

# Fifteenth Annual Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Symposium



MTI Report S-15-01



# MINETA TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

The Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA) and was reauthorized under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21). MTI then successfully competed to be named a Tier I Center in 2002 and 2006 in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Most recently, MTI successfully competed in the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 to be named a Tier I Transit-Focused University Transportation Center. The Institute is funded by Congress through the United States Department of Transportation's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R), University Transportation Centers Program, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and by private grants and donations.

The Institute receives oversight from an internationally respected Board of Trustees whose members represent all major surface transportation modes. MTI's focus on policy and management resulted from a Board assessment of the industry's unmet needs and led directly to the choice of the San José State University College of Business as the Institute's home. The Board provides policy direction, assists with needs assessment, and connects the Institute and its programs with the international transportation community.

MTI's transportation policy work is centered on three primary responsibilities:

## Research

MTI works to provide policy-oriented research for all levels of government and the private sector to foster the development of optimum surface transportation systems. Research areas include: transportation security; planning and policy development; interrelationships among transportation, land use, and the environment; transportation finance; and collaborative labor-management relations. Certified Research Associates conduct the research. Certification requires an advanced degree, generally a Ph.D., a record of academic publications, and professional references. Research projects culminate in a peer-reviewed publication, available both in hardcopy and on TransWeb, the MTI website (<http://transweb.sjsu.edu>).

## Education

The educational goal of the Institute is to provide graduate-level education to students seeking a career in the development and operation of surface transportation programs. MTI, through San José State University, offers an AACSB-accredited Master of Science in Transportation Management and a graduate Certificate in Transportation Management that serve to prepare the nation's transportation managers for the 21st century. The master's degree is the highest conferred by the California State University system. With the active assistance of the California

Department of Transportation, MTI delivers its classes over a state-of-the-art videoconference network throughout the state of California and via webcasting beyond, allowing working transportation professionals to pursue an advanced degree regardless of their location. To meet the needs of employers seeking a diverse workforce, MTI's education program promotes enrollment to under-represented groups.

## Information and Technology Transfer

MTI promotes the availability of completed research to professional organizations and journals and works to integrate the research findings into the graduate education program. In addition to publishing the studies, the Institute also sponsors symposia to disseminate research results to transportation professionals and encourages Research Associates to present their findings at conferences. The World in Motion, MTI's quarterly newsletter, covers innovation in the Institute's research and education programs. MTI's extensive collection of transportation-related publications is integrated into San José State University's world-class Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

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REPORT S-15-01

# **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GARRETT MORGAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM**

May 2015

A publication of

**Mineta Transportation Institute**

Created by Congress in 1991

College of Business  
San José State University  
San José, CA 95192-0219

# TECHNICAL REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

<b>1. Report No.</b> CA-MTI-15-1564	<b>2. Government Accession No.</b>	<b>3. Recipient's Catalog No.</b>	
<b>4. Title and Subtitle</b> Fifteenth Annual Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Symposium		<b>5. Report Date</b> May 2015	
		<b>6. Performing Organization Code</b>	
<b>7. Authors</b> Mineta Transportation Institute		<b>8. Performing Organization Report</b> MTI Report S-15-01	
<b>9. Performing Organization Name and Address</b> Mineta Transportation Institute College of Business San José State University San José, CA 95192-0219		<b>10. Work Unit No.</b>	
		<b>11. Contract or Grant No.</b> DTRT12-G-UTC21	
<b>12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           California Department of Transportation            Division of Research, Innovation and            Systems Information            MS-42, PO Box 942873            Sacramento, CA 94273-0001         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           U.S. Department of Transportation            Research &amp; Innovative Technology Admin.            1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE            Washington, DC 20590         </div> </div>		<b>13. Type of Report and Period Covered</b> Final Report	
		<b>14. Sponsoring Agency Code</b>	
<b>15. Supplemental Notes</b>			
<b>16. Abstract</b> <p>On May 11, 2015, the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) continued its support of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program by conducting the Fifteenth Annual National Garrett Morgan Symposium and Videoconference on Sustainable Transportation.</p> <p>The ongoing mission of this national videoconference is to stimulate the minds of young people and to encourage them to pursue academic programs including mathematics and science – an education course that will prepare students for tomorrow's transportation careers.</p> <p>Participating schools were: Frick Middle School, Oakland CA; Gaithersburg Middle School, Washington DC (two teams); Morada Middle School, Stockton CA; Sheppard Middle School, San Jose CA; Toddy Thomas Middle School, Fortuna CA (two teams); Urban Promise Academy, Oakland CA.</p>			
<b>17. Key Words</b> Alternative fuels; Education; Renewable energy sources; Transportation; Transportation safety		<b>18. Distribution Statement</b> No restrictions. This document is available to the public through The National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161	
<b>19. Security Classif. (of this report)</b> Unclassified	<b>20. Security Classif. (of this page)</b> Unclassified	<b>21. No. of Pages</b> 2	<b>22. Price</b> \$15.00

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On May 11, 2015, the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) continued its support of the United States Department of Transportation's Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program by conducting the Fifteenth Annual National Garrett Morgan Symposium and Videoconference on Sustainable Transportation. The purpose of this national videoconference is to stimulate young people's minds and encourage them to pursue the academic programs that will prepare them for professional careers in transportation engineering, planning, administration, and technology.

The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program was established in 1997 by former US Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater. The program has three cornerstone components:

### **PURPOSE**

- To establish a partnership among the US Department of Transportation, state departments of transportation, public and private transportation providers and local communities to ensure that today's students are prepared to become the next generation of transportation leaders
- To develop a curriculum that can interest younger students in transportation and provide learning tools that can guide them to advanced academic and professional levels
- To provide the technologies that will enable students to develop skills that they can apply to future careers in transportation

### **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

This year's participants included:

- Frick Middle School, Oakland CA
- Gaithersburg Middle School, Washington DC (7th grade)
- Gaithersburg Middle School, Washington DC (8th grade)
- Guntown Middle School, Guntown MS
- Morada Middle School, Stockton CA
- Riverside Middle School, Greer SC
- Sheppard Middle School, San Jose CA
- Toddy Thomas Middle School, Fortuna CA (two teams)

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The students were welcomed by United States Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Retired United States Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Director of Engineering and Technical Services King Gee, and American Public Transportation Association Vice President: Workforce Development and Educational Services Pamela Boswell. MTI's Technology Transfer Director Donna Maurillo moderated the program.

Director Maurillo reminded the students that the day's activities are to encourage middle-school students to take technical classes in math and science in high school and direct their interests toward transportation. Then they can qualify for the technical courses in college that will then allow them to become transportation professionals, building US transportation systems in the future.

A lively question and answer period followed the presentations, with classes asking questions of each other. Extra points were awarded to schools for each answer that was managed well.

The winning team from Guntown Middle School was announced a week later. Teacher Connie Gusmus, mentor Julia Smith, and student team members Brandon Dillard and Luke Smith traveled to San Jose CA in June to attend MTI's annual scholarship banquet and to accept the grand prize cash award and a plaque.

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Funded by U.S. Department of  
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