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Policy Studies

Created by Congress in 1991

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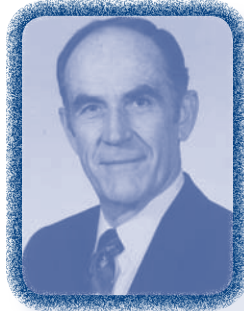
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# World in Motion

Spring 2006

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**Dr. Thomas Larson**

## Honorary Research Fellows Award



**Louis J. Gambaccini**

The Honorary Research Fellow designation is awarded infrequently by the MTI Board of Trustees to honor individuals who have contributed in an extraordinary manner to the national transportation community and to MTI. These two distinguished individuals join former U.S. DOT Secretary Rodney Slater and former Caltrans Director James van Loben Sels as prior recipients.

Retiring MTI Trustee **Dr. Thomas D. Larson** is a former Federal Highway Administrator. He also served for eight years as Pennsylvania's secretary of transportation, and was a member of the faculty at his alma mater Penn State, teaching government and management for the schools of engineering and business administration.

While at Penn State, Dr. Larson organized the Pennsylvania Transportation Institute and served as its director until 1979. He served on the advisory committee that recommended the formation of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and was appointed the first chairman of the state's Transportation Advisory Committee.

Dr. Larson has also been honored with awards from the Highway Users Federation, the College of Engineering at Penn State, the International Road Federation, the National Governors' Association, and others and was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering.

**Louis J. Gambaccini** is a senior transportation fellow at the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers. He was general manager of the

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) from 1988 to 1997. Prior to SEPTA, Mr. Gambaccini spent 29 years with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and served as state commissioner of transportation in New Jersey from 1978 to 1981. While with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Mr. Gambaccini established NJ Transit, now one of the largest transit agencies in the U.S. He chaired both the American Public Transit Association and the MTI Board of Trustees.

Among his many awards are those from the New Jersey Governor's Pride Program, the from the Transportation Research Board, National Governors' Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and Syracuse and Connecticut universities.

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# Research Update

by **Trixie Johnson, Research Director**

Spring is project selection time for MTI. On May 17 the Research Associates Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC) – our academic advisory board – was joined by staff from the Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation and the FHWA Resource Center to review this year’s proposals. One project was chosen to proceed with no revisions, others were rejected outright, some teams will be asked to make a few revisions to their proposals and resubmit for approval, and others will be asked to make major revisions and essentially resubmit new proposals.

This is the end of a long process that began at least a year ago. MTI research is based on needs assessment because we want to do research that will be used. We ask our board of trustees for topics and problem statements. I attended several Caltrans meetings focusing on needed research and reviewed federal materials in search of research needs discussions. And one major reason for attending TRB each January is to follow research in progress and to keep my eyes and ears open for new research ideas.

All the information is distilled in our Request for Proposals (RFP), which this year listed some 34 specific topics and almost two pages of discussion related to federal highway and transit priorities. All but two of this year’s proposals were directly related to RFP topics, the highest proportion since I have been the Research Director.

If all of the selections, including the major resubmission projects, are ultimately approved, this will be the largest “class” of research projects in MTI’s history. The projects which passed this first stage are:



**Effect of Suburban Transit-Oriented Development on Residential Property Values**

**Dr. Shishir Mathur (SJSU), Principal Investigator (PI)**

**Improving National Transportation Planning for Catastrophic Emergencies: A System of Systems Framework to Integrate Policy and Practice**

**Dr. William Reckmeyer (SJSU), PI**

**One Dedicated Lane for Two-Way Bus Rapid Transit/Light Rail in Low-Demand Corridor for Expansion Toward a Two-Dedicated-Lane System: Operational Feasibility and Systems Analysis**

**Dr. Jacob Tsao and Dr. Wenbin Wei (SJSU), Co-PIs**

**Bus Priority Lane Effectiveness in Congested Urban Centers**

**Dr. Asha Weinstein (SJSU), PI**

**The Effect of Transit Terrorism on Travel Behavior**

**Dr. Gila Albert (Technion/Israel Inst. of Technology), PI**

**Strategies for Connecting Transportation Funding and Smart Growth: State and Regional Best Practices and Incentives**

**Gary Binger, PI**

**The Influence of Planning Decisions on Rail Transit Success or Failure**

**Dr. Jeffrey Brown and Dr. Gregory Thompson (Florida State University), Co-PIs**

**Best Practices for Context-Sensitive Solutions in Urban Areas**

**Dr. Allison de Cerreño (New York University), PI**

**How to Ease Women’s Fear of Transportation Environments: Case Studies of Best Practices**

**Dr. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris (UCLA), PI**

**Evaluating the Environmental Justice Effects of Land Use Scenarios in the Sacramento Region with the PECAS Activity Allocation Model**

**Dr. Caroline Rodier (PATH-UC Berkeley), PI**

**Walking and Biking to School: An Assessment of Modal Choice and Urban Form**

**Dr. Marc Schlossberg, (U of Oregon), PI**

**Carsharing and Public Parking Policies: Assessing Benefits, Costs, and Best Practices**

**Dr. Susan A. Shaheen (PATH-UC Berkeley and UC Davis), PI**

*continued on page 4*

# Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director

## MSTM Students and Alumni on the Move

MSTM student Sharad Mulchand (Los Angeles MTA) was recently inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. Beta Gamma Sigma is an international honor society recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of students enrolled in collegiate business and management programs accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. This is a select group: of over 1,400 educational institutions offering business and management degrees, only 300 are eligible to have Beta Gamma Sigma chapters. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest national recognition a student can receive in an undergraduate or master's program in business or management accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. To be eligible for membership, a student must rank in the upper 7 percent of the junior class, upper 10 percent of the senior class, or upper 20 percent of the graduating master's class. Congratulations, Sharad!

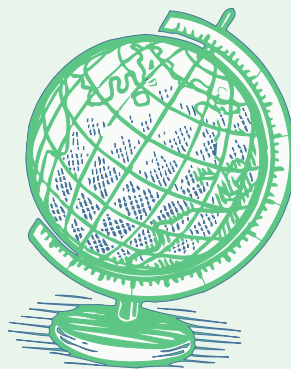


Sharad Mulchand

Edujie Imoisili (MSTM, 2005) has joined the URS Corporation and was recently promoted to Senior Transportation Engineer. She will be located in San Jose.

Richard Erickson (MSTM, 2003) is moving to Dubai to help manage the Al Raha Beach project for Parsons Brinckeroff.

Rudy Lemus (MSTM, 2004) has accepted a position with MacDonald's Tunnels and Transportation Group, where he will be working on the Alaskan Way Viaduct Project in downtown Seattle.



## Statewide Videoconference Spearheads MSTM Recruitment Drive

California Department of Transportation Secretary Will Kempton kicked off a statewide videoconference for Caltrans employees that publicized the Master of Science in Transportation Management and graduate certificate programs available via MTI and San José State University. On the morning of May 10, Caltrans employees in videoconference facilities across the state joined MTI Executive Director Rod Diridon and me to learn about the opportunities for professional development and advancement created by these graduate education programs. The event was videotaped and will be available via the MTI website in the near future.

Other recent events promoting the MTI education program included visits to the Los Angeles Metro (MTA) and the County of Alameda Public Works Department.

## Summer Transportation Institute Returns

For the fourth year, MTI will host a Summer Transportation Institute. Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, the institute connects area high school students to information about careers in transportation. Student participants receive lectures from transportation professionals, engage in hands-on activities related to the transportation industry, and visit area transportation sites such as The Port of Oakland, the San Jose Traffic Control Center, and Caltrain. This year's participants will also receive undergraduate-level instruction in Environmental Studies. For additional information, contact Project Coordinator Cheryl Connolly at [cheryls@ihot.com](mailto:cheryls@ihot.com).

# Information Transfer

by James Swofford, Project Manager

## 2006 Garrett A. Morgan Sustainable Transportation Symposium

“We need educated and skilled people with fresh ideas and new solutions to conquer the challenges that we face,” said Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta in his opening remarks on March 28 as he greeted the students participating in the 2006 Garrett A. Morgan Symposium videoconference. Secretary Mineta added, “I encourage you to take plenty of math and science courses; those are important fundamentals for most transportation careers.”



Hon. Norman Mineta with Leonardtown High School Presenters

Seven classes from six schools across the nation made project presentations that addressed one or more elements of sustainable transportation.

Students from Wells Middle School in Dublin, California proposed the TEAPOT, a garbage truck that used the trash it collected to make its own fuel—methane gas. Their presentation was selected as the winner in the middle school category for devising a solution that could be built using commercially-available components. Mr. Mark Woy’s eighth-grade class was sponsored by Caltrans District 4 in Oakland, California. The students -- Dameon Haley, Michael Magee, Alex Pastran, and Jamie Somerville -- and their teacher will be honored at 2006 MTI’s June banquet where they’ll receive a check for \$500 for their school.



Wells Middle School



Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School

Students from Francis L. Cardozo Senior High School in Washington, D.C. received special recognition for their initiative and scholarship in demonstrating how sustainable transportation principles can be used to address local issues. Ms. Lee Carpenter’s tenth-grade class developed Senior High Rail, which covered the steps necessary to plan, design, and construct an environmentally friendly streetcar system to transport students to and from their school. Sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the Cardozo High School project included role-



Kemps Landing Magnet School

play scenarios, original research, and comprehensive documentation of their efforts. The teacher and students Brittany Clark and Diana Contreras will receive an expense-paid trip to the 2006 MTI Scholarship Awards Banquet plus a \$500 check.

Also in Washington, D.C., the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) sponsored Leonardtown High School from Leonardtown, Maryland. Ms. Barbara Musser’s ninth graders proposed a futuristic transit vehicle powered by a hydrogen engine fueled with seawater.

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# Information Transfer

by James Swofford, Project Manager



Churchland Middle School

Hampton Roads Transit in Virginia sponsored two schools this year. Kemps Landing Magnet School proposed a transportation network integrating a Maglev highway system and vehicles energized by Helium-three fusion. Churchland Middle School students proposed a sports car powered by compressed air.

Caltrans District 9 Bishop, California sponsored two classes from Big Pine School. Sixth-grade students proposed the Deep Fried



Big Pine School, Sixth and Eighth grade students

Ride, a memorable project name for a new motor vehicle designed to run on recycled cooking oil; eighth-grade students presented a study on the feasibility of recycling waste cooking oil for local bio-diesel fuel production.

The students certainly rose to the call for fresh ideas and new solutions. MTI's judges were very impressed with the level of energy and preparation exhibited by this year's participants and look forward to their emergence as future leaders.

## Research Update cont'd

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director

### Hot off the Press

#### *Can Consumer Information Tighten the Transportation/Land Use Link?*

*A Simulation Experiment* by Principal Investigator Daniel A. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Among the findings, "...the relationship between transportation and land use can be either nurtured or thwarted by policy. Appropriate interventions can increase the capacity of transportation accessibility to guide locational decisions, thus strengthening the transportation/land-use relationship.... integrated transportation and housing information offered to people at the time they are choosing a new home may constitute one of those interventions."

In addition to the projects selected through the RAPOC process, MTI is continuing to add research in the counterterrorism field. Recently we amended Brian Jenkins' current case study project to include work he is doing on random and selective searches. We will also be building teams to work on two studies requested by Caltrans. The first is a large study of the business case for public-private partnership for various Caltrans Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) assets, and the other a smaller study with large potential focusing on Highway 96 in Humboldt County where it goes through the Hoopa Indian Reservation. The Caltrans regional office for that area wants to develop a corridor management plan that can serve as a foundation for the consistent application of non-standard design features relating to Native American tribes (symbols, information kiosks, fencing, native planting, etc.) to help guide future transportation plans, construction projects, and maintenance activities when located on Native American reservations or rancherias.

Altogether, this coming year will be challenging and exciting in the research department.

# Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

**Annual Nominating Committee Report:** Nominating Committee Chair Don Camph announces that, after extensive discussion and consideration of several dozen fine national and international transportation leaders, Jane Chmielinski (President of DMJM Harris) and Nuria Fernandez (Chicago Airport's Commissioner) have been nominated to the Board of Trustees. In addition, current Vice Chair David Turney (Chair/President/CEO of Digital Recorders, Inc.) was nominated to follow current Chair John Horsley (Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) and Bill Millar (President of the American Public Transportation Association) was nominated to be Vice Chair for the coming two years. This fine slate of officers and trustees will be voted upon at the June 24, 2006 annual MTI Board of Trustees meeting in San Jose.

**Conferring of MTI Honorary Life Research Fellows Awards:** Nominating Committee Chair Camph also notes that MTI's highest award was approved to be conferred upon Dr. Tom Larson (former Federal Highway Administrator and MTI Trustee) and Lou Gambaccini (former Chair of APTA and MTI). Both have been invited to the June banquet in San Jose to receive this most prestigious award.

**SAFETEA-LU University Transportation Center Competition:** MTI is preparing to compete with a multitude of fine university transportation programs to retain the federal UTC designation, according to the requirement of SAFETEA-LU. That competition will be decided by the end of September and, though MTI is confident, every effort is being invested to showcase the superb research, education, and information transfer programs that allowed MTI to be successful in the 2002 competition.

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