



Mineta Transportation Institute

Created by Congress in 1991

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World in Motion

Spring 2009
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Board Profile:

**Thomas
Carper
Chair,
Amtrak**

Thomas Carper is the newest member on MTI's Board of Trustees, having joined us in March. As chair of Amtrak, Tom replaces Alex Kummant on our board, who recently retired from his position as Amtrak CEO.

A year ago, Tom was appointed to serve a five-year term on the Amtrak board. He also serves as regional manager opportunity returns for the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Before that, he was mayor of Macomb, Ill., serving from 1991-2003.

Throughout his tenure in public office, Tom built a reputation for creating a better way of life for people in West Central Illinois. As mayor of Macomb, he successfully fought to provide and preserve vital services for his community, such as affordable housing and passenger rail service. Among his accomplishments as mayor, Tom led the campaign for a rental housing inspection and registration program to ensure safe and affordable housing in Macomb. Presently, a more stable and abundant water supply for the city is under construction because of his leadership.

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As mayor, Tom enacted an extensive bidding process of city contracts and services saving the taxpayers of Macomb more than \$1 million. For 20 years before his election as mayor, Tom operated a successful small business, which helped him become a dynamic and innovative elected official with a keen understanding for turning strategic investments into effective economic solutions. He understands community needs and priorities, and he worked throughout the region to ensure its economic potential.

Tom received his B.A. from Western Illinois University, and he served with the U.S. Army in Thailand and Vietnam. In 1999, he was appointed to the Amtrak Mayors' Advisory Council, where he became chair. His state affiliations include serving as a director for the Illinois Municipal League, for the Illinois Humanities Council and for the Illinois Arts Alliance. He received the Leighty Award for Outstanding Service to United Way, the Distinguished Service award from the WIU Performing Arts Society, and the Volunteer of the Year Award from the McDonough County Rehabilitation Center. He is a track and field official for Western Illinois University and a coach and organization chair for the Special Olympics.

MTI welcomes Tom Carper as its newest trustee, and we all look forward to a long-lasting and fruitful relationship.



Education

by Dr. Peter Haas,
Education Program Director

Anyone who plans a career in transportation – or who wants to advance in their career – should consider MTI's education programs. We offer a Master of Science in Transportation Management, along with a Certificate in Transportation Management and a Certificate in Transportation Security. To learn more, go to the Education section of our web site, www.transweb.sjsu.edu. Here are some examples of students who have benefited.

MSTM student selected for Eno

MSTM students continue to succeed in national competition for awards and scholarships. Our candidate for the 2009 Eno Leadership Development Conference, Ernesto Chaves, was selected by the Eno Foundation Board of Regents. Twenty Eno Fellows were selected from a field of 60 nominees, many from extremely prestigious graduate programs. The Eno conference brings together top graduate students in transportation for a first-hand look at how national transportation policies are developed. Eno Fellows go to Washington, DC, in May for a week of meetings with federal officials and leaders of business and non-profit organizations.

Ernesto has a promising record of achievement in transportation to match an equally impressive academic background. He earned his baccalaureate at Cal Poly Pomona as the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in 2005. In a brief span, he has moved to a significant planning role at L.A. Metro.



Ray Salvano at CUTC

Ray Salvano is CUTC Student of the Year

In January, MSTM student **Ray Salvano** was honored as MTI's Student of the Year at the 2009 awards banquet for the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) in Washington, DC. The award is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition to his outstanding academic performance, Ray was recently named Division Manager of Regional Projects in the Transportation Planning and Project Delivery group for the Department of Transportation of the City of San Jose. Ray received a check for \$1,000 to reward his outstanding academic and professional achievements.

Program outreach activities

On February 4, I was happy to make an Education program recruitment presentation for the Caltrans Planning Division professional development workshop, "Planning Horizons." The presentation was webcast from the Caltrans headquarters in Sacramento to more than 200 Caltrans employees across the state. Another 50 employees attended in Sacramento.



Research

by Trixie Johnson,
Research Director

On May 1, I will become a fully retired. How exciting! I will have more time with my long-retired husband, Doug, my grandchildren in southern California who are nearing high school graduation, the YMCA, my home, my garden, and the many non-profit and community interests that are my long-time avocation. There are many places to go and things to see, and time is always too short – but now I will have more of it!

This comes with considerable sadness because I will miss the people, issues, and challenges that this position has brought since I joined MTI in July 1999. This was the best possible work for an old policy wonk like me. The privilege of being paid to work on issues I care about, the opportunity to make a difference in transportation, to connect with interesting

people doing exciting research and with students just starting to make their mark – these are wonderful benefits and I will miss it all.

Retiring is easier because I am so excited about my successor, Dr. Karen Philbrick. I am confident she will move MTI research to another level, and that I am leaving the work in very good hands. I hope she enjoys this as much as I have. She is joining a fine institution with a wonderful professional and student staff, a growing community of exceptional researchers, a challenging mission, and important work to do.

Work in Progress

When I joined MTI, we had the fortune to receive three years of funding within a short time. I called the resulting research projects “the pig in the python” because it was such a bulge of activity. We are nearing the end of our second “pig,” which occurred after we sequestered funding to carry us through uncertain times. It released a flood of research funding in the last two years – sometimes with 40 projects in progress. Most of those selected through the 2007 cycle are in their final stages.

Visit our web site (www.transweb.sjsu.edu) and go to “Research” and then “Publications.” You will find nine new research reports, including Public vs. Private Mobility for the Poor: Transit Improvements vs. Increased Car Ownership in the Sacramento Region; Operational Feasibility of One-Dedicated-Lane Bus Rapid Transit/Light-Rail Systems and Their Expansion to Two-Dedicated-Lane Systems; “Green” Transportation Taxes and Fees: A Survey of Californians, and many more.

Meanwhile, nine projects selected in 2008 are underway, four new ones are in development, and a new Request for Proposals should bring another 10 projects that will start this summer. For the first time, we have issued a separate call for finance research to highlight our new Transportation Finance Center. Research on how to pay for our transportation future is very critical, and MTI's new Center is in the right place at the right time.

Our research program is now sharing projects between our primary grant funding and the Department of Homeland Security funding we receive as a member of the Center of Excellence for Transportation Security. This research will be under Brian Jenkins' leadership. The additional funding will help us tackle a more robust agenda while meeting our DOT strategic plan commitments for strong emphasis on security research.



Transportation Security

by Brian Michael Jenkins
NTSCOE Director

Mumbai Attack Creates New Challenges for Security

On January 28, I appeared before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee to testify about the lessons that were learned from the recent Mumbai attacks. As you recall, last November terrorists recruited and trained by the extremist group Lashkar-e-Taiba attacked targets across Mumbai, killing 172 people. A two-man team entered Mumbai's main train station, where they fired automatic weapons and threw hand grenades at commuters. Although the other terrorist teams attacked targets with high symbolic value, the team at the rail station intended only to slaughter. Remarkably, the two men were able to roam through the station killing at will for more than an hour before better-armed police units arrived to drive them off. This team alone accounted for more than one-third of the casualties.

Could a Mumbai-style attack occur in the U.S.? I think it could. The difference lies in planning and scale. Assembling and training a team of suicidal attackers seems far beyond the capabilities of conspirators identified in any terrorist plots discovered in the U.S. since 9/11. However, we have seen lone gunmen and pairs of shooters, motivated by mental illness or political cause, run amok to kill in quantity. The Long Island Railroad, Empire State Building, LAX, Virginia Tech, and Columbine cases come to mind. Therefore, an attack on the ground, carried out by a small number of self-radicalized, home-grown terrorists armed with readily available weapons is possible, though it's still far beyond what we have seen in terrorist plots thus far.

The Mumbai attacks oblige those charged with security of U.S. surface transportation systems to revise their thinking. Security's almost exclusive concern has been improvised explosive devices, not active shooters. Bombings remain the principal threat, but transit and local police officers now must include counterassault capabilities in their planning. That means arming patrols with heavier weapons and considering how to neutralize shooters in

densely-populated environments. For a video of the testimony, go to www.transweb.sjsu.edu and click "Security."



Change Has Come by Donna Maurillo *Communications and Special Projects Director*

MTI's graphic design students, **Vince Alindogan** and **JP Flores**, have created a new look for the Institute's newsletter and annual report. Our newsletter now has a photo page to feature events and special activities, we're using a nicer paper, and the design has been streamlined to reflect MTI's straightforward approach to surface transportation. The newsletter also uses a gatefold to simplify the print process.

The annual report now has a full-color cover and more dramatic graphics inside, especially for the section dividers. The typeface is simpler and cleaner, and there's more white space to make reading a lot easier. To view or download a copy, go to our web site at www.transweb.sjsu.edu and click "About Us."

MIS student **Israr Qumer**, also on our staff, has played a key role to redesign and rebuild our web site. It's now on a new platform, making it faster to use, with Flash graphics, a search bar, more relevant content, scrolling news, and other new features. Next, the site will include short videos of researchers commenting on their projects, or MTI directors discussing current topics.

Become a Sponsor

If you will be in San Jose on Saturday, June 27, please join us for MTI's graduation ceremony and awards banquet. This is the night that our Master of Science in Transportation Management students will receive their hoods. It's a fun and emotional evening with graduates, their families, MTI supporters, and transportation leaders. If you would like to be a table sponsor, please contact me at maurillo@mti.sjsu.edu. All proceeds benefit MTI's scholarship fund, which helps our graduate students with their school expenses.

Attend Our Events

Several summits and a forum are in the works for this year, and

they offer an excellent way to acquire valuable information and insights about policy-making surface transportation issues. Here's a sample:

- [Garrett Morgan Video-conference and Symposium](#) – This ninth annual event, set for March 25, showcases middle-school student projects on sustainable transportation. The winning class receives \$1000, and the school receives a plaque.
- [Bicycle Commute Forum](#) – Now in the planning phase, this forum will be second in a series on the special challenges for bicycle commuters. It will be held in May or June in San Jose CA.
- [Summit on Financing Transportation Research](#) – MTI is co-sponsoring with the University of Denver. Set for May 27-28 in Denver, the summit will include many transportation leaders and policy influencers.
- [Selective Screening of Rail Passengers: Part Two](#) – This will be a follow-up to a similar summit MTI sponsored in 2007. Participants will hear the results of pilot programs, along with other updates. The summit will be held June 18 in Chicago during APTA's annual rail conference.

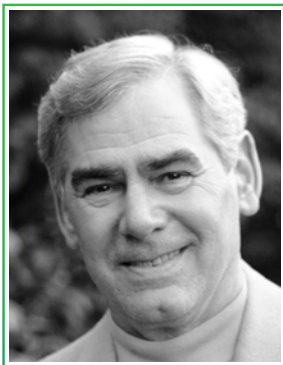
For more information about these and other events, go to www.transweb.sjsu.edu and visit the Events section.

MTI Continues Disaster Recovery Training

MTI has been making its imprint on emergency management strategies and policies, most recently with natural disaster recovery. In March, Dr. Frances Edwards, deputy director of MTI's NTSCOE, attended the American Society for Public Administration's annual meeting in Miami, FL. She chaired a panel on "The Legacy of Hurricane Katrina: Opportunities and Challenges" and delivered a paper on international donations management, "The Challenges of International Goodwill."

As a member of the ASPA Hurricane Katrina Task Force, she also participated in their sessions on Post-Katrina Recovery. The conference marks the completion of her three-year term as chair of the ASPA Section on Emergency and Crisis Management, but she will continue on the Board as Past Chair for the next three years. In 2010, ASPA's national conference will be held in MTI's home base of San Jose, CA, so we are happy to have Dr. Edwards as Host Committee Chair.

Two of her articles were featured in the winter edition of The Public Manager. They include, "Hurricane Katrina: How Local Government's Lack of Revenue Impacts Its Financial Recovery," with Isabelle Afawubo, and "Obstacles to Recovery: The Hurricane Katrina Task Force Report." The first one can be downloaded from our web site, www.transweb.sjsu.edu in the Security section.



Directions:
Rod Diridon,
Sr. Executive
Director

New National
Focus on
Transportation
Infrastructure

We are pleased to be in the forefront of the President's new focus on renewing the nation's transportation infrastructure. Our National Transportation Security Center, directed by Brian Michael Jenkins, provides best practices obtained by our research on security applications for the new capital facilities. Our National Transportation Finance Center, directed by Dr. Asha Agrawal, provides research to Congress, state governments and other policy bodies regarding new "green" mileage- and pollution-based taxes to supplement dwindling motor vehicle fuel taxes. And our education programs, led by Education Director Dr. Peter Haas, will graduate our largest-ever Masters of Science in Transportation Management class at our

annual banquet on June 27. Please save that date and plan to attend! Indeed, thanks to your support, MTI is in the right place at the right time with the right programs run by the best people to help President Obama's infrastructure program succeed.

New MTI Policy-Forcing Research

After a year of relative quiet, Research Director Trixie Johnson has guided MTI to have more than 40 research projects in process. We have just added nine new research reports to our web site. They can be downloaded at www.transweb.sjsu.edu. Go to "Research" then "Publications."

MTI Outreach Emphasized

With so much new MTI research and so many of our research associates now providing expertise via MTI, our Communications and Special Projects Director Donna Maurillo will present several Norman Y. Mineta National Policy Summits and California or Regional Forums this year. For details, see her article inside.

MTI Research Director Transition

As you recall from the last newsletter, our wonderful Research Director of the past 10 years, Trixie Johnson, is retiring at the end of April. MTI sincerely appreciates her leadership for our research programs during that formative period. She will be missed. Join us at our annual banquet to help share our thanks and well wishes. Congratulations and God-speed, Trixie!

We are very proud to note that, after an intensive, focused search, we have hired Dr. Karen Philbrick, the current deputy director for the university transportation center at Denver University. Karen is a California native who has traveled broadly and engaged in extensive education, practicum, clinical work and research in the most prestigious settings while completing her Ph.D. in research psychology. She has accumulated a long list of publications, testimony and keynote addresses from the international to the local levels. Karen arrives in April for one month of dual duties with Trixie before assuming the research reins for MTI. Join us in welcoming Karen!

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CUTC and TRB Meetings in Washington, DC January 2009



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1. Board members Anne Canby and John Horsley addressed reporters' questions at TRB **2.** Larry Orcutt of Caltrans and MTI board member Paul Toliver enjoyed the CUTC banquet **3.** APTA's Pam Boswell got a friendly hug from MTI executive director Rod Diridon at the CUTC banquet **4.** MTI executive director Rod Diridon was honored as outgoing CUTC president by Randy Machemehl of the University of Texas **5.** MTI board members Stephanie Pinson and Anne Canby attended the CUTC banquet **6.** MTI research director Trixie Johnson checks out the TRB display of Elliot Martin and Dr. Susan Shaheen