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International Institute for
Surface Transportation
Policy Studies

Created by Congress in 1991

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World in Motion

Fall 2005

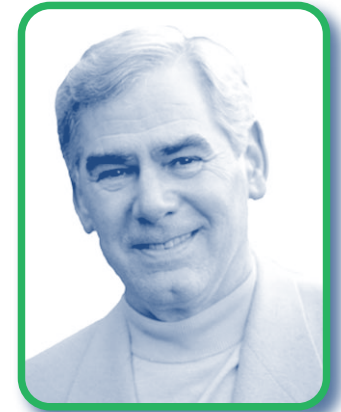
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MTI founding chair and current Executive Director Rod Diridon, Sr., the son of an immigrant Italian railroad brakeman, is called the “father of modern transit service” in Silicon Valley. His political career began in 1972 as the youngest person ever elected to the Saratoga City Council. He retired after completing 20 years and six terms as chair of both the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the transit board. Mr. Diridon is the only person to have chaired the San Francisco Bay Area’s three regional governments: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

In 1976, he chaired the campaign for the first successful 1/2-cent sales tax for transit in California and subsequently chaired five successful regional transportation financing elections and one statewide transportation bond election. In recognition of his expertise, Mr. Diridon was appointed by the governor to the California High Speed Rail Authority Board in 2001 and subsequently served as chair.

Mr. Diridon has chaired over one hundred international, national, state, and local community service programs and projects, most related to transit and the environment. He served, in 1993, as the chair of the American Public Transit Association in Washington, D.C., and more recently as the North American Vice President of the International Transit Association in Brussels.

He earned both a BS in accounting and an MS in business administration from San



Profile of
Hon. Rod Diridon, Sr.
Mineta Transportation Institute
Executive Director and
Member, Board of Trustees

José State University and was a naval officer with two Vietnam combat tours. Mr. Diridon was recently named one of the "Millennium 100" who contributed most to the success of Silicon Valley. In 2004 he was named by the international *Metro Magazine* as one of the 50 who most influenced transit in North America in the last 100 years. Upon his retirement from elected office in 1994, the historic Amtrak/CalTrain Station in San Jose was renamed the *San Jose Diridon Station* in his honor.

Editor's note: Mr. Diridon is the last of the MTI trustees to be profiled.

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Research Update

by Trixie Johnson, Research Director

This last quarter saw a real focus on publishing studies. Later in this newsletter, Sonya Carter discusses five new MTI publications available online and in hardcopy.

As reported in the last newsletter, eight new studies are up and running with all the detail work associated with contracts, appointments, listing the research with our federal sponsor and research-in-progress databases, tracking payments and subcontracts and such. The activity level rose considerably, and all the new projects are moving ahead on schedule and within budget.

This year I was invited to speak at the orientation for new faculty members on campus to let them know of the opportunities we could provide to them – research funding, conference travel support, and rewards for publication. This is part of a multifaceted approach to increasing the participation of SJSU faculty in the research program.

I also took part in the first training session for researchers who need approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for their work. The IRB comes into play whenever a researcher is working with human subjects – and that is true for most of our studies. Everything from focus groups and surveys involving hundreds of participants to individual interviews can trigger the need for a research team to register their project with the IRB. In some cases they may even need approval of the project and their contact instruments before they can proceed. All this is to assure that the research does not compromise or damage any of the individuals who participate in the research.

Every campus has a similar body, and many of our teams with faculty from more than one campus will need to go through the IRB or equivalent organization for each institution represented on the team. This is a relatively new process for MTI, and the emphasis and organization of the program at SJSU has recently received considerable attention from the academic leadership of the university. Clearly, this will now be a part of our research process for most future projects. The challenge will be to allow for the time required for IRB action in the often short and demanding time frames allowed for MTI projects.



**MTI congratulates
Trustee Larry
Reuter and the
New York MTA
for receiving
CALSTART's
Blue Sky Merit
Award, which
is awarded "in
recognition of
significant and
noteworthy
marketplace
contributions
that clean the
air, improve
energy efficiency
and reduce
greenhouse
emissions."**

*Happy
Holidays from
the MTI Board
and Staff!*



Information Transfer

by James Swofford, Project Manager

Second National Transportation Security Summit: Rail Security

Operational security and business continuity for rail transportation systems in the event of terrorist act or cataclysmic natural disaster was the focus of this symposium, which featured presentations and a roundtable discussion by experts in transportation, security, and emergency preparedness. One in a series of research and information transfer symposia on transportation security best practices presented by the National Transportation Security Center (NTSC) at the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), the symposium was held on 9/29/05 in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Annual Meeting in Dallas.

John Horsley, Executive Director of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials opened the symposium. Speaking of lessons learned through past experiences – from the 9/11 terrorist attacks to Hurricane Rita – he observed that the needed response is virtually the same. Mr. Horsley urged the participants to develop integrated planning methods and communications systems and challenged the federal government to find the funds needed to support those efforts.

Making white paper presentations were leading experts on transportation, safety, and security.

- Brian Michael Jenkins, NTSC Director, presented case studies on recent terrorist acts against rail transportation systems in London, Madrid, and elsewhere.
- Jeanne Lin, Director of the Border and Transportation Security Portfolio, Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), provided an overview of DHS programs, resources, and strategies for rail transportation security.
- Dr. Frances Edwards, renowned disaster response expert, discussed federal requirements for transportation and emergency-response managers responsible for implementing the National Incident Management System (NIMS), and described resources available from MTI and others to achieve compliance.
- Mortimer Downey, III, President of PB Consult, Inc. and former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation, described business continuity issues that rail transportation and emergency preparedness managers must consider when confronted with terrorism or severe natural disasters.

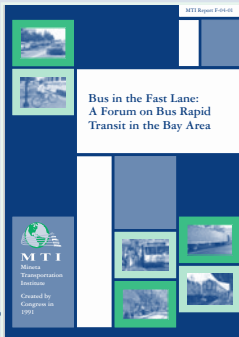
A panel discussion and Q&A session with the audience followed, moderated by Mr. Downey. The expert panel included participants representing varied points of view.

- George Chilson, President of the National Association of Railroad Passengers
- Greg Hull, Director of Operations, Safety and Security Programs, APTA
- Ron Hynes, Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
- Jo Strang, Deputy Associate Administrator for Railroad Development, Federal Railroad Administration

Co-sponsors for this event were the American Association of Railroads (AAR), American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Transit Administration (DOT/FTA), National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and the Transportation Security Administration (DHS/TSA).

Information Transfer

by Sonya Carter



New Publications

MTI Report F-04-01 - Bus in the Fast Lane: A Forum on Bus Rapid Transit in the Bay Area

Bus Rapid Transit planning, development, and implementation in the San Francisco Bay Area was the subject of this public forum held November 2004 in Oakland, California.

MTI Report 04-01 - The Impact of Telecommuter Rail Cars on Modal Choice by Principal Investigator James C. Hayton, Ph.D. and team member Dr. Stan Malos Ph.D., Professor, Organization and Management Department, SJSU

This study asks to what extent does the opportunity to engage in paid work while commuting to and from the workplace result in a shift in commuter modal choice away from automobile travel toward public transit. Telecommuter technologies on rail cars enable a traveler on public transit to access the Internet. This technology brings new opportunities for employers to expand their potential labor pool and for employees to shift the costs of work-related travel.



MTI Report 04-02 - Modeling Long-Range Transportation and Land Use Scenarios for the Sacramento Region, Using Citizen-Generated Policies by Robert A. Johnston

The author worked with environmental and social equity community groups to define policies that would reduce emissions, serve lower-income travelers better, and preserve habitats and agricultural lands in the region. The community groups rejected the new freeways planned for the region, as well as the substantial freeway widenings for HOV lanes.

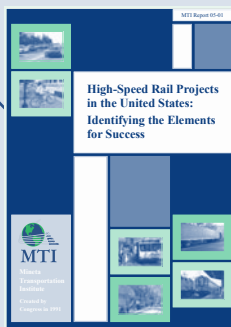
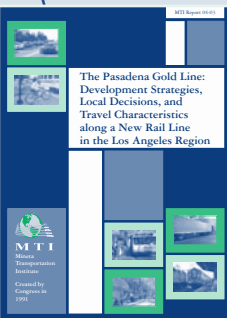
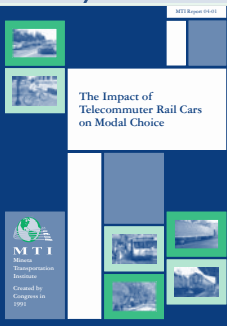
MTI Report 04-03 - The Pasadena Gold Line: Development Strategies, Location Decisions, and Travel Characteristics along a New Rail Line in the Los Angeles Region, by Dr. Hollie Lund

The Pasadena Gold Line, a recent extension of the L.A. Metro System, has had a boom in transit-oriented development (TOD) along its corridor, but total ridership has been lower than anticipated. This study provides an initial assessment of the travel behavior and residential location choice among TOD residents, baseline data for future assessments, and an exploratory analysis of development issues along a new rail corridor.

MTI Report 05-01 - High-Speed Rail Projects in the United States: Identifying the Elements for Success, by Allison De Cerreño, Ph.D.

The goal of this study was to identify lessons learned for successfully developing and implementing high-speed rail (HSR) in the United States. Through a broad literature review, interviews, and three specific case studies—Florida, California, and the Pacific Northwest—this study articulates those lessons and presents themes for future consideration.

All publications are available on <http://transweb.sjsu.edu>



Education Program

by Dr. Peter J. Haas, Education Director

Student of the Year Selected



The MTI education program faculty has selected Wajahat Nyaz as the U.S. Department of Transportation "Student of the Year" for 2005. Wajahat will be honored in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., in January 2006. He was selected on the basis on his strength in academic work, leadership, and contributions to the community. He is currently employed as a Senior Transportation Engineer with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). He has worked in the transportation industry as a civil engineer for the past 15 years, and currently leads a team of engineers responsible for geotechnical design on a variety of challenging highway infrastructure projects in the San Francisco Bay Area. His current projects include the Devil's Slide tunnel on Highway 1, I-880/Route 92 interchange reconstruction, and the Pigeon Pass realignment on Route 84.

A student with strong sense of community, Wajahat volunteers as a science and math tutor at the local community center near his home in Milpitas, California. The community center offers free tutoring services to children from less fortunate families. He is also actively involved in fundraising activities for the recent earthquake victims in Pakistan.

He has excelled in the MSTM program, maintaining an "A" average during his first year of coursework. His instructors praise his well-crafted written work and his verbal communication skills. Wajahat's primary interest is in the area of transportation project delivery and funding, and he plans to focus his capstone research project on innovative project delivery methods involving public-private partnership.

Transportation Security Program planned for '05-06 Launch

MTI is planning a new four-course Certificate in Transportation Security Management beginning with the Fall 2006 semester. The certificate will require the completion of two required courses - - Emergency Response and Transportation Security -- along with two core courses from the current graduate-level transportation management curriculum. Students will be able to apply the credits earned from the certificate program towards MTI's 30-unit Master of Science in Transportation Management. The courses will be designed and taught by renowned disaster response expert Dr. Frances L. Edwards, who is joining the full-time faculty at SJSU and has worked as a Research Associate with MTI for five years.



Directions

by Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director

Second National Transportation Security Summit: Introduced by MTI's Trustees Chair and AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley, MTI's National Transportation Security Center Director Brian Michael Jenkins, emergency response specialist Dr. Frances Edwards, and various experts (see pg. 3) described the changing terrorist threat and the new requirements of the National Incident Management System. MTI Trustee Mort Downey and business continuity experts guided an in-depth evaluation of concepts for returning transportation systems to full operation after an incident. MTI appreciated APTA Security Director Greg Hull's support in organizing this session. Desensitized proceedings will be provided by MTI Special Projects Manager Jim Swofford soon.

January 21, 2006 Board Meeting: The 13th annual winter meeting of the MTI Trustees will be hosted by the Brian MacLeod and the Gillig Corporation at APTA in Washington, D.C. Invited to report to the Trustees are House T&I Committee Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, new U.S. DOT RITA Administrator Dr. Ashok G. Kaveeshwar, who visited MTI recently, and Caltrans Director Will Kempton. MTI's research and education program will be reviewed, and the June 2006 SAFETEA-LU competition for MTI and the other Tier I UTCs will be discussed.

Council of University Transportation Centers Annual Awards Banquet: MTI Trustee Mort Downey will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from CUTC, and MTI Master of Science in Transportation Management student Wajahat Nyaz, a Senior Transportation Engineer from the Caltrans District Four office, will receive a Student of the Year award at the 1/21/06 banquet. Tickets can be obtained by contacting CUTC via dtarnawska@artba.org.

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