

World in Motion

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Prior to assuming the presidency of PB Consult, Inc., a Parsons Brinckerhoff subsidiary, Mortimer L. Downey, III held the position of U.S. deputy secretary of transportation from 1993 to 2001. As the U.S. DOT's chief operating officer, Mr. Downey developed the agency's highly regarded strategic and performance plans and had program responsibilities for operations, regulation and investments in land, sea, air, and space transportation. He also served on the President's Management Council, as chairman of the National Science and Technology's Committee on Technology, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Amtrak.

Previously, Mr. Downey was the executive director and chief financial officer of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the nation's largest independent public authority. Over a 12-year period, he directed MTA capital programs totaling over \$20 billion, including development of new public and private financing techniques. He has also worked at the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Budget and at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Downey has received numerous professional awards, including election to the National Academy of Public Administration, where he has served as chairman of the Board of Directors. He was the 1999 recipient of the American Society of Public Administration's Truitt Award for transportation management. He received the Frank Turner Lifetime Achievement award from the Transportation Research Board, and a lifetime achievement award from the American Public Transportation



Profile of
Mortimer L. Downey, III
Mineta Transportation Institute
Board of Trustees Member and
President, PB Consult, Inc.

Association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eno Transportation Foundation. Mr. Downey served on the National Academy of Science Committee on Science and Technology Countermeasures to Terrorism, and chaired that committee's subpanel on transportation issues.

A graduate of Yale University with a BA in political science, Mr. Downey earned his master's degree in public administration from New York University, completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School, and served as an officer in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. He resides in Oakton, Virginia.

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Information Transfer

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director



MTI Continues Hot Spot Forum Series

“Dare to be simple,” advised a Los Angeles transit chief at the MTI Bus Rapid Transit forum in Oakland on November 12.

“Keeping it simple is the hardest thing you will do,” said Rex Gephart, regional transit planning director for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He added: “What the public is looking for is a simple bus transit system— with simple fares.”

Achieving such simplicity in our car-culture society, however, is a complex task. Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission alluded to this in his opening remarks, “I hope this conference will help us examine the relative synergies between bus and rail in the urban core, and the tradeoffs with automobile movements.”

The lively four-hour session, which focused on San Francisco Bay Area BRT systems in various stages of planning and implementation, included presentations on technology, operations, costs, and community impacts, with an expert panel discussing the issues and fielding questions from the audience. Mr. Gephart wrapped up the forum with a comparison of Bay Area BRT to other systems in the U.S. and overseas.

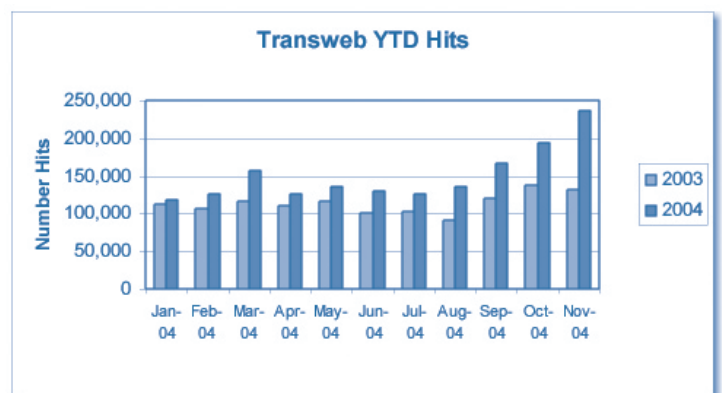
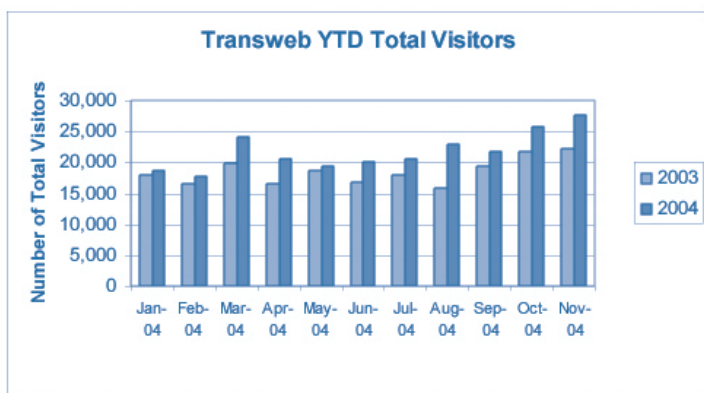
Nearly 120 transportation professionals, community leaders and concerned citizens from five San Francisco Bay Area counties and Sacramento attended the forum and posed interesting and challenging questions.

Cosponsors of the forum included the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, Caltrans – District 4, Commonwealth Club of California, and Bay Area League of Women Voters.

If you are looking into BRT, you will want to read the report, coming soon from MTI. Check the web site for an electronic version and information on ordering the printed publication.

TransWeb

by Barney Murray



Information Transfer

by Sonya Cardenas

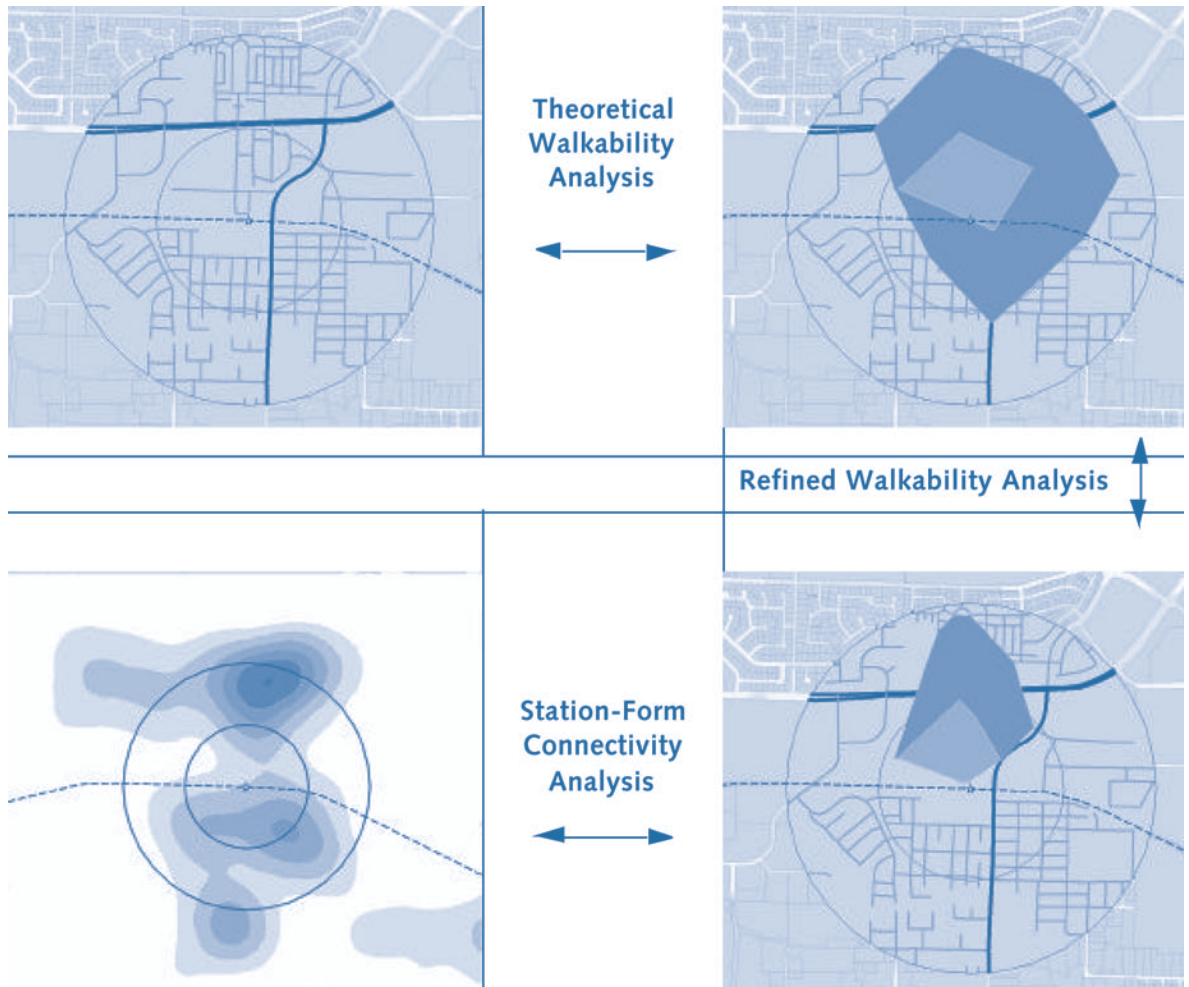
New Publication

We are proud to announce the Mineta Transportation Institute's latest research publication, *Using Spatial Indicators for Pre- and Post-Development Analysis of TOD Areas: A Case Study of Portland and the Silicon Valley*, by Principal Investigator Marc Schlossberg, Ph.D. and others.

The ability of transit users to walk to/from their transit stop is a critical component of transit-oriented development (TOD). Dr. Schlossberg uses three key techniques to visualize and quantify walkability: street network classification, pedestrian catchment areas, and intersection intensities. While such measures have been used elsewhere, this report introduces the idea of impedance, presenting a refined method of analysis that distinguishes between an auto-oriented and a pedestrian-oriented street network. The study concludes that actual areas of potential walkability are quite smaller than theoretical areas. With irregular coverage patterns, major roads present barriers between areas of high connectivity and stations, and areas of high connectivity are often separate from transit stops.

According to Dr. Schlossberg, "Visualizing TOD areas...can provide valuable insight into the spatial location of the transit stop relative to both pedestrian-oriented street infrastructure and auto-centric routes."

The diagram at right illustrates path classification, intersection intensities, and pedestrian catchment area analyses to present a visual walkability analysis schema for the Orenco Station in Portland, OR.



Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director

Former City of San Jose Employee and current MSTM student **Jaime Rodriguez** (see profile on page 5) recently accepted a new position with the City of Milpitas where he will be a Principal Transportation Planner. In his new role he will handle design and traffic operations.

MSTM alumni ('03) **Lee Provost** accepted an offer to serve as Senior Transportation Engineer at Caltrans' office Chief of Technical and Program Services. She will supervise four planners and three engineers at the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics.

CTM student **Tom Little** was recently promoted to be the Administrator/Manager of the Orange County Taxi Administration Program. Under the auspices of the Orange County Transit Authority, the program has countywide responsibility to license, inspect, and regulate the local taxicab industry, which consists of 17 companies, 650 vehicles, and over nine hundred drivers.


MSTM alumnus ('03) **James Helmer** continues to stand out as he was selected to serve as the Interim Director of the City of San Jose's Department of Information Technology. James is concurrently continuing to serve as Director of the Department of Transportation. He will really be using his management training to meet this challenge!

MSTM alumnus **Jeremy Ketchum** ('02) has been selected as Caltrans' Chief of the Environmental Management Branch for the North Region of District 3. In his new role, Jeremy will help deliver complex projects, including the Willits Bypass, Buckhorn Grade Improvement project, LAK-29 Expressway projects and the MEN-1 Greenwood Creek Bridge project.

MSTM student **Faiz Khan** accepted the position of Transportation Demand Management Coordinator for the City and County of San Francisco's Clean Air Program. He will be primarily involved in the procurement and promotion of alternative fuel vehicles and providing commuting alternatives for the residents.

MSTM alumna ('04) **Kathleen Bergeron**'s article "The Future Is Now" was published in the May/June 2004 Issue of *Public Roads*: This article highlights successful projects from around the country setting the stage for a new approach to highway design, construction, and maintenance. Katherine is Marketing Communications Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Transportation's "Highways for LIFE Program."

MSTM alumnus ('04) **Richard Erickson** received the Project Control Specialist of the Year 2003, Silver Award by his employer Parsons-Brinckerhoff Construction Services.



MTI Education Director **Peter Haas** will deliver a paper at the 2005 annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) that describes the philosophy and evolution of MTI's Graduate Transportation Management Program. Professor Haas will be appearing on a panel titled, "Professional Development for Careers in Transportation." For those who are attending the TRB meetings, Peter's presentation will be on Monday, January 10th from 10:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Dr. Haas was also recently elected as a public member to the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET is the recognized accreditor for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology, and is a federation of 30 professional and technical societies representing these fields.

Student Profile

Jaime Rodriguez

What is your undergraduate degree? Where did you earn it?

SJSU in Civil Engineering (Transportation) - 1996.

How long have you worked in the field of transportation?

I started working in transportation in 1995 with my first internship at the City & County of San Francisco - Department of Parking & Traffic (DPT). I worked in the Bicycle Program at DPT and was responsible for developing striping & signage plans to implement the Bicycle Plan. I also had to ride my bike around the city to look for road hazards for bicyclists including the steepest roads in the city; I lost about ten pounds that summer and for a skinny guy like me, that's not good. I really liked the human factor aspect of traffic engineering that I experienced while at DPT and I decided to make transportation my emphasis right away after starting my employment there. What I value most about my time at DPT was exposure to strong support for bicycle & pedestrian safety; it is an approach that I have taken with me to all my positions ever since. I left my internship with DPT to do another internship with the City of San José - Department of Streets & Traffic at the time, and the rest is history. I am a registered Traffic Engineer.

What drew you to the field?

What I liked the most about engineering and traffic in particular was that at the time of my graduation, a lot of agencies were building their digital infrastructure and management systems, and I have always been attracted to Information Technology. I found traffic engineering to be a way for me to pursue both of my passions. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work on exciting ITS projects in San José.

How has MTI's graduate program helped your career?

MTI is opening my eyes to more than just the technical side of traffic engineering and preparing me to be a future leader in the field. The program does this by teaching you what has worked in the past in our industry and the trends of the future. It also helps you to understand how the angle of various stakeholders can come into play on projects and because of that you can be a more effective manager.

When I was interviewing for my new position with the City of Milpitas, pursuing an advanced degree and particularly this program, is what helped to put me above the rest of the competition. I found it funny when just two days after my MTM215 mid-term my supervisor asked me the exact same question that was on the test, " — please develop a performance measurement that you would implement for your position." I thought that was a great example of how our curriculum is not only following but also preparing us for the trends in our industry.

Please feel free to include any personal info (family, hobbies).

I'm married to my beautiful wife Vilcia, whom I met while working in San José, father of 2-year old future traffic engineer (Ethan), and expecting a second baby in June 2005. I enjoy spending time with my family, including our dog Benny.



Congratulations are in order...MTI Board Member Stephanie Pinson, President/COO of Gilbert Tweed Associates, received the Diversity Leadership Award from the Greater New York chapter of the Woman's Transportation Seminar. The award recognizes an organization or individual who has consistently and wholeheartedly supported diversity in the workplace.

Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

Secretary Mineta to Speak At CUTC Awards Banquet: Our wonderful founder Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta will be the keynote speaker at the January 8th Annual Awards Banquet for the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The national UTCs are pleased that the Secretary will be available to share his thoughts about transportation generally and research and education specifically. We are especially proud that the Secretary has accepted President Bush's invitation to serve in the Cabinet for another term. Reservations for the CUTC dinner can be arranged by contacting Dorota Tarnawska at 202-289-4434 at CUTC no later than 1/4/05.

Will Kempton Named Caltrans Director: MTI celebrates the appointment of Will Kempton as the Director of the California Department of Transportation. I was involved with Will's selection as the Executive Director of the 1984 Santa Clara County Measure A Construction Board where he delivered over a billion dollars in projects on budget and ahead of schedule. Will has firm ideas regarding the revitalization of Caltrans - quite a task during this period of serious fiscal constraint. He has already asked to be involved in and is supportive of the MTI programs and will attend our 1/8 Winter Board of Trustees meeting at 9:00 AM at the AASHTO headquarters. Special thanks to MTI Board Chair John Horsley, the Executive Director of AASHTO, for hosting the meeting.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Jim Oberstar to Speak at 1/8 Trustees Meeting: Joining U.S. DOT Chief of Staff John Flaherty and Caltrans Director Kempton will be MTI Honorary Co-Chair Congressman Jim Oberstar, who has attended almost all of our Trustees meetings and will share his expectations regarding the coming TEA-21 reauthorization negotiations. Due to space restrictions, the meeting is open only to MTI Trustees and invited U.S. DOT and Caltrans staff.

Happy Holidays and the best of New Years!

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The World in Motion

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