



**IISTPS**

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International Institute for  
Surface Transportation  
Policy Studies**

Created by Congress in 1991

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# *The World In Motion*

Volume 6, No. 1

Spring 2000

*Profile of  
Michael S. Townes  
IISTPS Board  
of Trustees Member  
and  
Executive Director,  
Hampton Roads Transit*



Michael S. Townes has devoted his career to public transportation since 1980. In November 1986, Mr. Townes joined the Peninsula Transportation District Commission (PENTRAN) as the Assistant to the Executive Director. He was appointed Acting Executive Director in 1988 and was appointed Executive Director in July 1989. From March 1, 1998, he has also been the Interim Executive Director for the Tidewater Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads (Hampton Roads Transit), the consolidation of the Peninsula and Tidewater Transportation District Commissions.

Since Mr. Townes took over the leadership of Pentran in 1989, ridership has been increasing annually. Major services have been successfully added including the Downtown Hampton Trolley Shuttle service; the York County Transit Service; and the CrossRoads service to Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Not only have new services been added, but two new transportation centers have been completed. The Downtown Hampton Transportation Center was dedicated in December 1994. The Downtown Newport News Transportation Center was dedicated in March of 1995.

In 1996, Mr. Townes was the recipient of two awards including: The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) Executive of the Year award, and the national Women in Transit Committee Achievement Award given by the American Public Transit Association (APTA). In June of 1998, Mr. Townes received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA). He was appointed by Governor George Allen to the Specialized Transportation Committee and to serve as the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Legislative Committee Chairman and past Assistant Secretary.

Michael Townes has served as the Chair of the TCRP Oversight and Project Selection (TOPS) Committee. As an active member of the Transportation Research Board, he participates on many panels and his involvement keeps him well informed of issues relating to transit and technology. Through the assistance of these programs, transit agencies have investigated and researched technologies that are adaptable for them.

As a member of the Advanced Public Transit Systems' (APTS) Committee of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America, he has begun to take steps to integrate new technologies into day to day operations.

He also serves as Chairperson of the APTA Research Advocacy Funding Subcommittee.

Mr. Townes is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, with a Masters of Urban Regional Planning degree and a Bachelor of Arts-Political Science degree. He is a native of Richmond, Virginia and currently resides in Hampton, Virginia with his wife, Socorro. He has five children; Angela and April of Hampton and Michele, Alicia and Michael of Charlottesville, Virginia.

## **INSIDE**

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Negotiations are nearly complete for a Caltrans' sponsored project looking at the role of transportation in creating sustainable communities. The study scope has expanded dramatically since the last newsletter, taking in both a general look at the topic with California applications and also a focused look at the Central Valley and their response to the unprecedented growth they have and will experience. We are very excited about the changes this could ultimately mean for the way state, regional and local transportation planners, funders and decision makers go about their business.

On March 10, 2000, we mailed out the Spring 2000 Request for Research Proposals to ninety-eight Research Associates and put it on our website. We anticipate adding approximately \$500,000 in new studies, with initial selection occurring in May. The projects will begin in the summer and are to be concluded by the end of February, 2001. Our thanks to our Research Associates Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC, our academic advisors), Caltrans, and members of the Board who helped with the content of the RFP. At the advice of RAPOC our next RFP will be issued in October for projects which will begin in the summer of 2001. This should fit better with an academic calendar than have past RFPs.

In the last newsletter, I outlined a number of our current studies. The response was very favorable to this "content-filled" discussion, so I am continuing with the remainder of the projects that will be completed this summer.

## ***Applying an Integrated Urban Model to the Evaluation of Travel Demand Management Policies in the Sacramento Region***

Principal Investigator: Dr. Robert Johnston

Summer 2000

The standard approach to regional transportation planning is to project the travel demands of the past into the future and then plan to "meet" the "needs." This method does not analyze the social equity effects of plans and projects. The old models generally do not represent changes in number of trips, trip lengths, auto ownership, time of travel and land development due to changes in transportation policies, nor the dynamic that more roadway capacity leads to induced travel.

This study builds on four years of work at the University of California, Davis, on an integrated urban model (travel and land use) called TRANUS, making it more sensitive to Travel Demand Management (TDM) policies. A range of policy scenarios will be run through the model. Because TRANUS will facilitate simulation of critical travel behaviors not usually modeled, it should better represent the effects of TDM policies and thus encourage their use. The project will involve local groups interested in making regional transportation planning more responsive to environmental and social equity concerns, and ultimately will lead to recommendations for the local MPO.

## ***GIS for Livable Communities***

Principal Investigator: Dr. Tom Horan

Summer 2000

TEA-21 seeks to integrate transportation into urban life while pursuing goals of sustainability, economic development, global competitiveness, and increased multimodal options. Tools such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) can help achieve these policy goals by providing planners, policy makers, and stakeholders with spatial data on community transportation preferences. This enables better decisions about transportation and community design by assessing transportation options for community livability through use of place-based planning.

The five case studies in the project will provide a model for cities wishing to enact place-based planning strategies. Specifically planners can reflect community preferences by geocoding survey data for the development of rich spatial maps, full of details about community travel patterns and citizen perceptions of community relationships. The city of Riverside, California has been selected to do an in-depth prototype analysis.

## ***Transportation and Land Use Innovation: Impacts on Household Residential Choice***

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jonathan Levine

Summer 2000

Most current thinking assumes that the market determines what is built, or that the market must be regulated if better land use is to occur – and in either event the effect on transportation and on vehicle miles traveled will be negligible. Much land use planning now actually discourages development of alternatives to the large lot and single-family house. If planners viewed changes to their current rigid templates as opening up choices for residents – choices that households desire and would act upon – they might be able to plan for both a reduction in automobile use and a better land use environment.

This project examines the relationship between people's preferences for land use and transportation environments on the one hand and their residential choices on the other. The research will use surveys, GIS analysis and discrete choice modeling to estimate the loss of household choice associated with a highly automobile dependent metropolitan area. The research focuses on Boston as a region offering rich opportunities for residence in pedestrian and transit oriented neighborhoods (and relatively low vehicle miles traveled per capita) and on Atlanta, an area with few such opportunities and very high vehicle miles traveled per capita. The contrast will shed light on the spectrum of choices residents would make if transit or pedestrian oriented neighborhoods were available.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM

on the move

By Glenn Shephard,  
Education Director

## Reshaping our Identity

The Transportation Education Program is now known as the Graduate Transportation Management (GTM) Program. Our new name better identifies important characteristics that distinguish our program from others in the transportation field. In contrast with transportation engineering programs, this graduate-level program focuses on the business and policy aspects of transportation, preparing students for management careers.

## Meeting with Caltrans Offers Students More Opportunities

On January 18, 2000 Executive Director Rod Diridon, Education Director Glenn Shephard, and Education Program Assistant Sunshine Shepard met with approximately 200 Caltrans employees via the same videoconferencing technology used during program courses. Upper level managers, training coordinators, and potential students from Caltrans gathered to learn more about the GTM Program and how it prepares students for career advancement. Director José Medina introduced the GTM Program and the important role it will play in the lives of those employees who wish to further their education and their upward mobility. Deputy Director James Roberts, spoke of Caltrans' support to employees who pursue a Master of Science or a Graduate Certificate in Transportation Management. This support includes a raise in tuition reimbursement for employees who take the initiative to further their education and skills, especially in preparation for moving up to management positions.

## Drum Roll, Please

Congratulations to Robert Kagiya for receiving the George Krambles Transit Scholarship. Graduate Transportation Management Program faculty nominated Robert for his outstanding achievement in the program as well as his commitment to the transportation field. The Krambles Scholarship is awarded to full-time undergraduate or graduate students in fields with a natural relationship to mass transit. The aim of the Scholarship Fund is to assure that aid will go to students with a genuine interest in careers in transit or closely related fields. Robert traveled to Chicago on March 11 to receive his award at a dinner reception.

## Class News

Spring 2000 Session A is nearing its end. Students in MTM 290 Strategic Transportation Management are preparing the final drafts of their capstone projects as they also prepare to be presented as graduates at the Annual Banquet in June. The student with the best peer-reviewed paper will present his/her work to the IISTPS Board of Trustees at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Meeting.

Spring 2000 Session B began on April 3. Offerings include:

MTM 201 Fundamentals of Transportation Management  
Tuesday evenings 5:30 - 9:30 pm  
Dr. Peter Haas

MTM 202 Accounting, Finance, and Business Systems  
Monday evenings 5:30 - 9:30pm  
Professor Arnie Pahler



## Information Transfer

By Jeanne Dittman, Communications Manager

As did the rest of the world, we survived Y2K. We then traveled through the first quarter of 2000 as if on high-speed rail. We have numerous enhancements and projects in motion. On our web sites we have focused on enhancements to the Graduate Transportation Management Program pages. We created a new gateway ([www.transweb.sjsu.edu/acadnew.htm](http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/acadnew.htm)) to further organize online access to the program, courses, and assignment information. A multimedia presentation about the program is available through that gateway. Distance learning students use the new pages to access course syllabi, assignments, and presentations by the instructors. The students are communicating through online course bulletin boards and chat rooms in addition to their videoconferenced class sessions.

Our long-time and valued student assistant Ashvin Patel graduated at the end of 1999 with an Electrical Engineering degree. Over the years Ashvin has assisted the Institute in many areas, such as research support and publication pre-press efforts. He has reduced his hours, but is continuing to share his talents with us while deciding where and how he can best use his engineering skills and experience. Ashvin is turning over his duties to our new graduate assistant, Benjamin Corrales. Ben has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from San José State University (SJSU) and is working on his second Masters in Geography at SJSU.

With the ever-increasing success of our research program has come increased publication activity. Four forum and meeting proceedings and one research project final report are going through the editing process. At the printer is *Analysis of Policy Issues Relating to Public Investment in Private Freight Infrastructure*, by Daniel Evans, J.D. and Norman Kelley. That final report is scheduled to be in print and available on the web by the time you read this newsletter. Continued excitement is expected during the second and third quarters of the year as the majority of our 1999-2000 project teams prepare their final reports.

Looking forward, the Institute's 2000-2001 Request for Proposals is available at [www.transweb.sjsu.edu/rfp.htm](http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/rfp.htm). The submittal deadline is April 28, 2000.

## DATE CHANGE FOR THE ANNUAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING AND SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET!

After remarkably convoluted negotiations, June 24, Saturday, has been chosen to replace May 12 and 13 for our Annual Board of Trustees' Meeting (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM) and Scholarship Banquet (5:30 to 9:30 PM). Congress members Jim Oberstar and Norm Mineta (ret.) are confirmed as are a growing number of our Trustees and US DOT and Caltrans dignitaries along with other local, state, and federal government and University leaders. Four vacancies on our Board of Trustees will be filled, and a new slate of officers will be elected to take effect at the Annual Meeting.

We will also be treated to an update on the Institute's Research Programs by **Research Director Trixie Johnson** who now has 19 research projects costing over \$1.2 million and involving over 50 certified Research Associates and additional students. She has just completed a detailed transportation policy research needs assessment with Caltrans, our Trustees, and others and will process another \$500,000 in research project requests for proposals before the Annual Meeting. **Education Director Dr. Glenn Shephard** has more students enrolled in our Master of Science in Transportation Management and Graduate Certificate in Transportation Management programs than ever before and is improving our videoconferenced distance learning programs. Several of his students will be "hooded" as new Master recipients at the banquet. **Jeanne Dittman, recently promoted to Communications Manager**, is continuing to improve our award-winning web page and our newsletter. She has also assumed general office management and report distribution oversight responsibilities. Our stalwart Administrative Director, Teresa Battisti, was just hired away by a Silicon Valley company at over one and one half times her salary here, plus stock options, and we wish her well.

We are looking forward to the Institute's annual review by the US DOT Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) on May 30, the results of which will be available at the Annual meeting. We appreciate the RSPA staff's assistance. You will receive a formal invitation in May, but please save the June 24 date to join us at the Scholarship Banquet. Drop a line or give a call if you've thoughts to share.

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