

DIRECTIONS

By Rod Diridon, Executive Director

Congratulations to Secretary Norm Mineta as he received an honorary Doctor of Jurisprudence from Santa Clara University and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the California State University System through San José State University. Secretary Mineta received the degrees during spring commencements at these fine universities located in the congressional district that he represented for 21 years. We're proud of you, Mr. Secretary!

Plans are progressing for the Institute's 10th Annual Board of Trustees' meeting and Award Banquet on Saturday, June 30, in San Jose. The Board will meet from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Conference Room. The Awards Banquet, in the SJSU Student Union Barrett Ballroom, will begin with a Santa Clara Valley wine tasting at 6:00 PM and dinner from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Presentations are expected by Secretary Mineta, Ranking Member Jim Oberstar and Congress Member Mike Honda, both of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Caltrans Director Jeff Morales. In addition, more than three dozen other elected transportation leaders will attend along with the Institute's outstanding Board of Trustees and over 400 donors to the Institute student grants support programs. Contact Rita Maxstadt at 408-924-7564 for more information.

MTI is currently sponsoring over 30 policy research projects involving over 50 Ph.D. level Research Associates. Four national symposia and a regional "transportation hot spots" forum are also in process. Our education programs have 29 students attending by videoconference throughout the Western U.S. Of that number, 13 are fully matriculated and 7 are in process for our special systems-based California State University Master of Science in Transportation Management degree. Visit our web page, "<http://transweb.sjsu.edu>" for details.

The MTI staff is enjoying meeting the challenge of success and will look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Awards Banquet.

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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

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
Susan M. Coughlin
Director and
Chief Operating Officer
of the
American Trucking Association
Foundation



Susan MacGregor Coughlin, formerly Vice Chairman and Member of the National Transportation Safety Board and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, was elected Director and Chief Operating Officer of the ATA Foundation in April 1998. In this capacity, she directs the research activities for the Foundation and its affiliated organizations in the areas of the freight mobility and efficiency; safety and human factors; environmental quality; and information technology applications.

Mrs. Coughlin was previously President and Chief Operating Officer, BDM Air Safety Management Corporation, a company engaged in the design and deployment of state-of-the-art air traffic control systems. Prior to that she was Senior Vice President, Transportation Systems, BDM International, Inc., now a wholly-owned subsidiary of TRW, Inc.

Mrs. Coughlin joined BDM in 1994, following thirteen highly successful years of service in the federal government. She joined the Reagan-Bush Administration in March 1981, as Government Relations Officer for Secretary of Transportation Drew Lewis. In 1983, she was appointed to serve as Deputy Vice President, Public Affairs, Export-Import Bank of the United States. She remained in that position until 1987, when Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole appointed her Deputy Federal Railroad Administrator.

Mrs. Coughlin was confirmed by the United States Senate as a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board in February, 1990, and was appointed by President Bush to two consecutive terms as Vice Chairman in June 1990 and June 1992. She served as the Board's Acting Chairman in 1992. During her tenure on the Safety Board, Mrs. Coughlin served as the Board's principal spokesperson on-scene at major transportation accidents, including aviation, rail, marine, highway and pipeline, and chaired the Board of Inquiry for major Safety Board Public Hearings.

Mrs. Coughlin is a Director of Atlantic Coast Airlines Holdings, Inc., which operates in the East and Mid-western United States as United Express and in the Northeast as Atlantic Coast Jet, Inc., a regional jet operator for the Delta Connection. She is a member of the Board's Audit Committee. Mrs. Coughlin is currently the Aviation Safety Analyst for the Cable News Network (CNN).

She serves on the Board of Trustees of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and chairs the Flight Safety and Education Committee. She was appointed by the FAA Administrator to the FAA's Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee, and serves in a similar capacity on NASA's Air Traffic Control Executive Steering Committee.

Mrs. Coughlin serves on the Defense Science Board Task Force on Improved Fuel Efficiency of Weapons Platforms. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Norman Y. Mineta International Institute for Surface Transportation Policy Studies at San José State University, on the Board of Visitors of the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, Maryland, and on the Advisory Council of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, Atlanta, Georgia. She serves in a similar capacity at the University of Minnesota, the University of Michigan and the George Washington University.

Mrs. Coughlin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and did graduate work at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City. She is married and resides in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

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- **Why the change in your usual newsletter section?**

The research program has expanded so exponentially that keeping up with everyday work is a real challenge, so I asked Catherine Frazier, our editorial associate, to transcribe my comments.

- **What's new at MTI?**

There's always something new here. A couple of things on the horizon appear to be very exciting. One is that we just finished our Request for Proposal round. The Research Associates Policy Committee (RAPOC) made some selections from submitted proposals, and we will be entering negotiations, preparing prospectuses, and getting approval for up to five new projects. There are some really interesting topics in there, too. The next newsletter will contain the details of the projects.

- **You're going to make us wait for more information?**

Yes, we are going to wait because they are not real projects until we have a prospectus ready to go forward for approval.

Another exciting development is a request from the American Public Transit Association (APTA) to co-sponsor a national conference on "Passing Transportation Tax Measures." We were chosen in part because of our studies that Peter Haas and Richard Werbel have been working on over the past years; the first one is published, the second one will be close to publication by the time of the conference, if not already published.

The second reason we were chosen is that the recent passage of transportation tax measures by Santa Clara and Alameda Counties received national attention. The approvals were so strong and, particularly in the Santa Clara County case, the package was so huge, that people really want to know how we did it. Coming to the spot where they can hear from the people who actually made this happen is pretty inspiring. We're very, very excited about this. It's the first national conference we've co-sponsored with APTA, and we think it's a wonderful way to get our research out there.

The conference will be July 29- 31 here at San José State University. APTA will be handling most of the arrangements, but we will be arranging the local componets.

There will be about 100 participants — a combination of transportation agency people, political people, board members, professional consultants, and community support people you can count on to pass such measures — getting together to share their "war stories." Essentially, we will be discussing the factors, where identifiable, that led to the success or failure of tax measures.

We'll build on the work that our researchers have done and bring together a wealth of experience. APTA intends to do a condensed videotape of the sessions so that the lessons can be shared with a much larger audience than just those in attendance.

Our research is supposed to be practical. We want end-users to take it and run with it as soon as it is ready. This conference is for the very audience intended in the research. I can't imagine a better place to launch the new study, review the previous one, and get information out there in the world to do some good.

- **You have an MTI business trip planned for this summer, correct?**

The road trip is to the University of Arkansas for the meeting of the University Transportation Centers (UTCs). There are actually two groups that will be meeting. First is a one-day meeting of the groups that were the named centers under ISTEA and TEA-21. The second meeting involves all of the centers. We will discuss a variety of issues, from how to improve our research and make sure that it's more on point to better ways to publicize the

Heavy Traffic on TransWeb

Web traffic for TransWeb, the website for the Mineta Transportation Institute, has increased dramatically this year. In January the website received a record number of hits—141,600. Many of these hits are a result of searches being done for information on Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta; however, as people are exposed to TransWeb, many are choosing to return to the site often to see "what's new" in the transportation world. Barney Murray, Web Administrator for the Institute, is closely monitoring the traffic on the website, so he can fully maximize the site features that are accessed frequently. He is currently working to optimize the most popular portion of the website—"Transportation News." Barney is excited about the future of TransWeb and is working diligently to make the site as "user friendly" and informative as he possibly can!

Mineta Transportation Institute TransWeb Hits



Rita is leaving us!



After being everyone's "Girl Friday" for over a year, Rita Maxstadt is leaving the Mineta Transportation Institute. Her final day at work will be July 15. Rita, a native of Santa Clara, will be moving to Corning, CA, where she has a residence. "I want to live in my house full-time; I bought it four years ago, and I get to live in it only on weekends." She will seek employment as an administrative assistant upon relocation. Rita has been with MTI since March of 2000. Her duties are many, and she keeps not only Executive Director Rod Diridon on task and organized, but is responsible for keeping the entire office running smoothly. She also supervises student assistants, and keeps track of budget matters. "I'm going to miss the people here at MTI, but this was a logical time for me to move on. The challenges of running an office, supervising students, and at times planning events ensured I was never bored with my job," said Rita.

Rita plans on spending more time with her two granddaughters. She has two grown sons, one daughter-in-law, two stepchildren, and her husband John, who is at times the most challenging of the lot.

We wish you happiness and success in any new endeavor, Rita. We will miss you.

Matriculation and the Three Course Waiver

The time delay inherent in the matriculation process that all our MSTM students go through is often a major obstacle to timely student progress through the program. Time and again, our MSTM students have found themselves facing the unpleasant tradeoff of (1) paying for and taking important GTMP courses that will not “count” for their official program of study or (2) taking time-out from the program until the matriculation process grinds to slow completion.

Effective this spring, the Education Department worked successfully with the College of Business to extend the existing two course waiver (allowing program credit for up to two GTMP courses prior to graduate studies matriculation) to three courses, thereby substantially reducing the impact of matriculation delay on student program progress.

GTMP Core Course Enhancement is Underway

The GTMP core course enhancement project, sponsored and underwritten by a \$55,000 California State University (CSU) Commission on Extended Education (CEE) grant received last year, has now largely passed into the hands of core course faculty and is now well underway. When complete, core courses will supplement improved core course class videoconference-based activities with computer-mediated on-line learning activities and tasks.

Hats Off to Caltrans: Our Partner in Class Delivery Comes Through Once More

Thanks again to Caltrans (our well-appreciated, continuing partner in delivering the GTMP) for their active support in helping us upgrade the GTMP’s videoconferenced classes. Beginning Fall 2001, GTMP courses will be delivered directly to the Caltrans videoconferencing network where the technical improvements provided by Caltrans will distinctly improve the quality and reliability of all our classes throughout the State of California.

Spring MSTM and Continuing Student Performance Awards by the Mineta Transportation Institute

MSTM and CTM CSP Awards are issued on a competitive basis to students in the two programs who take two consecutive courses in a given semester. Applicants are considered by maintaining a continuing high standard of academic work, writing a short essay, and receiving a recommendation from someone familiar with their professional work.

In May, the Mineta Transportation Institute proudly issued eight \$1000 MSTM CSP awards and three \$ 500 CTM CSP awards to eligible students.

Recipients of the MSTM CSP awards:

James Chai, Senior M&R Engineer. **Art Duffy**, PE -Local Assistance Engineer, Caltrans. **James Foster**, Senior Bridge Engineer, Caltrans. **Mark Jensen**, Director of Intermodal ITS Research, Science Applications International Corporation. **Donna Kelsay**, Assistant General Manager, San Joaquin Regional Transit District. **Jeremy Ketchum**, Environmental Planner, Caltrans. **Carole Sanders**, Transportation Civil Engineer, Caltrans. **Lyle Stockton**, Project Engineer, Caltrans.

Recipients of the CTM CSP Awards are:

Todd Lacasse, Assistant Administrator, Caltrans. **Leeanne Provost**, Senior Materials and Research Engineer, Caltrans. **Jeffrey Spencer**, Transportation Planner, State of California.

work we do and get it published elsewhere. We’ll be looking at the whole subject of university research and working to make it a focal part of the national transportation research picture.

The other areas for discussion, particularly for the named centers, will be the competition among the centers and the issues related to federal reauthorization in 2004. This could be a very interesting meeting, and we look forward to hosting next year’s UTC meeting here in San Jose.

We will post an update on the conferences on the Web and in our next newsletter.



Student success lies at the heart of the Graduate Transportation Management Program (GTMP). This spring we have three candidates for the Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) and one candidate for the graduate Certificate in Transportation Management (CTM). Completing the requirements for the MSTM are Mark Jensen, Donna Kelsay, and Judy Li. Congratulations all! Completing the requirements for CTM is Hector Romero. Good work Hector!

Caltrans Director Jeff Morales is Guest Speaker in MTM 297

On March 6th, GTMP student and Caltrans employee Jeff Spencer surprised fellow students by inviting Caltrans Director Jeff Morales to speak in Lecturer Gary Richards’ MTM 297 class (“Current Topics in Transportation”). Students had the unique opportunity to welcome, listen to, and interact with Director Morales during the course of the evening. Director Morales addressed California transportation system challenges and opportunities today and in the future.

Program Marketing to City of San José Transportation Engineers

On May 16th, Executive Director Rod Diridon, Education Director Glenn Shephard, and Education Program Associate Viviann Ferea, met with City of San Jose transportation engineers to describe the GTMP and answer questions about the program. Information was presented to the group describing the purpose and nature of the program. The interested audience was made aware of the opportunities available to enable them to pursue a transportation management degree evidenced by an MS in Transportation. Management. or a graduate Certificate in Transportation Management.

Donna Kelsay’s Eno experience:

The Graduate Management Transportation Program at San José State University was proud to have one of its students selected by the Eno Transportation Foundation for its prestigious Eno Fwllow Leadership foundation Program. Here is a letter from Donna Kelsay, our Eno Fellow, describing her recent experience.

I attended the Eno Leadership Development Conference in Washington, DC May 21-25. The five-day program was a whirlwind exposure to many of the leaders and the agencies involved in shaping transportation policies and legislation. Nineteen other graduate students and I had an opportunity for first hand discussions of the latest transportation issues and trends with decision-makers and industry professionals. At the end of the week, at a graduation luncheon, I was recognized as an Eno Fellow. Thank you again for this honor. Sincerely, Donna Kelsay.

Donna Kelsay currently works for the San Joaquin Regional Transit District as an Assistant General Manager.