To Move is to Live.

MINETA
TRANSPORTATION
INSTITUTE

A GASSINE STATES OF THE STATES





OUR YEAR... BY THE NUMBERS









50+

research publications



55+public & private partnerships



45

events



15,000+

participants



MTI's 2025 in Review

Progress that Moves Us



As the new year approaches, we take a moment to reflect on the meaningful progress and significant changes of 2025. At the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), an organized research and training unit affiliated with the <u>Lucas College and Graduate School of Business</u> at <u>San José State University</u> (SJSU), all of us are reminded once more of the extraordinary, rippling impact that connection and shared purpose can make. The Mineta Transportation Institute's mission remains constant: to advance safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient mobility for everyone. Yet each year, the way we carry out that mission continues to grow and evolve. As the challenges we face in our local communities and as a larger society grow more complex, the opportunities to learn, innovate, and share grow even greater. Movement shapes our daily lives, and we build our future on the mobility of people and goods. MTI's growing body of work—research, workforce initiatives, community engagement, leadership development, and technology transfer—demonstrates the comprehensive role MTI plays in shaping transportation's future.

This year, we have shared our growth through our <u>newsletter and special features</u>, <u>press releases</u>, and <u>media coverage</u>—which highlight our work supporting the transportation systems vital to all of us. With more than 50 new research publications, contributions from 150+ researchers, and the development of new data, insights, and tools that guide policy and practice, MTI continues to support evidence-based decision-making that advances mobility for all. This year also brought over \$2 million in additional grant funding, expanding our capacity to address emerging issues related to safety, resilience, cybersecurity, workforce readiness, and more. Our early childhood and K-12 workforce development, community outreach, graduate education, and leadership training enabled us to reach more than 15,000 participants across 45 events. These events and so much of what we do were also supported by new and long time partners. This year, we collaborated with over 55 public and private organizations.

As we look back on 2025, we celebrate these achievements and the positive influence they have had on our communities. Most importantly, we celebrate the people and connections at the heart of it all. Together, we continue to build a more connected future for all.



Research

Advancing Evidence-Based Solutions

View all Publications

Research is at the core of everything we do-collecting information, generating new ideas, and putting it all to use. This year, the California State University Transportation Consortium (<u>CSUTC</u>), led by the Mineta Transportation Institute, received the California Transportation Foundation's Program Award for Organized Research in recognition of its leadership in advancing innovative, applied research. The award underscores the MTI's continued commitment to improving American mobility.

This year we published 50 reports from more than 150 researchers, including student research assistants who receive paid opportunities and real-world experience. Below, we highlight a few 2025 research projects:

- MTI Research Associate Dr. Hamid Rahai has filed a patent for his <u>invention</u>, Ambient NOx Reduction with Painted Wavy Surfaces, which helps cut harmful nitrogen oxides and offers a simple, low-cost way to improve air quality.
- MTI's street harassment on transit survey <u>instrument</u>, developed under SB 1161 and now used statewide under SB 434, has become an essential tool for documenting rider safety concerns. Our researchers are now <u>analyzing</u> the data collected by California's top transit agencies, offering the first comprehensive evidence base to help keep riders safe.
- MTI published the <u>16th annual report</u> of our series surveying U.S. adults about their opinions on federal transportation funding. This work was credited by Senator Jim Beall in helping him craft SB1 and continues to inform policy.
- Under SB 381, MTI researchers conducted the most comprehensive <u>analysis</u> of e-bike safety, examining injury data, best practices, and laws to understand and make recommendations about safe use.
- SB1 prioritizes rehabilitating California's road infrastructure and the CSUTC has been instrumental in this work. CSU Chico worked with Caltrans to develop a new Flexible Pavement Presentation Technical Advisory Guide manual, which complements their previous training manuals and helps pavement professionals improve the long-term benefits of transportation investments.









Events

View Past Events

Conversations that Advance the Industry

MTI hosted and sponsored 45 events nationwide, engaging 15,000 participants. A major highlight was the <u>CSUTC 2025: Shaping the Future of Transportation Conference</u> held at CSU Long Beach. This conference showcased eight years of research and featured presentations and panels addressing industry challenges like AI, infrastructure resilience, and workforce readiness in the Golden State.

MTI's newest webinar series, On the Right Track: The Transformative Potential of Rail, explored 50 years of global high-speed rail innovation. Co-sponsored by the APTA High-Speed & Intercity Passenger Rail Committee, California High-Speed Rail Authority, High Speed Rail Alliance, and U.S. High Speed Rail Association, this series offered insights to help U.S. professionals apply global lessons to the future of transit. The webinars examined rail in France, Spain, Germany, and China—and next year we will continue with Japan!

We hosted more of the popular Research Snaps webinars—30-minute bite-sized virtual lunch-and-learn events. This year featured research projects like <u>Electrifying Transit: Zero-Emission Buses in the U.S.</u>, <u>Energy Savings & Safety Concerns: The Evolution of Right Turn on Red Policies</u>, <u>Keeping AAPI Seniors Connected: Addressing Mobility and Safety</u>, and <u>From TikTok to Transit: Storytelling for Emerging Mobility</u>.

MTI and the Commonwealth Club World Affairs hosted the Annual Mineta National Transportation Policy Summit. This year's theme, Beyond the Stadium: Keeping Cities Moving During Mega-Events, addressed how California can prepare for major upcoming events, including Super Bowl 60 and the FIFA World Cup in 2026, and the Summer Olympics and Paralympics in 2028. A related perspective, An Olympian Task: Security for the Super Bowl, World Cup, and Olympics by Brian Michael Jenkins, who delivered the Summit's keynote, expands on these themes.

Furthering safety in our communities and systems, MTI proudly supported the Safety in Motion: Combating Human Trafficking, Exploitation, and Violence conference. MTI Research Associate Dr. Kezban Yagci Sokat served as an organizer and presenter, and she was accompanied by Lucas College of Business student volunteers committed to improving transportation safety.





Awards

Celebrating Mobility Champions

View Student Award Winners

This year, members of the MTI community earned awards that highlight our shared talent, impact, and commitment to advancing mobility for all.

Researchers & Student Assistants

MTI Senior Research Associate <u>Adam Cohen</u> was named as part of the eVTOL Insights' One to Watch Special Report, recognizing global leaders in Advanced Air Mobility. MTI researchers were honored by San José State University for research excellence: <u>Dr. Gaojian Huang</u> received the 2024 Early Career Investigator Award and <u>Dr. Anil Kumar</u> received the 2024 Industry-Sponsored Researcher Award. <u>Dr. Hovannes Kulhandjian</u> received the Best New Product/Technology Award at the 2025 Fresno International Transportation Innovations Summit. <u>Alexis Zane Alexander</u> won the Outstanding Student Award; <u>Pratham Aggarwal</u>, <u>Amneek Chalotra</u>, and <u>Saugat Pandal</u> were finalists in the Transit Temporal Research Poster Competition at the ASCE International Conference on Transportation & Development.

Student Scholarships & Honors

Masters of Science in Transportation Management student honorees include <u>Angelica Coleman</u> (COMTO NorCal Norman Y. Mineta Scholarship), <u>Joseph Faria-Poynter</u> (Lucas Graduate School of Business Scholarship), <u>Kevin Fleischman</u> and <u>Edward Watt</u> (APTF Scholarships), <u>Margaret Karraker</u> (HNTB Spark Scholarship), <u>Her Yang Lee</u> (US DOT UTC Outstanding Student of the Year), <u>April Lucchesi</u> (ACE Distinguished Student of the Year), <u>Alma Ramirez</u> (Latinos in Transit Leadership Academy & COMTO NorCal Rosa Parks Scholarship), <u>Dakota Gross</u> (Myra L. Frank Memorial), and <u>Miguelito Santos</u> (PECG Scholarship).

Staff & Leadership Recognition

MTI Executive Director <u>Dr. Karen Philbrick</u> was named in the <u>Top 50 Women Leaders of San José</u>. MTI Deputy Executive Director <u>Dr. Hilary Nixon</u> received the WTS SF Bay Area *Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award* and was appointed Chair of TRB's Standing Committee on Women and Families. She will also serve on the National Academies' Consensus Study Committee on Data, Metrics, and Analytic Tools for Transportation Investments that Support Family Quality of Life and Communities. <u>Brian Michael Jenkins</u> received the inaugural <u>Lifetime Achievement Award</u> from the Soufan Center. MTI Board members <u>Will Kempton</u> and <u>Diane Woodend Jones</u> were elevated to Emeritus Trustees, and <u>Josue Vaglienty</u> completed his term in the special MSTM alumni-designated board seat.





Worforce Development

View Our Programs

Cultivating Next-Gen Leaders

This year, we engaged thousands of students and professionals nationwide through handson learning, competitions, and leadership development, building a pipeline of future leaders.

Since 2017, the <u>Mineta Leadership Academy</u> has trained 200+ leaders, and this year we delivered customized programs for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, BART, and Metro-North Railroad. MTI also continued its Mineta Leadership Fellow series—in which industry leaders share insights about strategy and innovation—with interviews from <u>Greg Kelly</u>, CEO of STV.

MTI hosted our annual <u>Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Competition</u>. This year, twenty-three teams entered the competition, with the winning team coming from <u>Graham Middle School</u> in Mountain View, California. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and MTI Executive Director Dr. Karen Philbrick hosted the <u>reveal</u> of this year's winners, including the inaugural "<u>Most Creative Award</u>" recipient from Greensboro Middle School, Greensboro, AL. Our elementary poster <u>contest</u> continued to spark creativity; teachers <u>reported</u> high levels of enthusiasm for the program, with one appreciating that the project was "something [the students] could understand and apply to their real lives." This year, 29 high school students in the annual Mineta Summer Transportation Academy (<u>MiSTA</u>) explored careers across the Bay Area through excursions and project-based <u>learning</u>.

MTI awarded over \$36,000 in university-level fellowships and scholarships. Additional scholarships supported students through partners such as Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley, ACE, American Public Transportation Foundation, and COMTO Northern California Chapter. These investments directly support students and their paths forward.

Student research assistants benefited from working with MTI faculty in paid real-world opportunities. San Diego State University's <u>Nusheen Baradaran</u> applied her research on intelligent speed assistance toward her career as a civil engineer. CSU Long Beach's <u>Emma Varela</u> worked as a research assistant for a CSUTC study and is now pursuing a PhD. High schoolers <u>Padma Balaji</u> and <u>Anya Kothari</u> translated their CSUTC-supported work into journalism, documentary filmmaking, app development, and ongoing mobility advocacy.



As we look back on 2025, one message stands out: MTI's collective body of work truly makes a difference. Every research breakthrough, every scholarship, every leadership lesson, and every collaboration contributes to a safer, more connected future for American mobility. This year's accomplishments—achieved only because of the dedication of our researchers, students, staff, and partners—illustrate the impact an individual can have when we bring knowledge, innovation, and purpose together in service of advancing public good.

MTI's work continues to mold the decisions, systems, and communities that keep people and goods moving safely and efficiently. We are proud of what we have built together, and we are inspired by the meaningful contributions each of you continues to make.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we invite you to stay connected and engaged. Follow us on social media-including our new Instagram account-to explore research insights, see stories from our programs, and celebrate the people who make this work possible.

Thank you for being part of this community. See you next year!



