

DIRECTIONS

By Rod Diridon, Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT: MTI's June 30th year-end begins the production of a detailed annual report to our clients, the U.S. DOT Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) and the California DOT. We enjoy the opportunity to display our prior year's record of remarkable success, especially true for this very busy last year of transition to a "National Center of Excellence". RSPA requests a formal "corporate-style" annual report, which is now posted on "www.transweb.sjsu.edu" and will be distributed in hard copy by the end of the month. Special thanks to our graphics students Shun Nelson, Tin Yeung, and Cedric Howard for providing the talent that allows us to inexpensively publish such a fine product.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (RA) RECERTIFICATION: MTI has currently over 130 certified RAs, of which as many as 50 to 70 may be working on projects at any given time. Those RAs have been certified after a detailed review of their demonstrated research skills by the MTI Research Associate Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC) made up of the seven SJSU department chairs associated with the MTI multi-disciplinary programs. MTI Research Director Trixie Johnson is in the process of updating and recertifying the RAs, who will receive notices to which responses will be needed during the next several months. The recertification is needed to maintain the exceptional quality of the MTI research product.

SYMPOSIA AND FORUMS: Besides our usual menu of research projects identified as priorities by US and California DOTs, during the coming year MTI will conduct several national symposia and regional forums. Scheduled currently are a national symposium on high-speed ground transportation and the next iteration of our Garrett Morgan National Videoconference Symposium on Sustainable Transportation for junior high school students from core area schools. The latter is designed to encourage youngsters to take the math and science in high school that allows them to take the technical courses in college to prepare for transportation careers. In addition, a regional forum on the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transportation Authority's master plan will be conducted. Invitations will be sent to the MTI newsletter list, and we'll look forward to seeing you at these important and informative events.

ANNUAL MTI WINTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING: The annual MTI Winter Board of Trustees meeting will begin at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 11, in Washington D. C. Afterwards, all of the Trustees are invited to attend the annual awards banquet of the national Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) in the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Information regarding the tax-deductible sponsorships, to assist with the CUTC scholarship and awards program, as well as individual reception tickets is available via MTI or Dinner Chair Paul Toussaint (toussain@engr.uky.edu). The best and brightest transportation students, our future, will attend.

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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



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

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Profile of
Hon. James L. Oberstar
Mineta Transportation Institute
Board of Trustees Member
and
Ranking Democrat,
House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee



Born in Chisholm, Minnesota, Congressman James L. Oberstar graduated summa cum laude from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in French and Political Science. He went on to earn a Master's degree from the College of Europe in Belgium. After graduation, he taught languages in Haiti and then served as chief staff assistant to his predecessor, Congressman John Blatnik, from 1963-1974.

Congressman Oberstar was first elected to Congress in November 1974, and he is now serving in his 14th term as the representative from Minnesota's 8th Congressional District. Congressman Oberstar is the senior Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and he is the former chair of subcommittees on Investigations and Oversight, Aviation, and Economic Development. Representative Oberstar is recognized worldwide as an expert in the field of transportation and has received numerous awards for his diligent work.

He was instrumental in the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and a key architect of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the most massive and far-reaching public works initiative of our time. Congressman Oberstar fought hard to preserve the protections in TEA-21 that American workers have traditionally enjoyed under the Davis-Bacon Act, and he saw to it that Americans making the transition from welfare-to-work would have help getting to their new jobs. He also preserved and expanded programs in ISTEA and TEA-21 to improve air quality, protect the environment, enhance mass transit and expand facilities for bicycle and pedestrian travel as part of our national transportation system. Additionally, Congressman Oberstar has worked to improve railroad infrastructure and to encourage the development of high-speed rail systems in the United States.

With TEA-21 set to expire in 2004, Representative Oberstar is hard at work drafting the next six-year transportation bill.

INSIDE

- *Research Update*
- *Information Transfer*
- *Education Program*
- *Directions*

Research Update

By Trixie Johnson, Research Director

The MTI research program had time for a very short breath of relief as the remainder of the projects we described as the “pig in the python” were completed. The relief was only momentary as the draft reports began arriving from the studies in the 2001 cycle. Four of those are in peer review or even further along. Additionally, the department was completing publication of the proceedings for the California Security Summits and the Marin/Sonoma/Highway 101 Hot Spots Forum.

Normally the research calendar has MTI doing needs assessment from November through January, posting the Request for Proposals (RFP) in February, selecting projects in May, and beginning a new research schedule in late summer or early fall when all the funding is in place, and the project negotiations have resulted in final approval.

We started on that timeline and completed needs assessment in January of 2002, but then everything came to a halt. Most of the research program is funded by our Caltrans contract, and that contract was subject to renewal. Unfortunately, by the state’s definition, ours is a sole source contract, a type of contract that became quite controversial after a particular contract ran into a buzz saw of criticism. The state put a moratorium on all sole source contracts. Additionally, our Caltrans partners were working mightily to devise a contract extension that would cause the least disruption to our ongoing program, but they could not process a contract until after the results of the University Transportation Center competition were announced by RSPA. Put it all together, and we had no idea when funding would be available to start our research projects; therefore, we could not issue a new RFP.

We now anticipate having the new Caltrans contract in place by mid-December, so the new MTI Request for Proposals was released (see <http://transweb.sjsu.edu/rfp.htm>). Proposals are due on November 20, and, based on e-mail and telephone inquiries, we anticipate a large number of proposals, many from Research Associates who have not pursued projects with us in the past. Applications from prospective Research Associates are also arriving in larger numbers than we have experienced since the early days of the Institute.

Project selection will occur in mid-December, with projects beginning in January and February. Given the high level of interest and our larger funding pool this year, we might be headed for another, though smaller, “pig.”

November is the beginning of our needs assessment process for the 2003 cycle, so the research department will be juggling a variety of tasks over the next few months. The excitement of knowing that we are in business for a very busy two-year completion of the TEA-21 grant makes us appreciate that short relief period all the more.



**** The staff at MTI ****
wishes you a safe &
happy holiday season



Information Transfer

Transweb

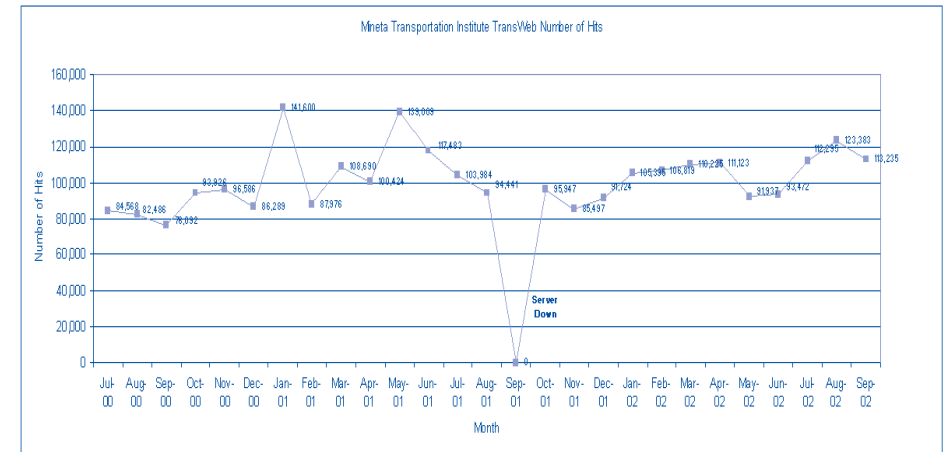
This quarter has been extremely productive for TransWeb, MTI’s website. Several upgrades have made the site more useful than ever. For example, to improve TransWeb’s online search function, the webpage titles were updated. These are found on the title bar of the browser and function as part of the keywords when performing a search.

An additional project was to update and confirm the resource links available in the “Transportation Links” section. This was a complex process due to the vast number of links available on TransWeb. Web content can be moved, expire, or the entire website can even shift to a new URL; all these changes can render a broken link. The process of determining the reason for the invalid link and the corrective action can be time consuming but is critical to maintaining TransWeb as a premiere resource for surface transportation professionals.

Achieving maximum performance from the website is a constant priority, and its usability is paramount. TransWeb is monitored and analyzed with monthly statistics reports, which are confirming that Web Administrator Barney Murray is on the right track. For example, in comparing the third quarters of 2002 and 2001, the number of hits has increased 17%, and the average number of total visitors has increased 45% to over 16,000 visitors per month.

Projects for the next quarter will include working with the MTI Graduate Transportation Management Program to add functionality to the website by allowing online enrollment and class registration.

With the availability of new research publications, increased functionality, and current resources, TransWeb is even better than ever. Visit www.transweb.sjsu.edu to see for yourself.





EDUCATION PROGRAM *on the move*

By Peter Haas, Ph.D.
Education Director

Mary Frederick Named DOT Student of the Year



Mary C. Frederick, Project Manager, Caltrans, Central Region-MTI Masters Student and Outstanding Student of the year 2002

The 12th Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards Ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation, is scheduled to take place in Washington, DC in January 2003. Each year the education program faculty reviews eligible MSTM students for this honor. This year's selection, by a unanimous vote, is Mary Frederick. An MSTM student since 1999, Mary Frederick is a manager and has been working within the Caltrans headquarters organization in the Division of Project Management for the past two years. The current focus of Mary's assignment is to assist district project managers in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Luis Obispo, and Stockton, California in the delivery of transportation projects and in the improvement of business processes within the project delivery organization. Mary will travel to Washington, DC where she will receive a certificate presented by a high-ranking U.S. DOT official. Additionally, she will receive \$1,000 from MTI. Congratulations, Mary!

Outreach for Graduate Transportation Program

I have been busy crossing the state to publicize the graduate education program at MTI. I recently visited receptive audiences in Redding (Caltrans District 2) and San Diego (District 11) and will attend the California Transit Association annual conference in Ontario to present the program to transit managers from around the state.

New Instructor for MTM 215 Named

Dr. Nicholas Compin, an Associate Transportation Planner at Caltrans working in the Office of Performance Measures and Data Analysis, will teach MTM251, Transportation Systems Planning and Development, during the Spring "A" session. Dr. Compin received his graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from UC Irvine, where he also served as a graduate level teaching assistant. With both public and private sector experience working in transportation, Dr. Compin is looking forward to the challenge of instructing our students.

Grant for Summer Transportation Institute Renewed

For the second consecutive year, San José State University and the Mineta Transportation Institute have been awarded a contract to host a Summer Transportation Institute for high school students. Structured in the style of a pre-college internship, this 4-week program is designed to help students see transportation as a vital component in the quality of life of the community and to stimulate them to take full advantage of the career opportunities that exist in the transportation industry. The Institute will be conducted during the summer of 2003 on the SJSU campus. Last summer's Institute featured a special focus on field trips to Bay Area transportation sites, hands-on activities, short talks by experts, and an academic enhancement component focused on acquiring library research skills and learning to read critically media stories and editorials.

Employee of the Month

Rich Erickson, a recently matriculated student in the MSTM program, was named employee of the month by his employer, none other than the recently renamed Mineta San Jose International Airport. Rich is the Senior Scheduling Manager for the Master Plan Team. His duties include developing and maintaining the overall master plan program schedule, forecasting, and reporting. On the Airport Master Plan Team since October of 1999, Rich has approximately 17 years experience in planning, scheduling, cost engineering, and coordination on large scale projects. Rich earned the designation of the Airport Employee of the Month for July, and was commended by his supervisors for his strong work ethic and extraordinary attention to detail.

Information Transfer

Hot off the presses...

MTI Report 01-15 Envisioning Neighborhoods with Transit-Oriented Development Potential
Principal Investigator: Dr. Earl G. Bossard

The Envisioning Neighborhoods with Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Potential project seeks to introduce planners, developers, and urban analysts to information design techniques and digital computer tools that can be used to undertake and study TOD. A basic premise is that effective TOD requires thoughtful planning to be successfully integrated into the metropolitan fabric. This publication includes a CD-ROM containing a Powerpoint presentation in web-ready format, conducive to learning how to apply the technique.

MTI Report 01-24 Using the Internet to Envision Neighborhoods with Transit-Oriented Development Potential
Principal Investigator: Dr. Earl G. Bossard

This study is an extension of prior research (MTI Report 01-15) that uses the Envisioning tool to identify neighborhood characteristics that would be important for TOD developers and planners. Using the Internet information as means of displaying data such as school test scores, crime statistics, and real estate listings can be used to examine potential sites from both a planning and development perspective. A CD-ROM accompanies this publication.

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



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