning and Best Practices in Responding to Critical Incidents in the Transportation Industry. As part of this research, I interviewed thousands of locomotive engineers and conductors as well as airline pilots, maritime industry representatives, and truck drivers. I became interested in pursuing this area of research study when I interviewed New York City firefighters directly affected by the events of 9/11 for my doctoral dissertation, which examined a mathematical model for understanding Emotional Distress in Emergency Workers Following a Terrorist Attack.

As I move from actively conducting research into my new position, my excitement about working with the talented and highly experienced MTI Research Associates continues to grow each day. It is both invigorating and intellectually stimulating to be involved in transportation research projects of such great significance.

MTI currently has 36 research projects in process, and the 2009 Request for Proposals (RFP) was recently released.

In response to this RFP, we have received 13 proposals as well as 17 applications for Research Associate Status. The Research Associates Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC) is scheduled to meet this month for what will surely be a stimulating discussion of these proposals, the outcome of which will set the research agenda for the upcoming year. Please visit our website at www.transweb.sjsu.edu and go to the Research tab to review the projects MTI is currently funding.



Transportation Security
by Brian Michael Jenkins
NTSCOE Director

MTI's "Bomb Counters"

Government "bean counters" keep track of where taxpayers' dollars go. But MTI has "bomb counters" who keep track of terrorist bombings and other attacks worldwide as part of Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation efforts to improve transportation security.

Terrorists, who are determined to cause carnage, see surface transportation as an attractive target. Crowds of people in contained environments like trains, buses, and enclosed stations, where the effects of even small quantities of explosives are enhanced, promise terrorists the high body counts they seek. For decades, terrorists focused their attention on commercial aviation. Until 9/11, the deadliest attacks in the annals of terrorism were primarily the result of huge truck bombs and airline bombings. More stringent security measures have made terrorist hijackings and bombings on aircraft more difficult, although the discovery of a terrorist plot in London to sabotage commercial airliners in 2006 and the more recent discovery of a terrorist plot in New York, which included bringing down an airliner with a surface-to-air-missile, indicate that commercial aviation remains on the terrorists' radar.

Public surface transportation is easily accessible, and the huge volumes of passengers rule out the kind of universal screening seen at airports. Spectacular attacks on subways and commuter trains like the 2004 bombings in Madrid, the 2005

bombings in London, and the 2006 bombings in Mumbai provide other terrorists with inspiration.

IEDs (improvised explosive devices) are the terrorists' preferred weapon, with IIDs (improvised incendiary devices) as a close second. The Office of Science and Technology in the Department of Homeland Security has created a Counter-IED Task Force to develop technology and procedures aimed at keeping bombs off trains and buses. As part of this task force, MTI's researchers, with additional support from the US DOT, are deconstructing terrorist bombing tactics and analyzing terrorist bombing trends.

To assist, MTI researchers are updating the chronology of terrorist attacks on transportation targets, which MTI created more than ten years ago, and making it a more formidable research tool. The new computerized database will provide much finer detail, enabling researchers to help identify the most effective deployment and utilization of new bomb detection technology and security procedures to reduce overall risk.

Some very preliminary results are already intriguing. Terrorist attacks on surface transportation appear to be becoming more lethal—more attacks are aimed at causing fatalities. Terrorist bombs appear to be growing deadlier. Multiple IED events, where terrorists detonate several bombs as they did in Madrid and Mumbai, seem to be increasing. IEDs on trains are clearly more lethal than those in stations.

In addition to reporting results to the Counter-IED Task Force, MTI will be briefing initial results of this research to the Transportation Security Roundtable in July.



ITT and Special Projects
by Donna Maurillo
Communications and Special Projects Director

Transportation Leaders on Board

MTI management and staff have been living aerobic lifestyles lately. Spring is always our busiest time not only because of all the transportation events we organize or take part in, but also because of our academic events. Each year, we celebrate

the graduation of our Masters of Science in Transportation Management candidates at a scholarship banquet. Transportation leaders always come to honor the grads, and this year the invited list includes Secretary Norman Mineta, Congressman James Oberstar, RITA Administrator Peter Appel, California DOT Director Will Kempton, and many others.

Our corporate sponsors contribute generously to the scholarship program so students can continue their studies. Among them are AAA, HNTB, Central Japan Railway, Hatch Mott MacDonald, AECOM, Parsons Brinckerhoff, CJ Strategies, DRI, Gillig, Talgo, LTK Engineering, WMH, and many others.

It's a great honor to have them attend, especially because they underscore the importance of educating the next group of transportation executives. The banquet is here at San Jose State University on Saturday, June 27. Visit our web site at www.transweb.sjsu.edu and click on the Events tab for details.

Garrett Morgan Winner

In March, MTI held the Ninth Annual Garrett Morgan Videoconference on Sustainable Transportation. It's a program to help middle-school students understand the value of alternative energy, sustainable vehicles, transit use, and other ways to reduce automotive emissions. Creativity was in abundant supply as the students demonstrated a car powered by salt water, a "magic" muffler, a car powered by bicycle gears, a solar car, and other projects.

The School of International Studies at Meadowbrook in Norfolk VA, sponsored by Hampton Roads Transit, won the competition. The team presented a video public service announcement and a law that would make it more compelling for people to use public transit. Their idea won the judges' favor because it did not require a great investment of capital and it used vehicles that transit agencies already owned. The video was also well done.

The winning team, led by teacher Jeanina Harris, will come to the scholarship banquet to receive a plaque and a \$1000 prize.

Bicycle Commuting Summit

MTI held a Norman Y. Mineta Transportation Summit on first- and last-mile issues related to incorporating public transit with bicycle commuting. The public discussion, co-hosted by the Commonwealth Club of California, included experts from various facets of the issues. Carl Guardino, CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, delivered the keynote, during which he gave The Golden Helmet Award to several area people who play an active role in bicycle commuting.

The panel included Dr. Kevin Krizek of the University of Colorado, who is researching bicycle issues; Sean Co of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, who discussed "complete streets" policies; Alex Smith of the Federal Transit Administration, who covered federal funding for bicycle programs; Corinne Winter of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition discussing the cyclists' point of view; Dr. Shirley Johnson of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, who covered bicycles on trains; John Brazil of the City of San Jose, who addressed municipal roles; and Mark Simon of CalTrain, who discussed options for transit systems. Gary Richards, an adjunct professor in the Master of Science in Transportation Management program, moderated.

The event is set for broadcast on the NPR radio network. A summary transcript will be available for download from the MTI site this summer, and the report also will be sent to the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Edwards Is Promoted

Dr. Frances Edwards, deputy director of MTI's National Transportation Security Center of Excellence, has been named a professor of political science at San Jose State University. This is quite a career achievement. MTI is also proud to have her on our graduate program faculty, where she teaches emergency response management. Dr. Edwards is also deputy director of the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation, working with local governments, schools, and businesses to encourage pre-disaster planning, training, exercises, and physical mitigation.



**Dr. Frances Edwards,
Deputy Director of NTSCOE**

In addition, she manages and teaches the MPA program, and she is certified by the Department of Homeland Security to teach courses on terrorism, emergency response, and homeland security. Currently, she is a leader in helping SJSU and several area municipalities prepare for earthquake response. Dr. Edwards also has published several papers and research reports on disaster preparedness, including an assessment of responses to Hurricane Katrina.

Mineta Transportation Institute Photo Gallery



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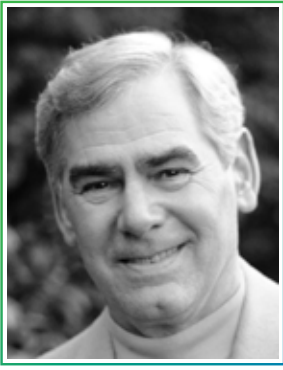


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1. Rod Diridon, Anthony Kane, and Mort Downey participated in The National Conference on Infrastructure Planning at the University of Denver in May 2. Rod Diridon and Jack Towe engage in a lively discussion at The National Conference on Infrastructure Planning at the University of Denver 3. Carl Guardino keynoted MTI's bicycle commuting summit at the Commonwealth Club in San Jose, California 4. MTI's new research director, Dr. Karen Philbrick, meets up with Dr. Patrick Sherry, her mentor and former employer at the University of Denver 5. & 6. Students in the Garrett Morgan Symposium competition present their projects on sustainable transportation



Directions:
Rod Diridon,
Sr. Executive
Director

Annual Board of Trustees Meeting and Graduation Banquet

The 17th annual MTI Board of Trustees meeting will be followed by the scholarship and graduation banquet on June 27 at the San Jose State University Student Center. Our trustees, including Honorary Chair **Jim Oberstar**, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; MTI founder and retired Transportation Secretary **Norman Mineta**; Caltrans Director **Will Kempton**; MTI Chair and American Public Transportation Association President **Bill Millar** and others will celebrate MTI's largest graduating class. MTI Education Director **Dr. Peter Haas** will present the 19 grads,

and SJSU Lucas Graduate School of Business Dean **Deborah Crown** will hood our newest Masters of Science in Transportation Management recipients. We expect more than 300 people to celebrate with us. In addition, **Hampton Roads Virginia's School of International Studies at Meadowbrook** will be honored for winning this year's Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Videoconference Competition. Finally, we will welcome new US DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administrator **Peter Appel** to our Trustees' Meeting and banquet and look forward to his comments.

MTI National Transportation Security Center of Excellence

Under the direction of **Brian Michael Jenkins**, MTI's NTSCOE for both US Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security has blossomed with research projects for the Port Authority of New York, the California Department of Transportation, and several others. The results are available on the recently revised MTI web site, **www.transweb.sjsu.edu**.

Norma Y. Mineta National Policy Summits

Five Mineta Summits have been sponsored this year under the leadership of MTI Communication Director **Donna Maurillo**. The summary transcripts of each will be provided to federal and state policy and legislative leaders.

Research Volume at a Record Level

Thanks in part to retiring MTI Research Director **Trixie Johnson** and especially to new Research Director **Dr. Karen Philbrick**, MTI has more research projects in process than ever, with an emphasis on quality and timely delivery. MTI is proud to have become the go-to organization for transportation security, finance and other important issues that have taken special significance as the stimulus funds are distributed and a the transportation authorization bill is drafted. Times of challenge are times of opportunity, during which MTI thrives.

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