



# MTI

**Norman Y. Mineta  
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  
David L. Turney  
Mineta Transportation Institute  
Board of Trustees Member  
Chairman, CEO, and President  
of  
Digital Recorders, Inc.*



David L. Turney is Chairman, CEO, and President of Digital Recorders, Inc. (DRI - www.digrec.com), a \$50,000,000 NASDAQ-traded public company. DRI has operations in North Carolina, Germany, Sweden, Australia, and Brazil; corporate administrative offices are in Dallas. Through subsidiaries and divisions, DRI produces advanced state of the art information technology products serving the general ITS market focused on enhancing and increasing mobility. Typical products include GPS-based automatic voice announcement of the “next stop” of transit vehicles, automatic vehicle locating and monitoring systems, remote location passenger information access, and destination display systems.

Prior to his DRI affiliation, Mr. Turney was co-founder of RTI, a transit industry constancy concentrating on business and market development for U.S. and European transit industry client firms. RTI was merged into DRI in 1998. Mr. Turney’s other experience includes founding the former Transportation Products Group segment of Mark IV Industries, serving as its group executive, and, prior to that, serving in various operating general management positions in the predecessor company acquired by Mark IV. Prior to that ten-year professional engagement, he held various executive and operating positions in the consumer products and telecommunications markets.

Mr. Turney was named to the Federal Advisory Committee on R&D - Transit Industry - in the ISTEA federal legislation. He was honored with the APTA Business Member Outstanding Contribution Award and is a past chair of that organization, serving at the time on the APTA Executive Committee. Mr. Turney currently chairs the APTA Business Members International Committee and is a PT2 cabinet member responsible for leading PT2 fundraising within the suppliers group of APTA. He has been active in APTA since 1984 and has served in all levels of that organization open to business members.

Mr. Turney is married to Marcile, has four children, is a private pilot, enjoys hunting and fishing, and lives in Dallas. He received a B.S. Degree in Industrial Management from the University of Arkansas and has completed several advanced study courses in areas such as finance, acquisition, merger, and operations.

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# Research Update

By Trixie Johnson, Research Director

## MTI Concludes Most Competitive Project Selection Process Ever

Normally MTI selects new projects in the spring prior to a fiscal year and begins the actual work the following fall when all funding is in place. For a variety of reasons this year's funding did not follow the usual pattern. It made no sense to release a Request for Proposals and select projects last spring when we did not know when the funding would allow us to issue contracts. Anticipating the last piece of funding would be in place by the end of December, we held our project selection meeting in mid-December.

The Research Associates Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC), our committee of academic advisors, together with numerous Caltrans reviewers and a representative from FHWA, reviewed the 14 proposals that barely fit into a 3-inch binder. This was by far our most competitive round. Ultimately they settled on five new projects.

Dr. James Hayton: a study of the impact of telecommuter rail cars on modal choice. He will explore the willingness of employers to acknowledge the work time that can be spent by rail commuters, and the subsequent impact that might have on attracting more rail passengers. This is our first project to result from the new seed grant program.

Dr. Jonathan Levine: a study of the influence of transportation information on the choice of housing. This will be MTI's first experiential research project, determining whether UM graduate students who know in advance the transit service available make different housing selections from those who do not. UM is supporting the project as well and is doubling the funding available for the research.

Dr. Marc Schlossberg: a pre- and post-construction analysis of transit-oriented-development (TOD) using spatial indicators. TOD is promoted as a tool for increasing transit usage and providing a focus for smart growth activities. This study will look at actual sites both before and after their construction and use GIS to analyze how they did, or did not, measure up.

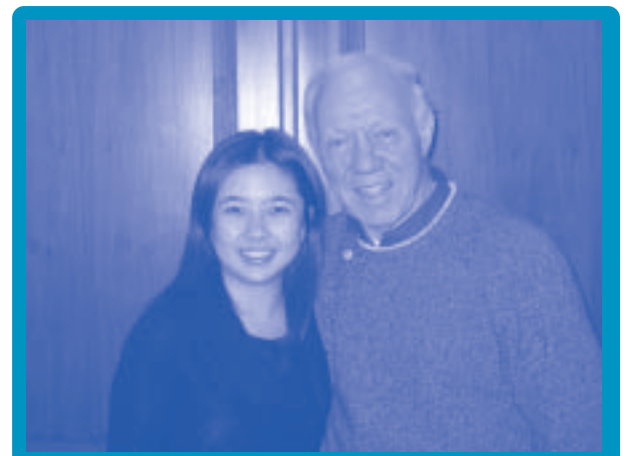
Ken Schreiber: an assessment of the tools and information that respond to the fears and resistance to densification. Smart growth, and the transportation systems that support it, often require a densification of land uses of all kinds. Community fear and opposition to that density are often cited as major barriers to implementing smart growth. This study looks at how communities have successfully dealt with the density issue.

Dr. Brian Taylor: an analysis of the role of system design and operations in preventing and responding to security threats to transit systems and property. The team members will be using their past research experience related to crime and turning that expertise to the special questions raised by the threats of terrorism. The research will cover the spectrum from initial design through recovery from an event. Extensive subcontracting activities may delay the start of this project.

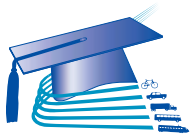
Every study will employ SJSU faculty and student assistants, thus helping to build our campus Center of Excellence.



Acting Office Manager Amy Yan made her first trip to Washington, DC to assist with the Board of Trustees meeting.



Amy Yan with Congressman and MTI Trustee James Oberstar



**CAREER ADVANCEMENT BY MSTM STUDENTS**



We would like to recognize and congratulate several students for their recent professional accomplishments. Topping the list is MSTM student James Helmer, (at left, middle) who was recently named Director of Transportation for the City of San José. James attributes much of his recent professional success to his participation in the MSTM program.

Additionally, Mark McCumsey of Caltrans was promoted to Associate Transportation Planner in October and is relocating to San Luis Obispo from Stockton. Tim Pokrywka, also at Caltrans, was promoted to Sacramento Office Chief in October. Finally, David Blume at Caltrans District 11 in the San Diego area has become a Transportation Planner in Caltrans' Planning and Programming Division. This position plans, develops, organizes, and directs activities that integrate various social, economic, environmental, transportation, and land use factors to support implementation of a balanced, multimodal state transportation program.

**FALL MSTM AND CTM FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED BY MTI**

In December, the Mineta Transportation Institute issued fourteen \$1,000 Fellowships to eligible MSTM students, who are rewarded for their continuing academic achievement in the program.

- Melanie Choy – Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Gabriel Corley – Caltrans Sacramento HQ
- Hailey J. Ford, – Caltrans District 11, San Diego
- Ahron Hakimi – Caltrans District 6, Bakersfield
- James R. Helmer – City of San José
- Larry Holser – President, APTS-Drive USA Network
- Gregory M. Kausch – Beaver County Transit Authority
- Hoy Seng Kwok – Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
- Sandy Ma – Caltrans District 4, Oakland
- Maureen Murphy – Caltrans Video Stream
- Leanne Provost – Caltrans Sacramento HQ
- Juanette Reese – BART
- Amos Rendler – City of San José
- Jeffrey Spencer – Caltrans Sacramento HQ

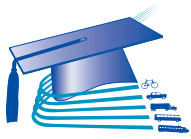
In December, the Mineta Transportation Institute issued five \$500 Fellowships to eligible CTM students.

- Richard Erickson – Parson Brinkerhoff, Inc.
- George Fernandez – Caltrans, District 4, Oakland
- Lee Rennacker – Caltrans Video Stream
- Siew Mei Tan – Caltrans District 7, Los Angeles
- Florante Tanada – Valley Transportation Authority

Congratulations to these fine students for their continuing dedication to academic achievement!

*Save the date...  
June 14, 2003!!!  
MTI Graduation*





**STUDENT OF THE YEAR HONORED IN WASHINGTON, DC**



*Mary Frederick with MTI Executive Director Rod Diridon and Caltrans' Wes Lum*

Mary Frederick, MTI Master of Science in Transportation Management Student of the Year for 2002, was honored in a ceremony in Washington, DC, on January 13, 2002. Officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation were on hand to present the awards given to outstanding students from University Transportation Centers (UTCs) from across the nation. Mary was selected by the MSTM faculty on the strength of her academic work, leadership, research, and contribution to the Mineta Transportation Institute. She is presently a manager at Caltrans and has been working within the headquarters

organization in the Division of Project Management for the past two years. Mary received a \$1000 scholarship check at the awards ceremony.



*Ellen Engleman (on the far right), Administrator for the Research and Special Programs Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, presents the MTI "Student of the Year" award to Mary Frederick in Washington, DC.*

**MTI STUDENT OF THE YEAR, by Mary C. Frederick**



As MTI's 2002 Outstanding Student of the Year, I attended a number of events associated with the Transportation Research Board's 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and learned interesting things related to a wide variety of transportation systems and innovations. Gathering in Washington, DC with approximately 9,000 transportation professionals from government, academia, and the consulting communities provided me with an exciting opportunity to meet transportation professionals, network, and learn of innovative transportation efforts and funding strategies to finance the backlog of system needs currently in the planning, design, and construction phases.

I focused on the sessions related to innovative finance and learned more about the programs that are available for states to access and utilize funds authorized in TEA-21. TRB provided an opportunity for the participants to explore issues and concerns of TEA-21 and offer suggestions for improvement.

With federal and California budget cuts looming, it is especially important to emphasize the success and efficient ongoing contribution of the Mineta Transportation Institute and other University Transportation Centers throughout the nation to the education of transportation professionals. The efforts of those supporting these organizations should be noted, promoted, and continued in the years to come.

*Save the date... June 14, 2003!!!*  
*MTI Annual Board of Trustees Banquet*

## MTI Research Showcased at TRB 2003 Annual Meeting



*Trixie Johnson and Richard Lee*

MTI research was well represented in Washington DC in early January at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. Presenters included Dr. Richard Lee (sustainability in general plans and sustainable transportation indicators); Dr. Brian Taylor (increasing transit ridership); Andrew Nash (Zurich's transit preferential program); Bob Johnston (transportation planning computer modeling); and Dr. Evelyn Blumenberg (an analysis of the actual transportation actions of welfare-to-work clients).

The meeting provided me with an exciting opportunity to assess possible topics for research and to meet with the Research Associates and student assistants who do the work. Especially gratifying is observing the presentations by students who were long distance names-without-faces until then. Three of those students have now graduated and received independent certification as Research Associates of the Institute.

The conference amply demonstrates the connection between education of the workforce of the future and the research programs at universities, an important part of the case for reauthorizing our center, and our sister centers, in the next transportation bill.



*Evelyn Blumenberg presenting her research*

### TransWeb

New features on the website include interactive forms for class registration and applying to enter the education program, a new section outlining our forum and symposium projects for the year (similar to the research project descriptions), and more pictures.

Usage continues to be high, averaging over 1,000 actual downloads every week, and visits remain at the 1,000,000 plus level per year. A recent analysis revealed that visitors are viewing the PDF files more often than HTML files by a factor of more than 5:1. The preference for the more readable and print-friendly format suggests that most are using the material itself, rather than using the interconnected search function of the HTML format.



*Bob Johnston and Trixie Johnson*

*Research Team for Transit Ridership: Allison Yoh, Brian Taylor, Hiroyuki Iseki, and Daniel Hess*



**Mineta Transportation Institute's Winter Board Meeting Summary:** The Winter meeting of the MTI Board of Trustees, conducted on January 11, 2003, was a resounding success. All appreciated Congressman Jim Oberstar making a House committee room available and Trustee Dave Turney, President/CEO of Digital Recorders, Inc. providing the fiscal sponsorship of the meeting as well as the proceeding evening's informal dinner. All enjoyed presentations by MTI Honorary Co-Chair Congressman Oberstar, Ranking Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; John Flaherty, Chief of Staff to U.S. DOT Secretary Mineta; U.S. DOT Research and Special Programs Administrator Ellen Engleman, and California DOT Chief Wes Lum, who also chairs the AASHTO Research Advisory Committee. The opportunity for extensive informal discussion was very much appreciated.

Ranking Member Oberstar stressed that, because of the delays in the 2002 Appropriations Bill passage, the TEA-21 reauthorization was also delayed and would probably not begin serious hearing until May. He cautioned that significant funding increases would be unlikely unless added revenue was identified and noted the 2 cent-per-year motor vehicle fuel tax indexing proposal by ARTBA and others. Chief of Staff Flaherty mentioned that, though some of the nation's university transportation centers were experiencing problems retaining acceptably low overhead rates, the MTI overhead percentages were well within tolerances. He and Administrator Engleman noted the Administration would stress performance measures for UTCs during reauthorization. Administrator Engleman was especially complementary to MTI for "earning" the selection as a "Center of Excellence" by winning the RSPA TEA-21 competition. RAC Chair Lum noted the desire, stressed also by the other presenters, for the UTCs to work more closely with state DOTs. He stressed that MTI did this already but that the other UTCs needed to help meet the state DOTs' applied research needs.

MTI staff presented detailed reports, and the Board remarked on the tremendous volume of quality work produced during the past year. Research Director Trixie Johnson was singled out for the 23 separate research projects completed and published during the year and the revitalized MTI web page "<http://transweb.sjsu.edu>," which is averaging over 100,000 uses per month and has more than 1,000 research reports downloaded per week. Education Director Dr. Peter Haas was also congratulated for more than doubling the number to over 70 Master of Science and professional Certificates in Transportation Management students now attending MTI-sponsored classes presented via the College of Business at San José State University. Dr. Haas was congratulated for being chosen for a Fulbright Senior Specialists Grant in public administration to teach and conduct research in Latvia. The year's outstanding MSTM student, Mary Frederick of Caltrans, was complimented for her special achievements.

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## **The World in Motion**

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