

#### Norman Y. Mineta **International Institute for Surface Transportation Policy Studies**

Created by Congress in 1991

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## The World In Motion <u>Fall 2003</u>

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Profile of **Rebecca M. Brewster** Mineta Transportation Institute Board of Trustees Member and President and Chief Operating Officer American Transportation Research Institute



A s President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Transportation Research

Institute (ATRI), Rebecca M. Brewster leads the research activities of ATRI and its affiliated organizations in the areas of safety and human factors; environmental factors; training, technology and efficiency; and transportation security. The American Transportation Research Institute advocates for and conducts research in the transportation community, with an emphasis on the trucking industry's essential role in a safe, efficient, and viable transportation system.

Ms. Brewster previously served as ATRI's Vice President, where she was responsible for the management of a number of trucking industry research initiatives, including serving as principal investigator for a cooperative agreement for research with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Ms. Brewster also serves as the Director of the National Incident Management Coalition, a national stakeholder group promoting incident management to improve highway safety and reduce congestion.

Ms. Brewster also serves on the Executive Committee of the National Academies' Transportation Research Board and on the Board of Directors of the University of Minnesota's ITS Institute.

Before joining ATRI, Ms. Brewster was the Public and Governmental Affairs Director for the Cary, North Carolina Chamber of Commerce and a fleet analyst with Moen, Inc. Ms. Brewster holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wofford College and is a Fellow of the North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership.

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# Research update

# New Research Projects Selected

Once the Continuing Resolution extending TEA-21 with pro-rated funding was in place, MTI was able to commit funds to new research projects. Several Research Associates who submitted proposals last April in response to the regular Request for Proposals had been asked to revise and resubmit their proposals. The Research Associate Policy Oversight Committee (RAPOC – MTI's academic advisory group) convened on October 16, together with representatives of Caltrans' Division of Research and Innovation, to select those projects to be funded.

The discussion was lively and frank, and ultimately produced three new projects to join the already approved *System Design for Transit Security* study led by Dr. Brian Taylor and a continuation of the work by Dr. Caroline Rodier to validate the computer models used for transportation and air quality planning.

These five studies promise to continue the MTI tradition of solid research designed to yield practical results that improve our transportation future.



Dr. Richard Lee will be exploring what it means to have smart growth around airports.

Given the difficulties of ground access and the impact of noise, airports pose special challenges for

planners. Many of the airports in California and around the country will be facing the growth pressures that have made access, expansion, and livability of surrounding areas such major issues in the more metropolitan areas of the state and nation.

This study will apply the principles of smart growth to airport area planning – and through case studies of selected California airports, will examine ways that land use and transportation planning around airports can be "smarter."



Dr. Hollie Lund will be heading a study of the new Gold Line light rail corridor in Los Angeles. RAPOC recommended this study to serve as a baseline for a longitudinal study that would analyze the

changes around stations along the corridor. A study some years later would compare actual changes against those conceived by the planners and what existed as the line opened. This qualitative case study will survey area employees and residents about changes in transit usage and will examine marketing and development strategies being utilized within station areas to determine the role of transit in economic development decisions and activity.

Dr. Allison deCerreño, co-director of the Rudin Center at New York University, will be leading a study of highspeed rail (HSR) in the United States designed to assess why some efforts are proceeding toward construction and most have failed to thrive. The study will examine authorizing and other legislative actions by Congress and the states to see how the authorizers defined "success." The team will also analyze whether the seeds for success or failure were inherent in the legislation. Case studies of selected HSR efforts in the United States, together with the earlier research, will be analyzed to create guidelines for the successful implementation of HSR in the U.S. Information Transfer



### **TransWeb**

One of the features available in the reference section of the *TransWeb* website, is a glossary of over 300 transportation terms. The information has been compiled from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Citizen's Guide to MTC, and American Public Transit Association (APTA). The glossary has been updated to be more user friendly with the use of

bookmark links for the alphabetical entries. With this update, a printer friendly PDF version is now available online for offline use. The glossary is available at http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/comglos.htm

MTI just witnessed the power of the Internet to deliver research results to potential users in a dramatic fashion. In the three weeks after its release, MTI's new study of the 9-11 events logged over 14,000 hits. Use of the website to access all research reports is running steadily at nearly 5,000 per week.

### Hot off the presses \*\*\*



Best Practices in Shared-Use High-Speed Rail Systems

Andrew Nash, P.E.

This research describes shared-use HSR systems, an important strategy for improving the feasibility of highspeed rail. In shared-use HSR, high-speed passenger trains use the same tracks and infrastructure as slower passenger or freight trains. This research report will be most interesting to HSR system planners and managers who want to learn about shared-use techniques.



Verifying the Accuracy of Regional Models Used in Transportation and Air Quality Planning

#### Caroline Rodier, Ph.D.

In this historical forecasting case study in the Sacramento, California region, the original version of the Sacramento regional travel demand model (estimated with 1991 data) is used with Year 2000 observed data to validate the model over a nine-year period. The accuracy of models has importance for both transportation and air quality planning.



Trucks, Traffic, and Timely Transport: A Regional Freight Logistics Profile

John Niles

This report justifies and designs a comprehensive tool for describing intra-urban trucking, which is the bulk of truck movement in an urban area, but typically is unexamined in regional transportation planning.



Saving City Lifelines: Lessons Learned in the 9-11 Terrorist Attacks



Brian Michael Jenkins Frances Edwards-Winslow, Ph.D., CEM

In this report, the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) counter-terrorism team undertakes a case study of the 2001 events to determine what lessons could be preserved in a comprehensive document. The scope was limited to the evaluation of transit response, not other surface transportation elements such as bridges and tunnels.

By Peter Haas, Ph.D. Education Director



### **Student Awards**



Richard Erikson was selected by the education program faculty as the MTI Master of Science Transportation in Management Student of the Year for 2003 based on his strength in academic work. leadership, research, and contributions to the Mineta Transportation Institute. He will be honored in a ceremony in

Washington, D.C. in January 2004. Officials from the U.S. DOT will be on hand to present the awards given to outstanding students from University Transportation Centers from across the nation. He is employed as a senior engineer at Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. and is currently assigned to providing management services to the Mineta San Jose International Airport. Richard's distinguished career includes an Airport Employee of the Month award as well as a letter of commendation from the City of San Jose for his efforts on a recent runway extension project. Congratulations to Rich, who will also receive a check for \$1,000 at the Washington ceremony.

The Board and Staff of MTI wish you a safe and happy holiday season. MSTM Student Haile Ford was recently awarded the annual Parsons Brinckerhoff-Jim Lammie Scholarship *and* the Donald C. Hyde Memorial Essay award by the American Public Transportation Association Foundation (APTAF), which is awarded to an applicant dedicated to a career in public



transportation. Haile won the extremely competitive award by writing an essay in response to the question: "In What Segment of the Transportation Industry Will You Make a Career, and Why?" Haile's paper was based on the theme of his plans to "develop projects that encourage greater transit usage by providing better links between California's transit and highway systems, and in turn, help to improve California's surface transportation system." The Parsons Brinckerhoff-Jim Lammie Scholarship award includes a \$2,500 scholarship, and Haile will receive an additional \$500 for the Donald C. Hyde Memorial Essay award. The latter award recognizes the best essay overall in the competition. The APTAF Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony was held in Salt Lake City on September 30. MTI Executive Director Rod Diridon was in attendance.

Haile is an outstanding student who currently boasts a perfect 4.0 GPA and is a previous winner of the George W. Krambles Foundation Award and several MSTM Fellowships. Although at the time of the award he was employed as a Project Engineer for Caltrans' San Diego Design Division, Hailey recently accepted a new position with the County of San Bernardino. He is also a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, Professional Engineers in California Government, the Project Management Institute, and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

# **MTC Deputy Director to teach MSTM Class**

EDUCATION PROGRAM on the move \_\_\_\_\_



McMillan, who has worked at MTC since 1984, holds a B.S. degree in environmental policy and planning analysis from the University of California at Davis, and a joint master's degree in city planning/civil engineering science from U.C. Berkeley. A past president of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, McMillan chaired the statewide Regional Transportation Planning Agencies group in 1989-99, and is a member of the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Processes.

## **Career Advancement by MSTM Students**

William Sutherland received a Superior Accomplishment Award signed by Caltrans Director Jeff Morales with a check for \$250. In March 2003, Bill was named Project Engineer for one of California's five Roadway Rehabilitation pilot projects consisting of 8 miles of rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) with a 5-year warranty. He



also received a plaque for his volunteer services as Redding Section Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) Secretary-Treasurer.

Ahron Hakimi is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves and was called up to active duty in August of this year, shortly after his graduation from the MSTM program. However, he has not yet been ordered overseas. Says Ahron, "I am still in the U.S., no plans yet to go overseas. The only good thing about being on duty is that I am getting in great shape, I have to keep up with the 20-year-old soldiers!"



Maureen Murphy received a "Tranny" Award from the California Transportation Foundation Institute. This summer institute is a two-week, oncampus, intensive engineering program targeting low-income and minority teenagers entering their junior or senior year of high school. Maureen served as a committee member and taught a Highway Design class.

### **Capstone Papers Go Online**

The final challenge for each MSTM graduate is to complete an independent research project for MTM290, informally known as the "capstone paper." Selected examples of these papers are being published online and comprise an initial portion of our new alumnus webpage. Recent contributions include 2002 MSTM Student of the Year Mary Frederick's analysis of the Los Angeles area transportation system and San Jose DOT Director James Helmer's insights into aligning local transportation services with marketing data. Future additions to this page will include career updates from alumni, networking information, career opportunities and more. To view and download these outstanding pieces of scholarship, point your web browser to http://transweb.sjsu.edu/educ/ capstones/index.htm.

# DIRECTIONS

**Education**: The MTI education program has truly begun to flower under Education Director Dr. Peter Haas' fine leadership. He has developed a cogent promotional plan for our Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) and professional Certificate in Transportation Management (CTM) programs. Over 100 students now attend those classes via the Caltrans videoconference bridge at as many as 24 sites throughout California and via video streaming for the mobility impaired and for those outside of the state. Dr. Haas can be reached at haas@mti.sjsu.edu for more information.

And we're very proud that Haile Ford, an MSTM student, was recently honored with the national APTA scholarship during the Salt Lake City conference. This is the third national scholarship/award that the MTI MSTM students have won this year, the others being the national George Krambles Scholarship won by Haile Ford, and the U.S. DOT national award received by Mary Frederick of Caltrans HQ staff. The MTI Board of Trustees, professors and staff are very proud of our MSTM/CTM students.

**Counter-terrorism Research**: We were especially proud that MTI Research Associate Brian Michael Jenkins was invited by AASHTO to present our latest case study, on the New York transit response to 9-11, as keynote speaker at their September 9 annual conference in Minneapolis. MTI is certainly on the cutting edge of both research and education programs on this important subject.

*TransWeb*: http://transweb.sjsu.edu is averaging over 100,000 uses per month with over 1,000 printed downloads of research reports per week for the last two years. Most notably, our NY 9-11 case study, by Mr. Jenkins' MTI counter-terrorism research team, had over 14,000 downloads during the last three weeks of September.

**Winter Board of Trustees Meeting**: The 11th annual Winter Board of Trustees meeting will be in Washington, D.C. from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm on January 10<sup>th</sup>, preceding the annual TRB conference. During the meeting, the trustees will complete an extensive policy research needs assessment process and share discussion of current and future MTI programming.

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#### **The World in Motion** For more information about the Mineta Transportation Institute, call (408) 924-7560 or e-mail us at

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