

World in Motion

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After gaining experience at seven transit authorities, Ron Barnes has evolved a vision that focuses on people rather than modes. A transit industry veteran since 1976, Mr. Barnes has provided award-winning initiatives to the transportation industry in an effort to build public trust and awareness of the growing industry.

Mr. Barnes' leadership has profoundly influenced the internal structure of the organizations he has served through innovative approaches to team building, total quality programs, labor relations, and re-engineered management and administrative functions. In addition, he has influenced the transit industry's agenda for intermodal mobility management.

Mr. Barnes' mobility management approach touches every aspect of transit's responsibility to the community. While in Madison, Wisconsin, he reorganized demand-response transportation for disabled citizens, increasing ridership by 25% and raising the cost of the service just three percent. As the former President/Chief Executive Officer for the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) in Columbus Ohio, he integrated transportation within the communities of Central Ohio, winning awards and building public awareness of transit's fundamental role in urban infrastructure. Mr. Barnes received strong validation for his methodology and leadership. In 1999, voters approved permanent funding for COTA for the first time.

In 2004, Mr. Barnes was named Deputy Director of Operations for Miami-Dade Transit (MDT). He is responsible for MDT's Metrobus and Metrorail operations and maintenance, customer service, field



Profile of

Ronald L. Barnes

Mineta Transportation Institute
Board of Trustees Member and
Deputy Director of Operations
Miami-Dade Transit

engineering and systems maintenance. A half-cent sales tax transportation initiative in November 2002 resulted in the People's Transportation Plan, directing MDT to construct more than 80 miles of rapid transit, double its bus fleet within the next five years, increase bus service by 17 million miles, and to complete three rail lines by 2014 and an additional two lines within 30 years.

As the First Vice Chair of the American Public Transportation Association's Executive Committee, Mr. Barnes has the opportunity to share his vision and inspire organizations around the country.

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Research Update

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director

For the transportation research world, the month of January means one thing – TRB. The Transportation Research Board’s Annual Meeting brings around 9,000 researchers, consultants, state, local, national, and international transportation officials and hundreds of university students to Washington, D.C. for five days of an intensely packed schedule of workshops and poster sessions showcasing research.

The conference provides a heady mix of new ideas, rich conversations, and suggestions for new research. Additionally, I meet researchers and students working on MTI projects whom I have met only by e-mail or phone prior to the conference. With at least five workshop periods most days, multiple poster sessions each day, and activities spread among three convention hotels, I find myself wishing that I were at least three persons, not one.

This year three MTI studies were presented. In Session #472 – Land Use Modeling Applications – two MTI researchers, Robert Johnston and Dr. Caroline Rodier, returned to discuss ongoing research projects funded by MTI. Both are working with the regional transportation model and plan used by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Professor Johnston and his students Michael Clay and Shengyi Yao are testing an alternative model that incorporates non-traditional factors related to land use and social equity. Using scenarios developed by local environmental and social equity groups, they are looking at alternatives to the plan developed by SACOG. Dr. Rodier spoke about multi-objective analysis of transportation and land use development policies. Her MTI research, which was part of the basis for her paper, is looking at the validity of the SACOG model – how accurately it has modeled what actually happened over the last decade. The accuracy is critical, since the transportation plan based on the model is used for regional air quality plans that must be accurate.

Additionally, UC Berkeley Ph.D. student Chris Cherry and UCLA Ph.D. candidate Camille Fink presented research from the transit security study being led by Dr. Brian Taylor at UCLA. They were featured at the Eisenhower Fellowship Showcase.

In addition to the TRB session, Johnston has presented portions of his research in numerous settings, including a TRB meeting on Sustainable Transportation in Baltimore in mid-July, the Sacramento Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Environmental Council of Sacramento, the Sacramento Regional Transit Board and staff, and press conferences on Earth Day. He has also been appointed by the National Research Council to the Committee for Determination of the State of the Practice in Metropolitan Area Travel Forecasting.

TRB, and other opportunities for sharing research with practitioners, perform a critical function in transferring knowledge to those who will actually use it to improve transportation systems and infrastructure. MTI chooses research projects in part based on the expressed need for the information by the transportation community. It is most gratifying when a project is highlighted at this important event.

A new publication is in the final stages of editing and will be published soon. Watch for *The Pasadena Gold Line: Development Strategies, Location Decisions and Travel Characteristics Along a New Rail Line in the Los Angeles Region*. The principal investigator for this report is Dr. Hollie Lund of Cal Poly Pomona, with major assistance from team member Dr. Richard Willson on her campus and input from Dan Evans of the Marketing Department at San José State University.

Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director

Nicholas Deal named U.S. DOT “Student of the Year”

Nicholas Deal was selected by MTI’s education program faculty as the Master of Science in Transportation Management Student of the Year for 2004. Nick was honored in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in January 2005. Officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation were on hand to present the awards given to outstanding students from University Transportation Centers from across the nation. Nick was selected by the faculty on the basis of his strength in academic work, leadership, research, and contributions to the Mineta Transportation Institute. He is currently employed as an Associate Planner at the California Department of Transportation District 3 offices in Marysville. Nick also recently won an essay-writing competition sponsored by the American Public Transit Association Foundation. Congratulations to Nick, who also received a check for \$1,000 at the Washington ceremony.

Alumnus James Chai moves to VTA

After working with California Department of Transportation for 10 years in various assignments, James Chai (MSTM Class of ’02) recently took a Transportation Engineering Manager position with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). In this new capacity, James works with the VTA management team to manage the tunnel segment of the Preliminary Engineering Design Contract for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (BART to San Jose) Project. James believes that MTI’s MSTM program provides him invaluable training and development that are vital to his success in previous and current assignments.

Student Profile: Bill Sutherland



Editor’s Note: William “Bill” Sutherland, an achiever both personally and professionally, is emerging as one of the MSTM program’s outstanding students. Bill applied for and received the MSTM Fellowship for academic achievement and leadership in the fall term of 2004. His demonstrated qualifications made him a unanimous choice. Graciously, he credits the program with expanding and accelerating his transportation knowledge and improving his writing and speaking skills to communicate more effectively with senior Caltrans engineers, managers, and local officials. According to Bill, “The MSTM program is an outstanding opportunity to share and learn ideas, technology and management skills in the world of transportation.” Bill’s philosophy to “learn, lead and succeed” with accountability is the formula for his success both in and outside of the program.

What’s your current position? I’m a Transportation and Civil Engineer for Caltrans. My current assignment is the project engineer for the Stillwater Interchange and Expressway to Freeway Conversion Project, with responsibility for preparation of the project report for Route 44, which entails a budget of over \$27.5 million.

Anything you’re looking forward to? I was recently selected as a 2005 Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team Member for Rotary International. I will be sponsored by the Rotary Foundation to study in Venezuela this spring for four weeks. The selection process was based on invitation and a couple of grueling interviews. The GSE program is a unique cultural and vocational opportunity for young professionals to observe their own vocations practiced abroad, study the host country’s institutions, and to enhance and develop professional relationships. This once in a lifetime experience provides skill-building opportunities and expanded vision for fresh ideas and new perspectives on international commerce, culture and government that promises to be invaluable for my personal and professional growth.

What keeps you busy outside work? I am the proud father of a family of six and currently the 2nd Counselor to the Bishop for a congregation of over 400 members. I’m also the head coach for the Redding Youth Soccer League.

Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

Board of Trustees' Meeting: MTI Trustees gathered at AASHTO on January 8th for the annual Winter Board meeting hosted by MTI Chair and AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley. Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Policy Emil Frankel, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chief Consultant Ken House, and Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Randy Iwasaki presented updates on the reauthorization process and other important issues. That evening many of the trustees joined 250 transportation leaders at the Council of University Transportation Centers awards banquet to honor MTI's Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) candidate Nick Deal as he received the Student of the Year award from U.S. DOT.

Save the Date: The Summer Trustees meeting and awards banquet date is set for June 25, 2005 in San Jose.

UTC Reauthorization Update: Much work is yet to be done to reconcile the major differences between TEA LU, the House version, and SAFETEA, the expected Senate version. TEA LU contains the more detailed language regarding the UTC program and would involve MTI and nine other "Tier 1" UTCs in an open competition in 2006. MTI staff have been active in the coalition building process to provide information, when asked, supporting the UTC program's reauthorization.

Education: MTI recently received news that the California Transit Association will assist in promoting the Institute's MSTM and Certificate in Transportation Management. A test to extend the network from the Caltrans videoconference bridge to Washington and other western states is being conducted in March. MTI is proud that this accredited California State University program is on the way to being offered throughout the nation.

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MTI ANNUAL BANQUET
JUNE 25, 2005**

The World in Motion

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